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**Interface's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Love is Brewing Champagne Luncheon and  
Tea raises \$125,000 in response to appeal to reduce domestic violence  
homicides to zero**

CAMARILLO, CA – On May 12, 2018 Interface Children & Family Services hosted Love is Brewing at the Kentucky Derby Presented by Community Memorial Health System and Hammer-Hewson Associates at the historic Camarillo Ranch with more than 200 guests raising \$125,000 for domestic violence and human trafficking programs. Lavender Inn owner and local business woman, Kathy Hartley, was presented with the 2018 Domestic Violence Champion for Change award by 2016 awardee Retired Ventura County Sheriff's Commander and Camarillo Chief of Police, Monica McGrath. McGrath was assisted by Assembly Member Jacqui Irwin citing Hartley's extraordinary leadership in addressing domestic violence. Featured speaker Retired Superior Court Judge Colleen Toy White spoke of her experience with child abuse and domestic violence cases on the bench and reinforced Hartley and McGrath's appeal to the audience to get involved in prevention efforts. Interface's Executive Director, Erik Sternad further suggested to the audience that they make zero instances of domestic violence a goal for the coming year in order to stem an alarming trend of domestic violence homicides taking place in the Conejo Valley and Camarillo.

During her acceptance speech, Hartley relayed personal close calls with child sexual abuse and "Me Too" experiences at the beginning of her professional career to emphasize the importance of educating young children and teens about how to recognize inappropriate advances and behavior that makes them uncomfortable. She emphasized a need to have prevention education in every school as a simple, economic solution."

The audience rose to the occasion donating \$20,000 to cover the cost of programs that will be provided to 1,000 students across 20 schools. This included a \$10,000 challenge from local philanthropist, Barbara Meister. In addition to Assembly Member Irwin's recognition, commendations were also provided by Congresswoman Julia Brownley and Supervisor Kelly Long. Fillmore Mayor Manny Minjares, a member of Interface's board of directors, was also present.

This year's Love is Brewing event was co-chaired by Deena Clevenger who owns Hey Beautiful Boutique and Blow Dry Salon and Marla Remedios of RE/MAX The Remedios Team, both of Ventura, who explained their passion for raising money that will prevent, interrupt and end the cycle of violence within families and support adult victims and survivors of sex and labor trafficking. In the last year alone, Interface has provided 3,315 nights of safe shelter for domestic violence survivors and have helped 50 human trafficking survivors providing crisis counseling, onsite crisis response, community based case management, and/or shelter.

In addition to the informational and inspirational program, Interface provided guests with a Kentucky Derby-themed Champagne luncheon and tea packed with activities including silent and live auctions, Camarillo White Horse experience, entertainment by Danny D, a beer garden and simulated horse race betting. The "Best Hat" honor went to Jen Foster of Camarillo. During the Champagne reception sponsored by the D' Augustine Family, guests also enjoyed boutique shopping while sipping champagne and mint juleps including Greysen Jewelry, Hey Beautiful Boutique, Ikat and Pearls, and Petunia Pickle Bottom. And finally, guests viewed Project Hope Healing Art Exhibit sponsored by Ventura County Credit Union showcasing artwork created by domestic violence and human trafficking survivors, their children and advocates. In addition to presenting sponsor, Community Memorial Health System & Hammer-Hewson Associates, event sponsors included Ventura County Credit Union, D' Augustine Family Foundation, Jack and Monica McGrath, Rabobank-Camarillo, Synergy One Lending, Jim and Dina Furash, Paul and Terri McGray, RE/MAX The Remedios Team, Bill and Elise Kearney, Pacific Western Bank, Meathead Movers, Camarillo Ranch Foundation, Pacific Business Times, Multi Source Print Solutions, Brian and Palay Hefelfinger, PureTec and the Kim Pagano Show.

Interface provides a broad array of programs and services for victims of domestic violence, child abuse and human trafficking, including a 24-hour emergency response team, emergency and transitional shelters, and My Body Belongs to Me and Teen Dating Violence Prevention programs provided free of charge to thousands of school-age children, parents and educators annually. Most recently, Interface's 2-1-1 Information and Referral program made the news for Thomas Fire response and recovery assistance. Because of Interface's expertise having provided emergency communications support to other local and out of state 2-1-1's during a series of disasters in 2017 (Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, Las Vegas mass shooting, Northern California wildfires) the 2-1-1 team was positioned to respond to

the to 7,800 calls and over 10,000 texts received during the Thomas Fire and resulting mudslides of people looking for information about evacuations, safe shelter and disaster recovery.

“Interface’s work doesn’t stop at domestic violence prevention, human trafficking and disaster response. Interface also provides services in the areas of mental health, justice services and youth crisis intervention,” said Hartley. “Our Love is Brewing event is just one of the ways our community can support these vital and much needed services to those who need it most when they need it most.”

Next Year’s event will return to Camarillo Ranch on May 11, 2019. For reservations or for more information, visit [www.icfs.org](http://www.icfs.org) or contact Laura Everest at 805-485-6114, Ext. 628 or [leverest@icfs.org](mailto:leverest@icfs.org).

### **About Interface Children & Family Services**

Interface Children & Family Services is Ventura County and surrounding community’s most comprehensive non-profit human services safety net. Founded in 1973, Interface works to prevent and heal the effects of child abuse, neglect and abandonment; domestic violence; family conflict and mental health issues.

Interface has 24 distinct programs representing six core service areas, including mental health and trauma treatment, domestic violence and child abuse prevention, youth crisis intervention, human trafficking and justice services.

Serving approximately 42,000 local individuals annually, plus assisting 150,000 callers through the 2-1-1 helpline across the state, Interface offers effective solutions to the urgent needs of families and individuals in crisis. This important work is sustained through donations and grants from individuals and organizations, as well as by the work of dedicated volunteers and staff. For more information please contact Interface Children & Family Services at 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd, Suite I, Camarillo, CA 93012 by telephone at 805.485.6114 or visit [www.icfs.org](http://www.icfs.org).

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