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**Community Foundation for Livingston County
Awards \$10,140 Grant to LACASA**

New program will help children who have been sexually abused

Howell, MI –LACASA (Livingston Area Council Against Spouse Abuse Inc.) has received a \$10,140 grant from the **Community Foundation for Livingston County**, an affiliate of the **Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan**, to expand their SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) program with a pediatric component. The Community Foundation grant will enable LACASA to develop needed protocols, community collaborative efforts and selective trainings for LACASA registered nurses who will become certified to conduct pediatric forensic sexual assault examinations on children under the age of 12 who have been sexually abused.

With the expansion of the existing SANE program to include a pediatric component, LACASA will collect forensic evidence, provide medical support and offer a compassionate and nurturing environment for children (and adults) who have been sexually assaulted. A pediatric SANE will help preserve the dignity of area children and their families and will assist in reducing the psychological trauma associated with abuse.

“No child is prepared to deal with sexual abuse,” says Judith Shewach, executive director of LACASA. “A community collaborative response will ensure that our trained registered nurses will help children and their families cope with the physical, emotional and developmental issues associated with child sexual assault.”

The Community Foundation for Livingston County, established in 1991, is a permanent charitable endowment fund created to benefit the residents of Livingston County. Its

mission is to support and improve the county's quality of life. The Foundation is building community capital through contributions from a wide variety of donors so that the charitable needs of Livingston County can be met, today and in the future. The Foundation is an affiliate of the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan.

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