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WOMENSHELTER OF LONG BEACH AWARDED \$20,000 TO PREVENT & ADDRESS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN LONG BEACH CALIFORNIA

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

LONG BEACH, CA (August, 22, 2017) - Blue Shield of California Foundation announced today a grant of \$20,000 to WomenShelter to ensure its ongoing ability to care for, and advocate for, survivors of domestic violence and contribute to its prevention. These general operating funds are meant to provide WomenShelter with the flexibility to leverage new ideas as well as respond to new changes and challenges ahead.

“Today, the advocacy and services that WomenShelter provides are more important than ever. As we face an uncertain political and social environment that threatens the wellbeing vulnerable families, women, and individuals experiencing domestic violence – as well as the organizations that support them - we need leaders like WomenShelter to be there to continue helping those who struggle most,” said Lucia Corral Peña, senior program officer at Blue Shield of California Foundation. “We stand together with WomenShelter of Long Beach, alongside many other partners and leaders, in our ongoing and collective mission to prevent, address - and ultimately *end* – domestic violence in California.”

This type of unrestricted funding is part of the Foundation's effort to empower domestic violence service providers across the state and enable them to adjust to unexpected difficulties and opportunities.

“WSLB is proud to partner with Blue Shield of California Foundation in offering safety and assistance to victims of domestic violence and their vulnerable children. The generosity of Blue Shield CA provides much-needed support for our many programs including our Building Healthy Relationships initiative offered in local schools. We believe that prevention is the key to keeping our Long Beach community safe. ”

– Mary Ellen Mitchell, Executive Director of WomenShelter

As California's largest private funder of domestic violence service providers, the Foundation is proud to support WomenShelter of Long Beach through this grant.

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About Blue Shield of California Foundation

Blue Shield of California Foundation aims to improve the lives of the most vulnerable Californians by working to end domestic violence and improve health equity for all people and all communities. To learn more, visit www.blueshieldcafoundation.org.

WomenShelter of Long Beach

The mission of WSLB is to eliminate domestic violence through compassionate intervention, education and personal empowerment.a