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IN FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND PROGRAM, FAIRFAX COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY STEVE DESCANO AWARDS GRANTS TO COMMUNITY VICTIMS' RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

Fairfax County, VA -- Fairfax Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano today awarded grants to nonprofits in the county that directly serve child victims of crime, victims of sexual abuse, and victims of domestic violence. The grants were awarded through the first-of-its-kind Community Partnership Grant Program.

After interviewing applicants, the office selected recipients **Women for Afghan Women (WAW)**, which provides support to Afghan survivors of domestic violence; and **United Community's Progreso Center**, which provides immigration and citizenship services, including for survivors of domestic violence.

"My office is proud to partner with these three organizations that provide resources for victims," CA Descano said. "I am personally grateful for the work they do in our community – supporting victims throughout the legal process and helping them on the path to healing and recovery is critical work and will help make our community stronger and safer."

"Virginia has the second-largest Afghan community in the US, and the need for direct and comprehensive services has only increased since last summer," said Mariam Kakar, Program Manager of Women for Afghan Women (WAW). "As the only Afghan-led organization that supports survivors of domestic violence, we look forward to using these funds to help many individuals and families in our local community."

Alison DeCoursey, United Community President and CEO said, "As the leading human services non-profit agency in southeastern Fairfax County, United Community seeks out opportunities to collaborate with our allies throughout the community. We're grateful to Commonwealth's Attorney Descano and his office for this grant, which will dramatically help us improve our reach and services to immigrants who are survivors of domestic violence."

The Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney announced the program earlier this year, which offers funds to Fairfax-based organizations that directly serve child victims of crime, victims of

sexual abuse, and victims of domestic violence. Each organization has received a grant of \$8,000 that must be used for programs or services that directly support victims. Descano aims to make the program and grant opportunity annual, with funds acquired through Virginia Code 19.2-386.14.

The office also awarded funds to the Virginia-based nonprofit SafeSpot, which provides services to child victims of sexual and physical abuse and their families, and offers trauma-informed support, therapy, and case management.

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