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Contact: Cathy Neal
(615) 885-7947
cathy.neal@allstate.com

Allstate Foundation gives \$115,000 to Ky. domestic violence programs

Funds used for IDAs, financial ed., micro loans and other economic empowerment programming

Frankfort, KY (January 28, 2009) – The Allstate Foundation gave \$115,000 to the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association to support its Economic Empowerment program, foundation officials announced today.

The money will be used to support individual case management, financial education classes, Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) and micro loans at four domestic violence programs: BRASS in Bowling Green, Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program in Lexington, Women's Crisis Center in Northern Kentucky and OASIS in Owensboro.

During the Foundation's annual conference, held in Washington, D.C., Michele Mayes, Allstate General Counsel, announced its economic empowerment grants, including one to the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association (KDVA) in the amount of \$100,000. The Southern Region of Allstate added an additional \$15,000.

Kentucky's grant was the largest of the nine grants awarded to state coalitions.

"The grants will help survivors navigate these economic times and preparing for the future," said Cathy Neal, Sr. Communication Consultant with Allstate.

Survivors of domestic violence will benefit from the project, which helps them become homeowners, get a college education or start a small business. Participants open special savings accounts called Individual Development Accounts and their savings are matched on a 2-to-1 basis. Participants who maximize the program finish with \$6,000: \$2,000 of their own savings and \$4,000 in matching funds. A total of 47 account holders have used their IDAs to purchase homes, 38 have pursued a post-secondary education and four have started small businesses.

"We are using the funds to enhance the work of shelter staff who provide credit counseling to survivors," said KDVA Executive Director Sherry Currens. "Allstate's support has taken our economic empowerment program to another level."

About The Allstate Foundation

Established in 1952, The Allstate Foundation is an independent, charitable organization made possible by subsidiaries of The Allstate Corporation. The Allstate Foundation partners with non-profit organizations on community initiatives that promote "safe and vital communities," "tolerance, inclusion, and diversity" and "economic empowerment." Teen driving and empowering victims of domestic violence have been priorities for the Foundation since 2005.