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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CORA RECEIVES GRANT TO ADDRESS NEEDS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WITH DISABILITIES**

*The grant will usher in a new era serving those with special needs experiencing abuse in San Mateo County.*

**SAN MATEO, CA** – CORA, the only organization in San Mateo County offering comprehensive services for those experience domestic violence, received the Cal OES (Office of Emergency Services) Victims with Disabilities Program grant. The grant – an award over \$42,000 – will bring in a new era by heavily enhancing the organization’s ability to serve those with special needs experiencing abuse.

The grant will increase access and effectiveness of CORA’s services for children with disabilities and the deaf and hard of hearing community. For children with disabilities, CORA will create a Multi-Sensory Environment (MSE) for its Children’s Programs in both the community office and safe houses.

“It’s very exciting news,” said Zena Andreani, Children’s Program Coordinator at CORA. “Having MSE zones for the children will have an immediate effect. They allow us to keep the children engaged in the healing process while simultaneously soothing the severe trauma they’ve seen. It’s unique and we can’t wait to see all the good it will bring.”

For deaf and hard of hearing clientele, CORA will increase access to our programs by incorporating videophones into our safe houses, training staff in video relay services and the deaf community, training staff in basic American Sign Language (ASL), and developing policies and procedures surrounding deaf and hard of hearing clients.

“We’re always looking for ways to make our services as broadly available as possible,” said Executive Director, Melissa Lukin. “This grant will allow easy access to CORA’s life-changing programs for those with disabilities and ensure that the tools we use for healing are tailored for the best possible results.”

CORA staff are available for interviews. To schedule an interview, please contact CORA’s Marketing Director at [danielh@corasupport.org](mailto:danielh@corasupport.org) or 650-522-3948.

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### **About CORA**

**CORA (Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse)** provides safety, support and healing for individuals who experience abuse in an intimate relationship, and educates the community to break the cycle of domestic violence. The only agency in San Mateo County with the sole purpose of serving victims and survivors of domestic abuse, CORA provides confidential emergency, intervention and prevention services, including the County’s only emergency shelters, as well as a 24-hour hotline, an emergency response program, therapeutic counseling, legal services and supportive housing for survivors. Services are free of charge and are open to anyone needing help. Services are available in English and Spanish, as well as many other languages. To learn more, visit [www.corasupport.org](http://www.corasupport.org). You can also see the latest information by following CORA on twitter ([@ENDtoDV](https://twitter.com/ENDtoDV)) and Facebook ([@facebook.com/corasupport](https://facebook.com/corasupport)).