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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

My Sisters' Place Receives Department of Justice Grant to Provide Legal Services to Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence

White Plains, NY - My Sisters' Place (MSP), Westchester County's premiere domestic violence organization, was awarded continued funding through the Office on Violence Against Women (US Department of Justice) for its Legal Assistance and Relief for Immigrant Victims of Abuse (LARIVA) project.

The project provides direct legal services including assistance with U visas, VAWA petitions and battered spouse waivers, to immigrant victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking throughout Westchester County. Since 2004, MSP's LARIVA project has served nearly 2000 immigrant victims to obtain valid legal status and stay in this country legally with their children, work legally at regulated wages and under regulated working conditions, obtain healthcare to mitigate the after effects of physical and mental abuse, obtain housing supports so they can live in safe, habitable homes, and obtain food stamps and other government benefits.

As part of a full-service domestic violence agency, LARIVA staff works closely with other MSP programs to ensure that victims easily and quickly gain access to other necessary services, such as family law legal services, emergency shelter, counseling and children's services.

The project provides substantial opportunity for *pro bono* involvement and will be expanded now to include bilingual Financial Rights Clinics that will provide education, advocacy, and brief legal services regarding economic abuse (e.g., banking, credit, debt collection, marital debt and identity theft issues).

The project aims to provide safety planning and immigration legal services to at least 625 immigrant victims and their children in at least 800 cases over the next two years.

**For more information please contact Nancy Levin at 914-683-1333 X 105
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