

To Whom It May Concern -

In 1981, the founders of Human Options were determined to create a solution where others only saw a problem. That problem: a dramatic lack of resources in Orange County for women and children experiencing relationship violence. What started as determination has transformed into a multifaceted organization addressing the myriad needs of abused women and children. But we are not addressing those needs alone.

The Mary Kay Foundation and Human Options have each been striving toward a common goal – “stopping the violence, breaking the silence and making a difference” for women and children who have experienced relationship violence. A partnership between The Mary Kay Foundation and Human Options strengthens our organizations’ combined ability to have a tangible impact on the women, children and families who need us most. The Mary Kay Foundation’s Shelter Grant has enabled Human Options to provide a full compendium of services to our shelter residents in past years. We would be honored to once again partner with you to help bring Mary Kay’s vision to fruition – to create a safe haven for women and children plagued by domestic violence.

Human Options’ Emergency Shelter Program provides comprehensive support services to victimized women, children and families. Our first and most immediate goal is to provide a healthy, safe environment for those in need of emergency shelter care. However, understanding that the path to recovery and healthy relationships is unique and personal, Human Options offers a wide range of services to every shelter resident. Those include (but are not limited to) legal advocacy, job training, long-term housing assistance, and an array of on-site classes. The long-range goal of the Emergency Shelter Program is that every resident exits to safe and stable housing, financial stability, and the ability to create a safety net community for themselves that will help ensure their ongoing wellbeing.

Using a trauma-informed care approach, our counselors meet every resident upon entry to the shelter, providing nonjudgmental and compassionate support, learning each resident’s story and helping create a holistic plan of action. Counselors serve as case managers as well, providing client-centered advocacy and serving as a bridge to wraparound services with collaborating agencies. In 2017 alone, Human Options’ Emergency Shelter Program provided safety and guidance to 460 adults and children. While that number continues to increase year after year, our counselors remain diligent and compassionate, treating every shelter resident with the individual attention they deserve.

We would be pleased to provide you with a full proposal detailing our Emergency Shelter Program. It is our fondest hope that this letter serves as the first step in a renewed partnership between the Mary Kay Foundation and Human Options. Together we can empower woman and children to end the cycle of violence and embrace healthier, fulfilling relationships. I look forward to hearing from you regarding possible next steps.

Optimistically,

Jennifer Frank