

Verizon Supports Kansas Nonprofit Agencies With More Than \$164,000 in Grants in 2011
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KANSAS CITY, Mo., Jan. 19, 2012 /PRNewswire/ -- As a new year of giving gets under way, Verizon announced today that 2011 financial grant commitments totaled \$164,980. These donations assist a variety of Kansas nonprofit agencies that support causes such as raising awareness for domestic violence prevention, student bullying, and advancement of youth education.

From cash grants to employee matches, "Telling Amy's Story" community awareness events and HopeLine® donations of used cell phones, Verizon remains committed to helping as many agencies as possible.

"With today's economic climate, we know domestic violence agencies and shelters are hurting and Verizon has stepped up to meet the needs of families that they serve across Kansas," said Brendan Fallis, president –Kansas/Missouri region, Verizon Wireless. "We don't ever want a shelter to be forced to turn anyone away."

Funding comes from the Verizon Foundation and through the nationally recognized HopeLine® program from Verizon Wireless. At Kansas' 21 company-owned retail stores and through prepaid mail options, Kansans can easily donate no-longer-used phones and accessories to the HopeLine program.

Twenty-nine domestic violence organizations are being supported through these Verizon HopeLine and Foundation grants:

- Youth Friends Reno County
- United Way of Riley County
- Family Career & Community Leaders of America
- Kansas State Department of Education
- Crisis Center of Dodge City
- SOS, Inc.
- Family Crisis Center, Inc.
- Northwest Kansas Domestic & Sexual Violence Services
- Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Center
- Hope Unlimited
- The Willow Domestic Violence Center
- GaDuGi Safe Center
- Alliance Against Family Violence
- Liberal Area Rape Crisis & Domestic Violence Services
- The Crisis Center
- Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas
- YWCA of Topeka
- United Methodist Youthville, Inc.
- Dress for Success Wichita
- StepStone, Inc.
- Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center
- Harbor House
- YWCA of Wichita
- SAFEHOME
- Kansas University Endowment Association (Reach Out & Read KC)
- Sunflower House
- El Centro, Inc.
- Friends of Yates, Inc.
- KidsTLC

A number of organizations have reported a spike in domestic violence calls for help brought on by the pressure of the souring economy. Agencies have begun struggling with the need for extended stays at shelters and are also experiencing increased calls for help to crisis hotlines.

Through HopeLine, Verizon provides refurbished wireless phones and airtime to nonprofit organizations for use by domestic violence survivors, as well as cash grants to local shelters and nonprofits that focus on prevention, awareness and advocacy. Verizon is also reminding its Kansas employees to give during this time of escalated need.

The Verizon Foundation supports personal philanthropic giving made by Verizon employees and retirees. Employees can earn cash grants for the qualified nonprofits where they volunteer at least 50 hours, and can have their charitable donations go further by utilizing the foundation's Matching Gifts Programs.

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About the Verizon Foundation

The Verizon Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Verizon, uses its technology, financial resources and partnerships to address critical social issues, with a focus on education and domestic violence prevention. In 2010, the foundation awarded nearly \$67 million to nonprofit agencies in the U.S. and abroad. Through Verizon Volunteers, one of the nation's largest employee volunteer programs, Verizon employees and retirees have volunteered nearly 6 million hours of community service since 2000. For more information on the foundation, visit www.verizonfoundation.org.

About Verizon

Verizon Wireless operates the nation's largest 4G LTE network and largest, most reliable 3G network. The company serves 107.7 million total wireless connections, including 90.7 million retail customers. Headquartered in Basking Ridge, N.J., with nearly 83,000 employees nationwide, Verizon Wireless is a joint venture of Verizon Communications (NYSE, NASDAQ: VZ) and Vodafone (LSE, NASDAQ: VOD). For more information, visit www.verizonwireless.com. To preview and request broadcast-quality video footage and high-resolution stills of Verizon Wireless operations, log on to the Verizon Wireless Multimedia Library at www.verizonwireless.com/multimedia.

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