Celebrating Solutions Award
Nomination Form

Legal name of organization Family Violence & Rape Crisis Services

Program nominated for award (if different) N/A

Address PO Box 1105

City/State/Zip code Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312

Contact Person Jo Sanders

Title Executive Director

Phone Number (919) 542-5445 Fax Number (919) 542-6414

Email Address jo@fvrc.org or brittney@fvrc.org

Website address www.fvrc.org

Description of organization: Family Violence & Rape Crisis Services (FVRC) provides services to battered women and sexual assault victims in Chatham County, NC. Services include 24-hour crisis intervention, court advocacy, criminal and civil justice assistance, support groups, shelter, individual and family counseling, children’s programs, parenting education, services to batterers and extensive professional training. The Coalition for Family Peace (CFP) is a project of FVRC that was started to improve the community’s response to domestic violence. The CFP has over 80 members representing 30 organizations including the justice system, health care system, educational system, human services system and faith-based communities. All of FVRC’s services are available in both Spanish and English.

Geographical Area Served: Chatham County, North Carolina

Is organization tax-exempt under IRS 501(c)(3) guidelines? X Yes ___ No

If no, if your organization a public agency/unit of government?

Signature of contact person Jo Sanders

Date 9/9/04
September 9, 2004

Mary Byron Foundation, Inc.
10401 Linn Station Rd.
Louisville, KY 40223-3842

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for considering Family Violence & Rape Crisis Services (FVRC) of Chatham County’s award nomination. FVRC is nominating the Hispanic Outreach Project of our coordinated community response, the Coalition for Family Peace, for a Celebrating Solutions Award.

Since its inception, the Hispanic Outreach Project (HOP) has seen tremendous progress towards the goal of bringing comprehensive domestic violence services to our growing Latina population. The HOP has been recognized across NC and beyond as one of the leaders in successful outreach programs to Latinas.

We appreciate your consideration of FVRC’s Hispanic Outreach Project. Please feel free to call me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

José Sanders, MSW, LCSW
Executive Director
1. Describe the mission of your organization in five sentences or less.

Family Violence & Rape Crisis Services' (FVRC) believes that violence in the home generates violence in the community, and because we believe it is an inherent right to be safe in one’s home and community, we work aggressively to empower families and individuals to live free from violence and abuse through programs of education, prevention and intervention.

The Coalition for Family Peace (CFP) is a project of FVRC that is a broad-based community group working to build safe, peaceful communities in Chatham County through a coordinated community response to domestic violence and sexual assault.

2. Describe the most innovative aspects of the program you are submitting for consideration.

   Over the past ten years, Chatham County has experienced an exponential growth in the Latino community, growing from a population of 564 in 1990, to an estimated 15,000 today. Even though local law enforcement and domestic violence agencies provided services to hundreds of clients in 1999, only 22 were identified as Latina.

   The paucity of Latinas among women receiving domestic violence services was a concern to community members and service providers, including Family Violence and Rape Crisis Services (FVRC) and the Coalition for Family Peace (CFP), who feared that lack of knowledge about domestic violence laws and availability of services, as well as language and cultural barriers, were making it difficult for Latina victims of domestic violence to access the help and support they needed. The CFP’s Hispanic Outreach Project (HOP) was developed as a response to this need. The HOP has developed and implemented the following innovative programs and services:

   - **Community Awareness** – One of the most significant accomplishments of the HOP is its recognition across the state and beyond, as a “best practice” for outreach to the Latina community. Hispanic Outreach workers have coordinated a Hispanic Task Force, which acts as an advisory committee to the project. The HOP has developed a wide range of diverse outreach programs specifically for the Latino community. These include “puerta a puerta” (door to door) contact, development of a community resource brochure in Spanish, setting up a soccer team at the local high school for Hispanic youth, information tables at Hispanic-frequented businesses, church bulletin inserts, and a weekly radio show in collaboration with other Hispanic groups in town.

   The HOP has also broadened the base of awareness by placing paid Spanish-language ads in the local newspaper utilizing local “celebrities” (police chief, ministers, and other town officials) to gain “ownership” by the community of the problem of intimate partner violence in the Latino community.

   The HOP has produced many outreach products including: victim outreach letters, quarterly newsletters, pay envelope inserts, community resource brochures, bookmarks, victim outreach posters and bumper stickers, all in Spanish. In addition, a manual on the HOP’s first community survey was produced, as well as a support group manual for
Spanish language victim support groups. The HOP also created a Bilingual Guide to Chatham County Community Services that outlines bilingual services in the community.

