

**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

Of Southern Arizona

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September 24, 2007**

Project Safe Place Receives Renewed Funding from the Arizona Governor's Office for Children

Project Safe Place, a program of Jewish Family and Children's Service (JFCS), has been awarded \$56,000 from the Arizona Governor's Office for Children to combat abuse and violence among young women in Pima County.

Started in 1998, *Project Safe Place* is a community-based program for girls and young women, ages 8-18, who have been sexually, physically and/or emotionally abused, and their families. Recognizing sexual and physical violence as a critical problem in the community, JFCS developed PSP to empower young women who are victims of violence to choose healthier coping behaviors before they too become an adult statistic.

It is estimated that as many as 6,381 sexual offenses actually occur in Pima County annually. These numbers are alarming, but even more alarming are the countless sexual, emotional and physical abuse acts that go unreported each year. Without extensive services such as *Project Safe Place*, the number of unknown victims will continue to climb. Lacking this much-needed intervention at adolescence or earlier, these young women will continue to be victimized, and the cycle of violence within their lives will persist. If you or a young woman you know is in need of help, please contact 520-886-5111 x 426.

We are pleased to announce continued funding from the State of Arizona for this highly effective program. If you would like to make a donation to help sustain this valuable program, please contact 520-795-0300 x 238.