



## Immediate Release

### **Vista Maria receives grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation**

*Providing a continuum of care for young female survivors of human trafficking.*

(Dearborn Heights, MI) - Vista Maria has received a two-year \$500,000 grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to support the agency's continuum of care for young female survivors of human trafficking and youth vulnerable to exploitation.

Vista Maria goes beyond intensive mental health stabilization treatment and provides a full continuum of mental health programs and services for young survivors and vulnerable youth. Over a two-year period starting in October 2021, Vista Maria will utilize the generous support of the Hilton Foundation to offer a wide range of services addressing the physical and mental health needs of this population. These services include: Journey to Success, a comprehensive afterschool program for at-risk youth; Shepherd Hall Transitional Living Program, a supportive affordable housing program for homeless young women; and Vista Maria's Scholarship Program, which provides scholarship to youth actively enrolled in and/or pursuing higher education, including college, trade school, and/or a credentialing program. In addition, the Hilton Foundation will support the first phase of an evaluation of Vista Maria's WINGS program, which provides mental health stabilization and community reintegration programming for young female survivors of human trafficking.

"We are honored to have received grant funding from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation in support of our continuum of care for human trafficking survivors," Angela Aufdemberge, Vista Maria's President and CEO, said. "Our programs help to restore survivors of human trafficking through housing, treatment, education, and life-skills development. We look forward to working together with the Hilton Foundation to protect and empower young survivors in Michigan and stop the cycles of poverty, abuse and exploitation for vulnerable young persons."

Through Vista Maria's comprehensive continuum of care and because of the support of the Hilton Fund, Vista Maria's fearless team will continue to improve outcomes for survivors of human trafficking while also preventing human trafficking victimization for vulnerable youth who are at a disproportionately higher risk for sexual exploitation. The \$500,000 grant from the Hilton Foundation will fund this continuum of care as well as help them realize a life beyond trauma and ignite a life of possibilities.





***About the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation:***

International hotelier Conrad N. Hilton established the grantmaking foundation that bears his name in 1944 to help people living in poverty and experiencing disadvantage worldwide. Today, the work continues, concentrating on efforts to ensure healthy early childhood development and sustainable livelihoods for youth, support young people transitioning out of foster care, improve access to housing and support services for people experiencing homelessness, identify solutions to safe water access, and lift the work of Catholic sisters. Additionally, following selection by an independent, international jury, the Foundation annually awards the \$2.5 million Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize to an organization doing extraordinary work to reduce human suffering. The Foundation is one of the world's largest, with \$7.5 billion in assets. It has awarded grants to date totaling more than \$2 billion, \$207 million worldwide in 2020.

Please visit [www.hiltonfoundation.org](http://www.hiltonfoundation.org) for more information.

***About Vista Maria:***

**Our Mission:** We foster restorative relationships and deliver innovative care, treatment, and education so that vulnerable youth and families believe in their worth, heal and build the skills for success.

**Our Vision:** All children, families and communities achieve success through continuous learning and relationships that promote personal, professional and family well-being.

Visit [www.vistamaria.org](http://www.vistamaria.org) for additional information.

**For more information or to schedule an interview with Vista Maria's President and CEO, contact: Jennifer M. Golabek, Marketing Manager, at (248) 914-0742 or [jgolabek@vistamaria.org](mailto:jgolabek@vistamaria.org).**

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