



*The Munzer Foundation's mission is to strengthen community, family and individuals through effective and focused philanthropy.*



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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## THE RUDOLPH J. AND DAPHNE A. MUNZER FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO WOMENSHELTER OF LONG BEACH TO PREVENT AND ADDRESS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN LONG BEACH

The Munzer Foundation recognizes WSLB as an effective and innovative leader in California's intimate partner violence field.

**Long Beach, California, November 8, 2017**– WomenShelter of Long Beach is proud to partner with the Rudolph J. and Daphne A. Munzer Foundation in providing a safety net for victims of domestic violence and their children and delivering innovative prevention programs in the greater Long Beach community. The Munzer Foundation announced a grant 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 will provide WomenShelter with the flexibility to leverage new ideas as well as respond to new changes and challenges ahead. This type of unrestricted funding is part of the Foundation's effort to empower service providers and enable them to adjust to unexpected difficulties and opportunities.

*"WSLB is proud to partner with the Munzer Foundation in offering safety, assistance, and supportive services to all victims of domestic violence and their vulnerable children. We understand that prevention is the key to keeping our Long Beach community safe. The*

*generosity of the Munzer Foundation reinforces our commitment to continue to develop and deliver effective prevention programs like our Building Healthy Relationships initiative offered in local schools.” – Mary Ellen Mitchell, Executive Director of WomenShelter*

The Munzer Foundation’s focus and passion is to strengthen community, family and individuals by investing in organizations that effectively improve the lives of people in our community. The Foundation applauds WSLB for having positive, long-term outcomes for families and our community. Intimate Partner Violence is prevalent on all socio-economic levels. The CDC calls it a national public health crisis. Recently in a speech by Long Beach Police Chief Robert Luna, in support of WomenShelter and the intricate network of emergency shelters in which we participate, he said that serving the 3,800 calls from victims per year would be impossible without the programs and services WSLB provides. Intimate partner violence is a pervasive social and health problem. Domestic violence is not a one-time isolated incident, it is a pattern of coercive and abusive behaviors; therefore, the number of intimate partner victimizations far exceeds the number victims each year. In addition, domestic violence (DV) is a leading cause of injury, homelessness, and poverty for women and their children (National Alliance to End Homelessness). WSLB is a leader in prevention programs, reaching well over 2,000 youth a year, and that number is growing. When disrespect and abuse is modeled at home, a young person has little perspective to guide decisions in their own relationships. WSLB programs are providing tools for recognizing dangerous behavior and understanding and nurturing compassionate communication. The Munzer Foundation’s support in this and for WSLB’s emergency services is vital.

A small group of women who chose action over victimization formed WomenShelter over 40 years ago. They created a safe place for women and their children to heal and start a new life. Today, WSLB serves, without bias, women, men and their children, offering free confidential emergency shelter and support services, as well as walk-in counseling and classes at the Domestic Violence Resource Center. The center is also the hub of a list of outreach prevention programs. Two overarching goals of our agency that drive all programming at WSLB: to facilitate clients' self-sufficiency, empowerment, and well-being; and to prevent the recidivism of domestic violence through community outreach and education.

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