- **Crisis Counseling & Support for Latinas** - The HOP currently employs 2 Latino Outreach Workers, both immigrants, who provide culturally specific services for victims and their children. These workers and other bilingual staff at FVRC provide the following bilingual services: crisis counseling, court advocacy, assistance with obtaining protective orders, long and short term individual & family counseling, a 24-hour Spanish crisis line, and shelter.

Since the HOP’s inception, the number of new Latina clients served by FVRC has doubled, while the number of continuing Latina clients (on a monthly basis) is 2 1/2 times greater. The Latina support group has been a large part of the project’s success. It has been meeting consistently for 6 years and has grown from an average of 3 participants per meeting to a current average of 12, with as many as 18 participants at some meetings. The Latina support group has served as a place to provide Latinas with information on the basics of domestic violence which they then provide to other women in the community. Support group members have referred many new clients to FVRC, and the support group has functioned as a regular meeting and training time for these “lay outreach workers.”

**Hacia el Futuro/ Towards the Future** is a program that has grown out of the Latina support group to provide emotional and financial support to Spanish-speaking victims of domestic violence. As members of the support group and victims of domestic violence, the women who started this group observed that financial hardships and crises, such as the inability to pay a mortgage or heating bill, often lead victims to return to dangerous situations for themselves and their children. To support other victims and prevent this from occurring, they began to organize fundraising activities such as yard sales, raffles and food sales to create a fund from which members of the support group can receive small interest free loans in times of financial need. To this date they have raised enough funds to offer loans to various group members for purposes such as obtaining a driver’s license, buying a Mary Kay cosmetic kit to begin selling, and paying an electric bill while between jobs.

Latinas clients can also get specialized services for their children, including an ongoing Spanish-language support groups that addresses behavioral/psychosocial issues of children exposed to domestic violence. Other children’s services include summer camp and referrals to a variety of activities and services ranging from health care to immigration assistance.

Finally, a 6-month long Spanish-language batterer’s intervention program has been in existence for 5 years. Previously there was no treatment option for Hispanic men charged with domestic violence. This group is the only one in the area and has referrals from surrounding counties.

- **Service Provider Training & Technical Assistance** - The HOP has provided extensive training on working with battered Latinas to professionals both locally and at state and national levels. We have trained over 100 professionals in our county on how to better serve battered Latinas. On the state and national level, our staff has trained hundreds more.
The project has become a model for the state, working with agencies across the state to provide training, technical assistance and support as they work to develop services. We presented at 8 trainings across NC as well as two Southeast regional domestic violence trainings. Additionally, this project has produced a manual for developing support groups in the Latina community, which was distributed to domestic violence programs across the state and presented in trainings.

3. Describe the program’s implementation. What barriers did your organization have to overcome? How did you marshal the necessary resources for implementation?

**Barrier: Competition between service providers**

Services for the Latino community in Chatham County initially were fragmented, with fierce competition between service providers for resources. Several service providers were more interested in building their own enterprises than in building an effective network of services for the Latino community. Competing service providers were threatened by the increase in Spanish-speaking service providers and attempted to disrupt the work of the CFP and to affect it’s funding.

**How we overcame this barrier:**

The CFP was able to overcome the competition for resources and build a collaborative body representative of our culturally diverse community that focuses on domestic violence. Creating an open process and building a broad base of support with many agencies, engaging community participation from many community sectors, and focusing on building community resources and funding for services, accomplished this. The increased collaboration has resulted in the launching of a major Safe Start grant for children exposed to violence; an Immigrant Health Initiative that begun in 2000 with CFP staff members serving on the board; and CFP staff being highly visible the state’s Project Esperanza trainings, sharing what we have learned in our outreach to Latinas to other domestic violence organizations across the state.

**Barrier: Latina distrust of service providers**

Latino victims in our community are primarily recent immigrants to the United States. Many are not documented and come from countries with only limited services for victims. Laws to protect victims are rarely enforced in their home countries. There is great distrust of public entities and formal helping systems such as law enforcement and courts, as these are often corrupt in their home countries.

