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**SAFE SPACE RECEIVES \$50,000 M·A·C AIDS FUND GRANT TO PROVIDE
AFTERCARE SERVICES AT SAFE HOME TRANSITIONAL-LIVING PROGRAM**

Safe Space, an agency that serves at-risk children and families in Queens, has just received a \$50,000 grant from the M·A·C AIDS Fund to support aftercare services at Safe Home, a 12-bed transitional-living residence for HIV-positive homeless youth in Jamaica.

The first program of its kind in New York State, Safe Home provides residents (ages 16-24) with the foundation for long-term independence and stability. While at Safe Home, residents participate in a comprehensive treatment plan which includes mental health, substance abuse screening and referrals, and development of vocational, educational, and life skills. (Unlike older homeless populations, many Safe Home youth have never lived independently and need to develop the skills necessary to obtain and sustain permanent housing).

The grant, which covers a 12-month period, will pay for an aftercare specialist to help residents who are transitioning out of Safe Home. The specialist will identify barriers to self-sufficiency, facilitate aftercare support groups, make site visits to clients' new residences and help with medical, employment and long-term housing issues. Aftercare services begin six months prior to the resident leaving Safe Home and continue for as long as necessary after discharge. The average length of stay at Safe Home is 17 months, but residents have the option to stay for as long as 24 months.

“This is a very significant grant because aftercare is an essential component of our Safe Home program,” said Christine Molnar, Safe Space’s president and chief executive officer. “Currently, all Safe Home residents are either employed, attending school or both. Thanks to the M·A·C AIDS Fund, we can continue to help residents prepare for discharge from our program and serve them once they have left. The Fund has been at the forefront of serving those who are affected by HIV and AIDS, and we are honored to work with them.”

The M·A·C AIDS Fund has previously supported Safe Space’s programs to reduce HIV infections among vulnerable youth through peer outreach and education.

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With the strong belief that everybody deserves to live in a healthy and secure environment, Safe Space offers a wide array of services focusing on mental health, community health, at-risk youth, family support and school partnerships. Based in Southeastern Queens with a strong presence in Jamaica, Far Rockaway and Richmond Hill, Safe Space annually works for more than 10,000 individuals, including some of the most disadvantaged children and families in New York State.

The M•A•C AIDS Fund, the heart and soul of M•A•C Cosmetics, was established in 1994 to support men, women and children affected by HIV/AIDS globally. MAF is a pioneer in HIV/AIDS funding, providing financial support to organizations working with underserved regions and populations. As the largest corporate non-pharmaceutical giver in the arena, MAF is committed to addressing the link between poverty and HIV/AIDS by supporting diverse organizations around the world that provide a wide range of services to people living with HIV/AIDS. To date, MAF has raised \$180 million (U.S.) exclusively through the sale of M•A•C's VIVA GLAM Lipstick and Lipglass, donating 100 percent of the sale price to fight HIV/AIDS. For more information, visit www.macaidsfund.org.

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