

NEWS RELEASE



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VERIZON WIRELESS COMBATS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WITH \$30,000 IN GRANTS IN METRO NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY *New York City's Palladia Inc. Receives \$10,000 Grant to Support Residents of Athena House Serving Harlem and the South Bronx*

ORANGEBURG, NY – Verizon Wireless, the nation's leading wireless provider, has awarded \$30,000 in grants to fund new and expanded domestic violence prevention and education programs in the New York Metro region. The grants, \$10,000 each, were awarded to Palladia, Inc. of Manhattan, one of the largest not-for-profit multi-services agencies in New York City; the Center Against Domestic Violence in Brooklyn, NY; and the YWCA of Eastern Union County, NJ. Funding was made possible through the company's HopeLine[®] wireless phone recycling program.

Verizon Wireless created its HopeLine program over 10 years ago to put the company's wireless products and services to work to help victims of domestic violence enhance their safety. The cornerstone of the program is the recycling of no-longer-used wireless phones, collected at Verizon Wireless Communications Stores throughout the New York Metro area and 1200 stores across the nation. Hopeline collects wireless phones and accessories from any wireless service provider, and then refurbishes the phones or recycles them in an environmentally friendly manner.

During the past four years, Verizon Wireless has awarded 12 grants in New York and New Jersey, totaling \$120,000, in addition to numerous phone and other cash donations.

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“All community-minded citizens who turned in their old wireless phones at Verizon Wireless Communications Stores have helped to make these grants possible,” said Charles Hand, Verizon Wireless New York Metro Region president. “Clearly, the HopeLine phone recycling program is working to support domestic violence prevention and help women re-build their lives.”

The HopeLine grant to Palladia, Inc. will support an integrated arts program in Athena House, a safe haven for domestic violence survivors which serves 120 families each year. The program includes therapeutic resources for children including dollhouses, board games and performances by Big Apple Playback Theatre, which enacts personal stories told by audience members, creating a forum for dialogue and community building.

At the Center Against Domestic Violence in Brooklyn, the HopeLine grant will support a Relationship Abuse Prevention Program’s (RAPP) poster contest. This contest will be held in 15 New York City public intermediate and high schools to help raise awareness and respond to the impact of interpersonal violence among teens.

The third 2006 HopeLine grant, awarded to the YWCA of Eastern Union County, will fund a new speakers bureau called *Men Ending Violence Against Women*. The program will recruit male community volunteers who will reach out to young men and boys to shape positive attitudes toward women and girls

Since 1999, three million used wireless phones have been recycled or refurbished and sold through the Verizon Wireless national HopeLine program with more than 600,000 donated phones recycled. Verizon Wireless has distributed nearly \$10 million in cash grants and wireless service to domestic violence prevention and awareness programs across the country.

Phone donations are accepted at more than 130 Verizon Wireless Communications Stores in the New York Metro area. For store locations and additional information, visit www.verizonwireless.com/hopeline.

Verizon Wireless also offers customers a quick and easy way to access professional and confidential help through the National Domestic Violence Hotline. Any victim or anyone looking for information on the issue can dial #HOPE (#4673) from any Verizon Wireless phone to reach the hotline. The call is toll and airtime free.

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About Verizon Wireless

Verizon Wireless owns and operates the nation’s most reliable wireless network, serving 54.8 million voice and data customers. The company is headquartered in Basking Ridge, NJ. Find more information on the Web at www.verizonwireless.com. To preview and request broadcast-quality video footage and high-resolution stills of Verizon Wireless operations, log on to the Verizon Wireless Multimedia Library at www.verizonwireless.com/multimedia.