**How we overcame this barrier:**

Building trust among the local Latino community has been a major accomplishment and was achieved in slow steps, working with one victim at a time to build community credibility. Through word of mouth and the development of personal relationships, the CFP has built a reputation in the community as a place to go for help.

4. How do you know your program works? Please site two examples.

**Example 1:** Maria Pavao grew up on a ranch in Veracruz, Mexico with her fifteen siblings. Due to economic barriers, she only attended school for 1 year and began work at the age of 11. She immigrated to the United States in 1987 with her abusive husband. Maria is a survivor of a nine-year domestic violence relationship that included such horrific acts as physical assaults, the use of weapons, numerous rapes, and
kidnapping. Maria's 7-year-old daughter made the original call for help during an incident when her father nearly killed Maria by repeatedly hitting her on the head.

Maria first became a client of the Coalition for Family Peace through the court system as a victim witness on criminal charges against her husband. Through the CFP she received court advocacy, crisis counseling, and she joined the Latina women's support group. Over the course of 5 years, the CFP assisted Maria as she fought for her safety and the custody of her children. She eventually divorced her incarcerated husband, became the legal owner of her home, and created a violence-free life for herself and her children.

Maria was a single mother of three when she began her job as an Outreach Worker at the CFP in 1998. The number of Hispanic clients being seen at the Coalition rose from an average of 4 per month to 24 during her first year of service.

Maria now shares her personal story to about 10 audiences a year in hopes that she can help people understand the dynamics of domestic violence and learn how to help people who may be in similar situations. Maria has been instrumental in helping the HOP develop into a project that understands the unique barriers for battered immigrant women. Her colleagues seek her as a cultural guide who can help create a link between cultures and decrease barriers and stigmas to accessing services.

Maria has been a co-facilitator of our Latina women's support group for the past 4 years, where she is a role model and inspiration for other women. She puts great emphasis on activities that build self-esteem, and she encourages women to find strength and perseverance. Maria has also helped the Latina support group form their own independent fundraising group to assist domestic violence victims financially.

Still with the CFP, Maria is serving as a mentor for a postdoctoral fellow at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She and Mondi Mason are working toward Maria's vision of social change for residents of Maria's community. Through working with the Latina support group, Maria created Mujeres Mejorando el Futuro (Women Improving the Future), a program that helps build leadership capacity for members of the community. Community members are receiving training on how to help new members of their community navigate the system and acclimate to living in the United States. The cycle of support and confidence helps create new leaders in the community. Maria is also working with members to build a needs assessment survey for women in the community.

Example 2: The goal of the Hispanic Outreach Project has been to remove barriers to providing domestic violence services through education, advocacy and support services to the Latino community. We can tell that the HOP has been successful by the large increase in Latino clients since the HOP began.

In the 14 months before the beginning of our Hispanic Outreach Project, the CFP served 38 new Hispanic clients. In the first 14 months of the HOP, we doubled that number, serving 79 new Latina clients. We currently serve about 35 ongoing Latina clients monthly, versus about 10 previously. Our Latina support group has served over 120 clients since it started. In 1999 we started a batterers' intervention program in Spanish which to date has served 59 participants, including 20 graduates. This program is one of the few Spanish-language batterers intervention program in our state and the only one in our area.
Family Violence & Rape Crisis Services
Mary Byron Celebrating Solutions Award

The HOP works with an average of 20 Hispanic children a month. We launched two support groups for children who have witnessed domestic violence, serving 49 Hispanic children over the past two years. In addition, one of our objectives was to increase Hispanic representation in the Coalition for Family Peace’s membership. The CFP is now 22% Hispanic, up from 14%.

5. Who are your key partners? What are their roles?
   The Coalition for Family Peace has over 80 members from more than 30 community organizations, and includes representatives from health care, criminal justice, human services, education, businesses, churches and community members. Key partners in the Hispanic Outreach Project include: Hispanic Liaison, Chatham Hospital, the Sheriff’s Department, Chatham County Health Department, district attorneys, Chatham Counseling, Child Care Networks, Chatham County Partnership for Children, local industries such as chicken processing plants, survivors, and community members. These partners meet monthly to plan outreach initiatives and to develop community outreach activities. They provide volunteer hours for the community awareness activities and share resources such as office space.

