



## News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Domestic Violence Grant Funds New Collaboration with David Lawrence Center, Shelter for Abused Women and Children**

Naples, FL – The David Lawrence Center (DLC), Collier County’s only comprehensive, not-for-profit mental health and substance abuse treatment facility serving children, adults and families, is pleased to announce that the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence has awarded a grant to The Shelter for Abused Women and Children (The Shelter) to fund onsite counseling to survivors of domestic violence utilizing a DLC Clinician. Kristina Kardanow, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with more than eight years of experience, was hired by the David Lawrence Center to treat Shelter participants seeking substance abuse counseling and co-facilitate onsite weekly support groups at The Shelter.

“We are grateful for this grant from the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence, which will offer increased support for victims of domestic violence in our emergency shelter,” The Shelter’s Executive Director Linda Oberhaus stated. “The Shelter has enjoyed a long standing partnership with the David Lawrence Center, and this grant will serve to further enhance this important relationship.”

Through the grant partnership, Kardanow will also serve on The Shelter’s Multidisciplinary Collaborative Planning and Development Team to examine the intersection of domestic violence and substance abuse and to address the needs of survivors of domestic violence who are seeking substance abuse services in Collier County. This Team will be responsible for researching and implementing tools to train Shelter and DLC staff about the dynamics of domestic violence and the needs and barriers survivors face.

David Lawrence Center CEO Scott Burgess adds, “We are honored to expand our collaborative partnership with The Shelter through the receipt of this important grant. This initiative will extend our helping hand to even more of those suffering in the community. We are confident this partnership will greatly expand health, healing wellness and hope to those in need.”

Kardanow received her bachelor of psychology from William Paterson University and her master of social work from Rutgers University in New Jersey. She is licensed in both New Jersey and Florida and has extensive experience providing therapeutic and supportive services to children, families, individuals and couples in both for profit and non-profit organizations and private practice.

***About The Shelter for Abused Women and Children***

The Shelter, Collier County's only certified domestic violence center, is leading the community to prevent, protect and prevail over domestic violence through advocacy, empowerment and social change. Since 1989, the nonprofit organization has served more than 66,000 children, women, men and their pets. The Shelter has received the coveted 4-star rating by independent evaluator Charity Navigator for the fifth consecutive year.

***About David Lawrence Center***

David Lawrence Center is the Southwest Florida-based, not-for-profit leading provider of behavioral health solutions dedicated to inspiring and creating life-changing wellness for every individual. The Center provides innovative, comprehensive inpatient, outpatient, residential and community based prevention and treatment services for the one in four local children and adults who experience mental health, emotional, psychological and substance abuse challenges. David Lawrence Center has eight locations in Collier County and touches the lives of more than 30,000 people each year. For more information about David Lawrence Center call 239-455-8500 or visit [www.DavidLawrenceCenter.org](http://www.DavidLawrenceCenter.org).

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