



Catholic Charities
Community Services

turning belief **into action**

PRESS RELEASE **For Immediate Distribution**

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Valley Mary Kay Beauty Consultants Hold Drive to Benefit Victims of Domestic Violence

Chandler, Ariz. (May 23, 2006) – Beginning today through June 30, Valley Mary Kay Beauty Consultants will be collecting new and gently used household items such as linens, bedding and towels for residents at My Sisters' Place, a Catholic Charities program that provides emergency shelter to women and children fleeing domestic violence. They will also be accepting monetary donations and gift cards.

"Our goal is to collect 60 New Home Starter Kits by June 30," said Judi Johnson, an independent Mary Kay Beauty Consultant. "Each New Home Starter Kit will include the necessities for a kitchen, bathroom, laundry room and three bedrooms. Our main objective is to relieve some of the financial burden women face once they leave a domestic violence shelter such as My Sisters' Place and are faced with starting over."

Donations will be accepted in Chandler at The Chandler Center for the Arts South Parking Lot, located on the NW Corner of Chandler Blvd and Arizona Ave at 250 N. Arizona Avenue from 8 a.m. to noon on the following Saturdays: June 3, 10, 17 & 24.

"Once women are prepared to leave My Sisters' Place they are able to enter our *Pathways* program, which is a transitional housing and life skills education program for single mothers and their children who are homeless because of domestic violence," said Tom Egan, regional director of Catholic Charities' East Valley service center. "However, due to lack of funding Pathways hasn't been able to help as many women and children. Partnering with community groups such as the Mary Kay consultants has become extremely imperative to our programs. Without the support and donations from the community, many of our programs would not exist."

Used clothing and large household items may be donated to the Chandler Christian Community Center (CCCC) where families may pick up items at no cost. CCCC is located at 345 S. California just off of Arizona Ave. and Frye and may be contacted at 480-963-1423.

Since 1985, My Sisters' Place has provided a safe place for women and their children who are fleeing domestic violence. This program offers wide-ranging comprehensive services to help women regain their independence and live a violence-free life, such as a 24-hour helpline, case management, crisis intervention, emergency shelter, housing referrals, educational groups and victim advocacy.

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About Catholic Charities

Founded in 1933, Catholic Charities Community Services is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization that serves people of all ages and faiths. Catholic Charities is a member organization of Catholic Charities USA, and offers a diverse range of social services that strengthen families, protect and nurture children, and support people in crisis. Catholic Charities currently employs over 600 Arizonans and provides approximately 55 programs at over 100 sites to more than 210,000 people in central and northern Arizona each year. To learn more about Catholic Charities visit www.catholiccharitiesaz.org.

For a complete Starter Kit “wish list” and/or to donate money go to:
www.newhomestarterkits.org.

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