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Refugee Services of Texas Receives \$30,000 Grant to Support Survivors of Domestic Violence During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Funding from The Allstate Foundation's Domestic Violence Response Fund and from Futures Without Violence will combat "Shadow Pandemic" of domestic and sexual violence during the COVID-19 crisis

DALLAS, Texas (February 17, 2021) – [Refugee Services of Texas](#), one of the state's leading refugee resettlement programs and supporters of human trafficking victims, has been awarded a \$30,000 grant from The Allstate Foundation's Domestic Violence Response Fund (DVRF). The new fund – established by a half-million-dollar donation from The Allstate Foundation – was created in partnership with Futures Without Violence and directly supports domestic violence survivors impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with resources, shelter, and nearby crisis centers.

The \$30,000 grant will make a significant impact on Refugee Services of Texas' ability to provide much-needed direct services to survivors escaping violence and rebuilding their lives following abuse. The investment in domestic violence relief comes at a pivotal time for survivors as the pandemic continues to jeopardize the lives of millions of women, children, and those most vulnerable to violence who have been sheltering in place with abusers as a result of COVID-19. The innovative, crowd-sourced fundraiser was launched with support from Nicole Kidman and founding donor The Allstate Foundation, in collaboration with Amy Poehler's Smart Girls, to help survivors to heal and to rebuild their lives following abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Not everyone feels safe being at home, and for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse, sheltering at home during the COVID-19 pandemic means more time isolated with an abuser," said Ashley Fay, RST Development Director. "The amazing grant we have received from the Domestic Violence Response Fund has come at a critical time and will make a major difference in RST's ability to provide survivors of domestic abuse with the resources they need to rebuild their lives following trauma caused by violence, economic insecurity, and racism. This grant will help us expand our capacity as this pandemic continues into 2021."

In 2020, The Allstate Foundation granted nearly \$5M to domestic violence organizations, including more than \$1.5M in emergency grants that helped front-line advocates respond to the COVID-19 crisis. "The pandemic has intensified the need for critical domestic violence resources for both survivors and the organizations that serve them," said Francie Schnipke Richards, vice president of social responsibility at The Allstate Foundation. "We've been passionate in our efforts to end domestic violence, and this donation aims to empower survivors, prevent further abuse, and help stop the cycle of violence."

"Our shared pledge to ensure safety, health, and justice has never been more necessary – or more urgent," said Esta Soler, President of Futures Without Violence. "Experts across the globe are confirming the second wave of the domestic violence "shadow pandemic" is only getting worse. Grants from the Domestic Violence Response Fund will provide desperately needed resources to experts on the ground, trusted by the community, who can and will help survivors find safety and start over after abuse."

The majority of the funding will go to direct-service organizations that are specifically addressing the disproportionate impact of domestic and sexual violence experienced by Black, Indigenous, and survivors of color. The organizations receiving grants are actively reaching and serving survivors in an effort to help them seek safety, justice, and healing so that they can rebuild their emotional and financial lives.

"It is critical that emergency support services are culturally specific, especially when addressing intimate partner violence," said Soler. "The majority of organizations receiving funding from the DVRF are run by and for the communities they serve – providing critical funds to further enhance programs and strategies that specifically address the needs of a variety of BIPOC survivors, and help families heal from abuse."

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About Refugee Services of Texas

[Refugee Services of Texas](#) is a social service agency dedicated to resettling and providing services to refugees and other displaced persons who are fleeing persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, and/or political opinion. Since its founding in 1978, RST has successfully resettled more than 15,000 refugees. The original and longest-running branch, RST Dallas provides services to refugees, asylees, and survivors of human trafficking from over thirty different countries of origin.

About Futures Without Violence

For more than 30 years, [FUTURES](#) has been providing groundbreaking programs, policies, and campaigns that empower individuals and organizations working to end violence against women and children around the world. Striving to reach new audiences and transform social norms, FUTURES trains professionals such as doctors, nurses, judges, and athletic coaches on improving responses to violence and abuse. FUTURES also works with advocates, policymakers,

and others to build sustainable community leadership and educate people everywhere about the importance of respect and healthy relationships.

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About the Allstate Foundation

[The Allstate Foundation](#) accelerates positive change by empowering and educating the most vulnerable, inspiring today's visionaries and promoting community leadership. Since 2005, The Allstate Foundation has invested more than \$70 million to help empower more than 2 million domestic violence survivors with education and tools to achieve financial independence and build a life free from abuse.

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