6. Could/should your program be replicated in other areas of the country? Why?
   The Coalition for Family Peace has been recognized across North Carolina and beyond for its “best practices” for outreach to the Latina community. The successes of the Hispanic Outreach Project can and should be replicated in other areas of the country with Latino populations as well as other minority groups.
   One of the major purposes of this project has been to develop culturally appropriate services to underserved victims through enhanced training opportunities and through improved technical assistance. Since 2001 we have provided technical assistance to 17 organizations on providing domestic violence services to Latinas, including 12 projects serving rural areas.
   The CFP coordinated the lay advisor training for Project Esperanza, a statewide initiative to increase access to culturally appropriate domestic violence services to the Latino community. This initiative trained 26 community volunteers from nine surrounding counties to provide outreach to their own communities in conjunction with local domestic violence or Latino outreach programs. We provided materials and support for these lay advisors in reaching out to their own communities and provided input for replication of the project in other communities in across the state.
   Nationally we have presented on our outreach efforts at several large conferences including the National Family Violence Prevention Fund’s Conference, the International Family Research Conference, the 7th Annual International Conference on Family Violence, the Fifth National Conference on Domestic Violence and Underserved Populations, the National Rural Networking Conference on Violence Against Women and the National Network on Behalf of Battered Immigrant Women.
4. a) What is the approximate number of individuals served annually by the applicant or nominee?

In 2004 FVRC served 748 primary victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. 87% of these were victims of domestic violence and approximately 30% of these victims were received services through the Hispanic Outreach Project with this number rising each year at the Hispanic population in our county grows and as outreach activities reach more communities. We estimate that outreach and educational presentations of the HOIP reached over 1,500 people in 2004.

b) Are there past awards, accolades and grants furnished upon the applicant of nominee that would further exemplify its success in combating domestic violence?

Maria Pavon, an Outreach Worker for the Hispanic Outreach Project, won the prestigious 2004 Nancy Susan Reynolds Award for personal service from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. Only one such award is presented annually to a resident of North Carolina who has provided exemplary personal services to their community in any field (please see the attached award pamphlet). She also won an award from the Chapel Hill, NC Women’s Center for her work in the Latino Community.

The Coalition for Family Peace received grant funding for the Hispanic Outreach Project from the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Rural Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Enforcement Grant, the Duke Endowment, and the DELTA Project through the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Additionally, we have a post-doctoral fellow with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation working with one of our outreach projects, providing support and resources for our project.

We have been asked to present about our work at numerous national and regional conferences, including the Rural Networking Conference on Violence Against Women (twice), the annual conference of the National Network on Behalf of Battered Immigrant Women, training for the CDC state DELTA Project grantees, the South East Regional Conference on Domestic Violence, National Conference on Health Care and Domestic Violence, the Fifth International Conference on Domestic Violence and the Fifth Annual Conference on Domestic Violence and Underserved Populations.

c) How will the agency use the Celebrating Solutions Award funding?

We will use the $10,000 award funding to guarantee we are providing the best possible services to Latina victims including counseling, advocacy and shelter. Specifically, this award will help us fund our two bilingual Outreach Workers and Outreach Coordinator who provide both the Latino outreach and services to Latina victims. In addition this award will support some of our outreach materials and direct client assistance.
1. Please provide a copy of the Hispanic Outreach Brochure, with translation.
   See attached

2. Does the Hispanic Outreach Project offer an education or training component for victims such as job readiness, English language skills, or financial independence? Our Latino women’s support group, Mujeres Mejorando el Futuro (Women improving the Future) was created through the HOP. This group has evolved from simply a support group into a group of women focusing on development of their own community leaders. As this group began to focus on community and leadership development, FVRC began identifying leadership and community organizing training. The nationally known Highlander Center has provided numerous training sessions on community organizations, immigrant rights and community participation to members of this group over the past year. We refer many of our clients to community agencies like Hispanic Liaison for education and training in job readiness, financial independence and other basic skills. Though FVRC does not teach English language skills, when there is a large enough group interested, we help clients coordinate with the local community college to get an ESL class started in their community.

3. You discuss provider training and technical assistance as a component of the Hispanic Outreach Project. What does this entail? Through the Coalition for Family Peace (CFFP) and HOP, FVRC has provided a biannual 3-part domestic violence training since 1997 and will begin offering a sexual assault training in the spring for local service providers in our community. These trainings give service providers basic information about domestic violence and sexual assault, how to identify signs of domestic violence and sexual assault in their clients, and resources for clients who have been victims. In addition to communicating this information, trainings also include role-playing, and group discussion. Cultural competency is a major element of all trainings provided by CFFP. Participants discuss the importance of knowing and understanding the culture of people that they are providing services for and how to provide culturally appropriate services to clients. Participants in our trainings are staff from the local school system, health department and emergency room staff, as well as staff from Department of Social Services, Family Resource Center, and Childcare Networks. Occupational health staff from local factories employing members of the Latino community also participate regularly.

