

# ***NEWS RELEASE***



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Media contacts:**  
**see end of release**

## **North Dakota Council On Abused Women's Services Receives Grant From Verizon Foundation to Assist Victims of Domestic Violence**

**BISMARCK, ND** – North Dakota domestic violence prevention advocates will learn how to use the latest technology to help keep abuse survivors safe, thanks to a new North Dakota Council On Abused Women's Services (NDCAWS) funded through a \$7,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Verizon.

Through the program, NDCAWS will offer seminars designed to educate domestic violence advocates to use cutting-edge technology and share this critical information with victims, other advocates, and law enforcement in their communities.

Representatives of NDCAWS and Verizon joined North Dakota First Lady Mikey Hoeven on Wednesday in announcing the program.

"The North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services is pleased to partner with Verizon, a corporate leader in supporting innovative solutions to end domestic violence," said

Janelle Moos, NDCAWS's executive director. "This initiative provides our advocates the latest life-saving information to share with victims in their community."

As technology advances, it is increasingly important for victims of domestic violence and their advocates to be familiar with the latest communications tools, according to John Flannery, government and external affairs director for Verizon.

"Verizon is committed to using our resources and the latest technology to address the issues that are critical to the well-being of our communities," Flannery said. "This initiative will enable victims and survivors of abuse to use technology as a powerful tool to seek help and stay safe."

First Lady Mikey Hoeven said: "I applaud the North Dakota Council on Abused Women Services and Verizon for stepping up to establish this program and bring important support services to victims of domestic violence. Keeping victims and survivors of abuse safe is a responsibility we all share, and this partnership will help make a positive difference in our communities."

"The North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services programs have been the mechanisms needed to inspire victims of abuse to make life-changing decisions," said Senate Majority Leader Bob Stenehjem. "I commend NDCAWS and Verizon for this increased effort to keep victims safe through technology. It takes community partnerships like these to reduce domestic violence in our communities."

Verizon supports the survivors of domestic violence through a myriad of programs, including Verizon Wireless' HopeLine® program. Through the program, Verizon Wireless collects no-longer-used wireless phones, batteries and accessories in any condition from any wireless service provider. Proceeds generated from the phones collected by HopeLine are put

toward wireless phones and service for survivors of domestic violence as well as financial grants to nonprofit domestic violence advocacy agencies. For more information, visit

[www.verizonwireless.com/hopeline](http://www.verizonwireless.com/hopeline).

The Verizon Foundation supports the advancement of literacy and K-12 education through its free educational Web site, Thinkfinity.org, and fosters awareness and prevention of domestic violence. In 2008, the Verizon Foundation awarded more than \$68 million in grants to nonprofit agencies in the U.S. and abroad. It also matched the charitable donations of Verizon employees and retirees, resulting in an additional \$26 million in combined contributions to nonprofits. Through Verizon Volunteers, one of the nation's largest employee volunteer programs, Verizon employees and retirees have volunteered more than 3 million hours of community service since 2000. For more information on the foundation, visit

[www.verizonfoundation.org](http://www.verizonfoundation.org).

**North Dakota Council On Abused Women's Services:** It is the mission of NDCAWS/CASAND is to provide leadership and support in the identification, intervention and prevention of domestic and sexual violence. NDCAWS/CASAND has 21 member programs across the state which provide services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

#### **About Verizon**

Verizon Communications Inc. (NYSE:VZ), headquartered in New York, is a global leader in delivering broadband and other wireless and wireline communications services to mass market, business, government and wholesale customers. Verizon Wireless operates America's most reliable wireless network, serving more than 87 million customers nationwide. Verizon's Wireline operations provide converged communications, information and entertainment services over the nation's most advanced fiber-optic network. Wireline also includes Verizon Business, which delivers innovative and seamless business solutions to customers around the world. A Dow 30 company, Verizon employs a diverse workforce of more than 235,000 and last year generated consolidated operating revenues of more than \$97 billion. For more information, visit [www.verizon.com](http://www.verizon.com).

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