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PRESS RELEASE

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MONTEREY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE RECEIVES KAISER FOUNDATION HOSPITAL GRANT FOR FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

SALINAS, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced today that the Monterey County Family Justice Center was the recipient of the Kaiser Foundation Hospital Fund for Community Benefit Programs - Gun Violence Prevention Grant. The award amount is \$100,000 and will begin January 1, 2024. Monterey County's first Family Justice Center, *Holding on to Hope* , will be located in King City at 250 Franciscan Way. The Kaiser Foundation Hospital grant will focus on increasing the community's awareness on the relinquishment of firearms and remedies to better protect victims of interpersonal violence and will also promote local partnerships with law enforcement agencies, public systems, and community advocates to implement Senate Bill 320.

The mission of the Monterey County Family Justice Center, *Holding on to Hope* , is to provide one place for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, and human trafficking to receive services from governmental agencies and community-based organizations in order to aid in the breaking of generational violence. Family Justice Centers co-locate, coordinate, and integrate services where victims and their children travel to fewer places and reduce the number of times they tell their story. With a commitment towards healing, community, and safety, Family Justice Centers strive to integrate partners to create a comprehensive service network to alleviate or prevent future crimes of violence.

The Family Justice Center model's documented and published outcomes, include reduced homicides, increased victim safety, increased autonomy and empowerment for victims, reduced fear and anxiety for victims and their children, increased efficiency and coordination among service providers, increased prosecution of offenders, dramatically increased community support services to victims and their children, and reduced recantation and minimization by victims when they receive this level of support.

If you have any questions about Monterey County's first Family Justice Center, *Holding on to Hope*, you can contact us at 831-385-8325 or HoldingtontoHopeFJC@co.monterey.ca.us.