HOP staff also provides technical assistance to local, state and national domestic violence and sexual assault agencies wanting to start and/or improve services to the Hispanic population in their community. Programs are referred to our staff through the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence as well as other programs. Staff will provide technical assistance such as conference calls, and site visits to other programs. Staff also encourages other programs to visit our offices to speak with and observe staff directly. When we provide technical assistance, we tailor suggestions to the specific program’s needs. Our staff explains how we have had success with community outreach, support groups and providing culturally competent services. We also try to explain to
groups that there is not just one Latino culture and it is important to tailor services and outreach to each community. For example, in the summer of 2004, a 10-member interdisciplinary team from across the state of Delaware spent three days with CFFP staff and volunteers to understand how we developed our services to the Latino community. We have provided technical assistance to more than 25 domestic violence programs throughout North Carolina on providing services to the Latino community as well as nine programs from other states. We have become recognized throughout the region as leaders in providing culturally appropriate services for Spanish-speaking battered women.

In 2001 we developed a manual on providing support groups for the Latino community, which was distributed to programs across NC by the NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence. This year we have contracted with Alianza, the national resource center on domestic violence and the Latino community, to assist them in developing a model support group manual for the Latino Community. In addition to assisting in developing the training, there will be a trainer's manual and regional training on providing support group developed as part of the project.

4. Does your program provide translators for women in court proceedings?
We have staff members who are able to interpret, but we generally use the court interpreters for the actual proceedings. These interpreters are specially trained in effective translation of the proceedings. The court expects interpreters to be unbiased and neutral, while the role of the advocate is to stand with the victims, and therefore is by definition not neutral. When advocates serve as translators it causes role confusion for the advocate, victim and court. We usually provide interpreting for victims when talking with the District Attorney and will interpret for the client what happens during the sentencing component. If there is no court appointed translator and it is in the best interest of the victim, our staff will interpret for women during court proceedings.

5. What are the key components of the batterer's intervention program?
The Peace Program, our batterer's intervention program, is based on the Duluth Abuse Intervention Project, a national model for addressing domestic violence. Majority of the participation in the program is court mandated but participants may voluntarily enter the program as well. The Peace Program is offered in both Spanish and English.

The facilitators meet weekly with participants for 26 weeks teaching batterers about power and control in abusive relationships and helping batterers find alternatives to abuse and violence by exploring current abusive behaviors while learning new, non-controlling skills such as:

- Recognizing cues prior to becoming abusive or controlling and taking steps to prevent explosive situations from occurring
- Communicating with your partner in a respectful and effective manner so that differences can be discussed safely.
Mary Byron Celebrating Solutions Award  
Semi-Finalist Questions  
Family Violence & Rape Crisis Services-Hispanic Outreach Project

- Taking responsibility for your own actions without blaming, minimizing or denial.
- Negotiating and sharing decision-making responsibilities with your partner.
- Creating trust and respect between you and your partner.

When we have a perpetrator participating in our program and are also providing services to his victims, we see our primary client as being the victim and her children, working to guard their safety above all else. Even when the victim has not had contact with our agency, we seek to contact all victims to offer support and to provide information at key points throughout their batterers’ participation in the program. We have different staff members working with victims and perpetrators, to avoid the conflicts that can occur. The batterer’s group does not meet at our offices, to reduce the possibility of both parties meeting up here. We do not provide batterer intervention services at the same site where we provide victim services. Sometimes we will provide services for victims in separate towns, if we feel that will provide an added measure of safety for victims.
Family Violence and Rape Crisis Services  
2004 Hispanic Outreach Program Budget

**Income**
Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Grant $90,377

**Expense**

**Personnel**

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<th>Computation</th>
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**Total Personnel and Fringe Benefits** 78,822

**Travel**

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**Other Costs**

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**Total**

**Total**

- Personnel: 63,882
- Fringe Benefits: 14,940
- Travel: 1316
- Supplies: 1260
- Contractor: 2400
- Other Costs: 6051

**Total** $78,822
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February 18, 2005

Mary Byron Foundation, Inc.
10401 Linn Station Road, Ste. 200
Louisville, KY 40223

Dear Ms. Reckenwald:

The Hispanic Liaison of Chatham County has worked closely with Family Violence and Rape Crisis Services (FVRC) since our inception to develop a more effective and comprehensive response to Latino victims of domestic violence. I am pleased to write this letter of support for their Hispanic Outreach Project’s nomination for the Celebrating Solutions Award. The project has been an invaluable resource for our community, providing education, outreach, prevention and culturally appropriate services to Latino victims of domestic violence.

