

## **VERIZON WIRELESS AND VERIZON FOUNDATION DONATE \$40,000 TO MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND'S FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER**

### *Verizon's Support for Innovative, One-Stop Center Now Totals \$134,500*

**LAUREL, MD** – To commemorate October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Verizon Wireless, together with the Verizon Foundation, is making a \$40,000 donation to the Montgomery County, Maryland, Family Justice Center Foundation. The donation augments an earlier contribution of \$34,500 in October 2010 as well as a \$60,000 contribution in February 2009, bringing total support for the innovative, one-stop center to \$134,500.

The new \$40,000 grant will be used for forensic interview equipment for the Family Justice Center. Opened in Rockville, Md., in April 2009, the Montgomery County Family Justice Center, among the first of its kind in Maryland, brings together law enforcement, prosecutors, health and human services, as well as other community partners under one roof to help domestic violence victims achieve safety, receive appropriate treatment and provide accurate and timely legal advice. First opened in San Diego in 2002, Family Justice Centers are considered a "best practice" by the US Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

Verizon Wireless' original \$60,000 donation was used to support the Center's Video Protective Order Project, a pioneering method of utilizing videoconference communication between domestic violence victims and courts. As a result of this technology, victims have been able to receive protective orders from the safety, security and comfort of the Center.

The contributions from Verizon Wireless were funded by the company's [HopeLine®](#) Phone Recycling Program, which collects used cell phones to be recycled or sold and donates

the proceeds in the form of cash grants and pre-paid wireless phones to advocacy groups for use by survivors. Since 2001, Verizon Wireless has collected more than 8 million phones and awarded nearly \$10 million in cash grants to domestic violence agencies and organizations throughout the country.

“There’s no better way to commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness Month than with a donation to the Montgomery County Family Justice Center,” said Mike Maiorana, regional president, Verizon Wireless. “Domestic violence victims face so many challenges, and we’re gratified that our donation will offer a quick and easy method for them to receive court-ordered protection.”

Verizon has been a longtime supporter of Family Justice Centers across the country, beginning with a Verizon Wireless HopeLine grant to the San Diego Family Justice Center in 2002 and including a \$1 million grant from the Verizon Foundation in April 2008 to establish the Family Justice Center Institute. A technology and training arm within the National Family Justice Center Alliance, the Institute uses technology and best practices to streamline services and coordinate trainings.

According to Resa Levy, (TITLE) of the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation, “Verizon’s initial 2009 gift literally saved lives and changed the way the Court system handled initial orders. Their additional gifts continue their legacy commitment to the issue of helping to end the scourge of domestic violence and relationship abuse by directly impacting the lives of women, children and families.”

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### **About Verizon Wireless**

Verizon Wireless operates the nation’s largest 4G LTE network and largest, most reliable 3G network. The company serves 106.3 million total wireless connections, including 89.7 million retail customers. Headquartered in Basking Ridge, N.J., with 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 <http://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](http://www.verizonwireless.com/multimedia).

### **About the Verizon Foundation**

The Verizon Foundation 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](http://www.verizonfoundation.org).

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