



## DELAWARE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Breaking the cycle of violence.

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### **Much Needed Program Gathers Support from Highmark Delaware BluePrints for the Community**

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE—

The Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence is so grateful to BluePrints for the Community, Highmark Delaware's donor-advised fund, for its support of the Domestic Violence-Community Health Worker Project (DV-CHW Project). The \$75,000 contribution focuses on the areas of staffing, evaluation costs, and the Health Access Fund.

The DV-CHW project is collaborative, integrating domestic violence services with health services. DCADV works in partnership with Child Inc, Westside Family Health Care and ChristianaCare to build capacity to assess for domestic violence and to provide a warm-referral to a community-based service. Highmark Delaware BluePrints for the Community is an important part of this project. This project also addresses gaps in service delivery and improves access and engagement of health and safety services, especially within minority and uninsured/underinsured communities. The DV-CHW is a resource for the healthcare clinic and the community service program, creating easily accessible advocacy.

The project's DV-CHWs can provide information on available resources, help with safety planning and assist with emergency needs. Additionally, two of the three DV-CHWs are bilingual in Spanish and English, ensuring the service is accessible and helping to break down barriers for Hispanic victims and patients.

Domestic violence (DV) can have a chronic and long-term health impact on individuals, children, and communities including, depression, heart disease, substance abuse, unintended and teen pregnancies, asthma and obesity. Studies have also found that women who experience DV are at increased risk for headaches, chronic pain, as well as acute and chronic injuries.

For many victims of DV the first source of help will not be law enforcement, but rather their healthcare provider. Victims of DV who may be too frightened to involve the police or the courts because of retribution by their abuser may seek assistance and counseling through their doctor. The healthcare provider's role as a first responder highlights the pressing need for well-trained medical staff able to identify DV and respond with safety resources and supports.

The healthcare provider can refer to a DV-Community Health Worker (DV-CHW) who meets face-to-face with the victim to address safety and health concerns. These meetings can occur onsite at the healthcare provider's location or at a safe place in the community.

#### **About Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

The Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCADV) is a statewide, non-profit organization with a membership including domestic violence agencies and programs providing

shelter and direct services to adult victims of domestic violence, allied organizations, and caring individuals. Since its founding in 1994, DCADV has engaged in a variety of activities, including public education efforts, training and prevention initiatives, and systems advocacy. DCADV works closely with the criminal justice, health care, education, advocacy and social service communities to facilitate the creation of effective policies and programs for battered women and their children. In all of these efforts, DCADV is a crucial voice for domestic violence victims and their families. More information can be found on their website at [www.dcadv.org](http://www.dcadv.org). They can be reached at 302-658-2958.

### **About Highmark Delaware BluePrints for the Community**

In 2007, Highmark Delaware established BluePrints for the Community, a grant program to help address the issues faced by Delaware's uninsured and underserved populations. The program was established as a donor-advised fund at the Delaware Community Foundation, a nonprofit organization that manages and administers charitable funds throughout Delaware. Since its inception, the grant program has awarded 89 grants, totaling more than \$12 million.

The grant program focuses on:

- Increasing access to health care for the uninsured/underserved
- Reducing health disparities in minority communities
- Supporting early childhood development with initiatives focused on health
- Recruiting and training health care professionals.
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For media only:

The following individuals are available for interviews:

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