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West Valley Child Crisis Center Receives \$250,000 Grant from McMurry and Honors Preston McMurry Jr. for Driving Its Success

Phoenix—On Oct. 14, the West Valley Child Crisis Center held a gala at the University of Phoenix Stadium to celebrate the center's 20th anniversary and continued success. More than 300 contributors, volunteers and community members attended. WVCCC Executive Director Brent Morris recognized Preston McMurry, Jr., founder of McMurry and its charitable arm, Theresa's Fund, for his role in the organization's prosperity.

McMurry, through Theresa's Fund, soon will make its fifth \$50,000 installment of a \$250,000 grant to WVCCC. Of far greater importance than the monetary donation has been McMurry's efforts the past nine years working with the Crisis Center to raise the additional \$3.5 million needed to build the Kids Campus, which boasts six beautiful new homes and a park that can accommodate 48 children in need.

"The real value of Theresa's Fund isn't the amount of money we contribute—it's our role in ensuring the prosperity of organizations we work with that has the greatest impact," McMurry said.

The mission of Theresa's Fund is to combat child abuse and domestic violence in Arizona. It does this by counseling regional social service organizations on successful fundraising; McMurry has done 76 presentations on the subject, and sets requirements on those groups that receive donations from Theresa's Fund that ultimately help them to succeed.

"We insist that all board members of an organization contribute themselves at what we call a 'sacrificial level' and that 75 percent of the group's staff members donate an hour's wage each pay period. These acts demonstrate to us, and more importantly to other companies they solicit for donations, a real depth of commitment and faith by those most involved," McMurry explained. "It ensures others will match or exceed our gifts."

It works. In 14 years, Theresa's Fund has donated \$1.981 million in cash gifts from the company's profits and staff donations to 14 organizations, plus \$500,000 in in-kind contributions. The fund has donated and helped raise \$20 million for the receiving charitable groups, WVCCC being one of them.

At the anniversary dinner, Morris presented McMurry with a "Ray of Hope" award for his philanthropic efforts that have helped to guide the WVCCC to its current success. In addition, the Crisis Center named the medical administration building on the Kids Campus "Theresa's House" in appreciation of its ongoing relationship with McMurry.

"Preston McMurry and Theresa's Fund are primary partners of the Crisis Center. It was Preston's vision with the Board of Directors to transition the original two homes to what we now know as the Kids Campus. Theresa's Fund truly is a champion for domestic violence issues, and Preston and his staff deserve a hand for giving so many others a helping hand," Morris said.

Six others also received Ray of Hope awards: The Golden W.H.E.E.L. Organization; John F. Long; Jerry and Vickie Moyes; Bill and Carol Raper; Glendale (Ariz.) Mayor Elaine Scruggs; and Soroptimist International of the Kachinas. These awards have been established this year to honor outstanding individuals and organizations that have made a significant impact in the life of WVCCC.

The West Valley Child Crisis Center provides temporary shelter and supervision in a safe, nurturing, homelike environment staffed by quality care providers for children who are victims of abuse, neglect or abandonment. The only temporary shelter for abused children in the West Valley, and the largest nonprofit shelter in Arizona, WVCCC has offered safety to more than 2,500 children since its inception in 1986. Learn more at www.wvccc.org.



About McMurry

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