Since 1996 we have participated in the Coalition for Family Peace, Chatham County’s coordinated community response to domestic violence and a project of FVRC. We regularly collaborate with the Coalition’s Criminal Justice and Hispanic Task Forces to develop services for victims of domestic violence and participate in training through FVRC and the Hispanic Outreach Project. We have partnered on numerous community outreach projects with the Latino community. Hispanic Liaison also regularly refers clients to the Hispanic Outreach staff and uses materials, pamphlets, cards and posters developed by the project. Likewise, FVRC’s clients are referred to our agency when we can offer additional, appropriate services.

We will maintain our close collaboration with FVRC and this project by continuing to have representatives serve on task forces and sending our staff to FVRC’s trainings on domestic violence. We will also continue to call on their advocates to assist our clients if they experience domestic violence. We continue to look for new ways to support their projects and partner with them in helping to meet the needs of our Latino community.

FVRC’s Hispanic Outreach Project is important to us as we help members of our community who have been victimized by domestic violence. We strongly support their work and nomination. We will continue to work with FVRC as they implement future education, outreach, prevention, counseling and support activities.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Vince Sanabria, Executive Director
Dear Ms. Recktenwald,

I am pleased to write this letter of support for Family Violence & Rape Crisis Services’ Hispanic Outreach Project and their 2005 nomination for the Mary Byron Foundation’s Celebrating Solutions award. Through FVRC’s project NCCADV has seen invaluable domestic violence and outreach services provided to Latinos in Chatham County through coordinated collaboration with both the Latino community and local agencies.

The North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence provides technical assistance and training to the 90 domestic violence programs in N.C. In addition, we are involved in public policy and public awareness initiatives at the state level. FVRC has been a leading example of providing comprehensive, grassroots services to all victims of domestic violence in their community with a special emphasis placed on the growing Latino community in their county. Their leadership and vision has spearheaded the development of a comprehensive and coordinated community response to many of the needs of the Latino communities in FVRC’s service area. NCCADV regularly refers our member programs that are looking for guidance in developing a Latino outreach programs to FVRC staff because of their expertise, experience and enthusiasm. FVRC staff has also collaborated with us on a number of projects including the creation of a manual for conducting support groups in Spanish, which was distributed to our member programs statewide.

We ask that you give their nomination every consideration. We cannot think of a program more deserving of this award. NCCADV would be happy to assist in any further inquiries regarding the contributions FVRC has made in the realm of Latino outreach services in their county and across the state of North Carolina. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Loucks-Sorrell
Executive Director
February 28, 2005

Mary Byron Foundation, Inc.
10401 Linn Station Road, Ste. 200
Louisville, KY 40223

Dear Ms. Reckenwald:

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of Family Violence & Rape Crisis Services. FVRC applies for and receives funding regularly each year from Chatham County. This funding supports the agency and the services it provides to our county residents. Through the Chatham County Managers’ Office, we monitor the goals and objectives of all funded agencies, including FVRC. FVRC regularly demonstrates its successful work with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in our community.

FVRC’s Coalition for Family Peace and Hispanic Outreach programs exemplify how community and outreach programs can positively impact our entire community’s response to an important issue like domestic violence and sexual assault. Victims, advocates, community members, law enforcement, the District Attorney’s office, and the courts have all joined together to respond to these issues. The Hispanic Outreach program’s outreach and focus on Latino victims has been extremely important in getting this growing population to seek out and utilize services for domestic violence and sexual assault victims.

I give my strong support for the Hispanic Outreach project of FVRC and the Coalition for Family Peace. Without hesitation, I recommend their recognition with the Mary Byron Celebrating Solutions Award. Please feel free to contact me if you need any more information.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Charlie Horne,
Chatham County Manager