

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Montana Board of Crime Control announces Program Highlight Recipient

The Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC) announced today the recipient of its 2015 Program Highlight. The Program Highlight honors statewide or community-based criminal justice programs that merit recognition for providing effective services to address public safety-related issues. SAFE Harbor serves the Flathead Reservation and Lake County by providing shelter, safety, nurturing, financial support and healing to the survivors of domestic violence and others in need.

SAFE Harbor serves a rural area covering over 1.3 million acres on the Flathead Reservation, which includes Lake County and has a population of 29,000, with 4,400 children in public schools, 150 in private schools and 40 being home schooled. More than 9,200 American Indians, from a variety of tribes, including the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, the governing tribe for the area, live on the reservation. It is the only shelter and domestic violence advocacy program between Missoula and Kalispell. Serving a diverse client base, populated by numerous tribal groups while representing a broad geographic area, the program has evolved as a victim-centered agency focused on crisis intervention, shelter services, legal assistance, personal advocacy, emotional recovery and long-term client success.

Deb Matteucci, Executive director of MBCC stated, "SAFE Harbor represents the gold standard in community collaboration. They have worked diligently to form relationships across their community for both tribal and non-tribal victims, and the agencies that serve them. The innovative programs created by SAFE Harbor serve the needs of a very diverse client base, with individual needs ranging from crisis intervention to shelter care and legal assistance. They have worked from a truly victim-centered philosophy and I'm so happy to see them honored in our Program Highlight this year."

SAFE Harbor will be featured at the MBCC Board of Directors Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2015 and will be recognized at the 9th Annual Crime Prevention Conference held October 6-8 in Missoula.

About MBCC

The Montana Board of Crime Control (MBCC) is the designated state agency that administers millions of grant dollars dedicated to preventing and addressing crime statewide. MBCC is headed by an eighteen member board appointed by the Governor. Board members represent law enforcement, criminal and juvenile justice system stakeholders, and citizens, including the first Montanans, our state's Native Americans.

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