



## California Chapter 4

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CALIFORNIA CHAPTER 4, AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS AWARDED AVON FOUNDATION SPEAK OUT AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GRANT FOR HELPING CHILDREN OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**Orange County, CA/December 10, 2007** – The Avon Foundation has awarded a \$50,000 one-year grant to the California Chapter 4, American Academy of Pediatrics (California Chapter 4, AAP) Injury and Violence Prevention Program, in partnership with Orangewood Children’s Foundation and Interval House for a program, *Connected Kids Goes to Family Resource Centers*, that will assist children who have been exposed to domestic violence. This program is under the auspices of the Avon Foundation Speak Out Against Domestic Violence initiative, and California Chapter 4, AAP is among 32 organizations receiving this year’s grants.

*Connected Kids Goes to Family Resource Centers* will expand the existing AAP violence prevention program, *Connected Kids: Safe, Strong, Secure* into the Families and Communities Together (FaCT) network of Family Resource Centers (FRCs) in Orange County. FaCT is a partnership between the Orangewood Children’s Foundation and the County of Orange Social Services Agency. The vital program will enhance the current efforts of counselors and FRC staff who support families and children in low-income communities throughout Orange County by providing training and technical assistance to staff providing counseling and support to high risk families and children.

Studies suggest that up to 10 million children witness some form of domestic violence annually, and research indicates that those who witness or experience domestic violence are more likely to be victims or perpetrators in adulthood. Programs such as *Connected Kids Goes to Family Resource Centers* will help end this cycle of domestic violence by coordinating response models between domestic violence agencies and child abuse agencies, develop materials and resources to enable teens to speak out about violence, as well as provide safety planning and counseling for children who are witnesses and victims of domestic violence.

“We are proud that the Avon Foundation supports our vision of a safe and healthy environment for children by investing in our program. With these funds, pediatricians will work with Family Resource Center professionals to reverse the effects of childhood exposure to violence and give children every chance to thrive,” says Phyllis F. Agran, MD, MPH, Medical Director of the California Chapter 4, AAP Injury and Violence Prevention Program.

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This year, the Avon Foundation Helping Children of Domestic Violence funding totaled nearly \$1.3 million in grants for 32 organizations in 22 states.

#### **About the California Chapter 4, AAP**

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is a national organization of over 60,000 pediatricians committed to attaining optimal physical, mental and social health and well-being for all infants, children, adolescents and young adults. California Chapter 4, AAP – the Orange County Chapter – is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit agency that shares the national mission, and represents over 500 pediatricians. Our Chapter mission is to improve access to quality health care for children, promote an environment in which children can grow up safely; promote healthy lifestyles and a reduction of obesity; and become a leading advocate for children’s health across all populations of the country.

#### **About Families and Communities Together (FaCT)**

FaCT is a partnership between the County of Orange Social Services Agency and the Orangewood Children’s Foundation, and currently supports 12 Orange County Family Resource Centers. These Centers are community-based sites that provide access to comprehensive social, educational and health services for all families offered by multicultural and multilingual staff consistent with the community demographics. The mission of FaCT is to identify and promote promising and best practices, train, fund, and advocate for Family Resource centers to be Orange County’s community-based platform for prevention activities and family support services.

#### **About Interval House**

Interval House is one of the largest, most diverse agencies on the West Coast dedicated to helping victims of domestic violence. Interval House combines emergency and transitional shelters with outreach centers, providing a wide range of counseling and programs in over 40 different languages. Interval House also provides teen violence prevention education and training throughout Orange County.

#### **The Avon Foundation and Speak Out Against Domestic Violence**

The Avon Foundation, an accredited 501(c) (3) public charity, was founded in 1955 to improve the lives of women and their families, and through 2007 Avon philanthropy worldwide has raised and awarded more than \$580 million. Flagship programs of the Foundation are the *Avon Breast Cancer Crusade* and the *Speak Out Against Domestic Violence* program, which supports domestic violence awareness, education, direct services and prevention initiatives. Fundraising projects include the *Need for Speed Relay Against Domestic Violence* and special products sold by Avon Sales Representatives and at [avonfoundation.org](http://avonfoundation.org). Global expansion has brought the *Speak Out Against Domestic Violence* program to a dozen countries to help save lives worldwide.

#### **For more Information**

For more information on *Connected Kids Goes to Family Resource Centers*, please call Jamie McDonald, MPH at (949) 752-2787. For more information about domestic violence services, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or online at [www.ndvh.org](http://www.ndvh.org).

To learn more about the Avon Foundation *Speak Out Against Domestic Violence* program, visit [www.avonfoundation.org](http://www.avonfoundation.org), where you can also access the free printable *Domestic Violence Resource Guide* in English and Spanish.

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