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## **WOMENSHELTER OF LONG BEACH AWARDED \$15,000 TO PREVENT & ADDRESS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN LONG BEACH**

*Blue Shield of California Foundation recognizes WomenShelter of Long Beach as a critical leader in California's domestic violence field*

**Long Beach, CA** (August 12, 2016) - Blue Shield of California Foundation today announced a grant of \$15,000 to WomenShelter of Long Beach to support its capacity to provide essential services and shelter for survivors of domestic violence and their families. These core operating funds offer the flexibility to respond to new demands and opportunities so that WomenShelter can continue to reach many of the most vulnerable Californians.

"Domestic violence can happen to anyone, and impacts everyone. Though we all have a role to play, it is organizations like WomenShelter that are there when women, children, men, and families need help the most," said Peter Long, Ph.D., president and CEO of Blue Shield of California Foundation. "WomenShelter is making our communities safer and healthier every single day, and we remain committed to ensuring that they – and the entire field - have the resources and adaptability to support survivors and bring us closer to ending domestic violence in California."

"This generous support from Blue Shield of California assists WomenShelter in providing emergency shelter and services to all intimate partner violence victims. The grant also supports our important prevention programs presented in schools and campuses to help young people recognize the signs of potentially violent behavior and give them tools to build healthy relationships," said Mary Ellen Mitchell, Executive Director of WomenShelter of Long Beach.

This unrestricted funding is part of a group of grants designed to strengthen and empower domestic violence service providers and enable them to adjust to unexpected changes and challenges. As California's largest private funder of domestic violence prevention and services, the Foundation is proud to support WomenShelter through this grant.

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**About Blue Shield of California Foundation**

Blue Shield of California Foundation is one of the state's largest and most trusted philanthropic organizations. Our mission is to end domestic violence and improve health equity for low-income and underserved Californians. To learn more, visit [www.blueshieldcafoundation.org](http://www.blueshieldcafoundation.org).

**About WomenShelter of Long Beach**

The mission of WomenShelter of Long Beach is to eliminate domestic violence through compassionate intervention, education and personal empowerment. Two overarching goals drive all WSLB programming: to facilitate clients' self-sufficiency, empowerment, and well-being; and to prevent the recidivism of domestic violence through community outreach and education.