

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 15, 2014 MEDIA CONTACT Rae Pardini Cell (559) 351-9958 Email rae@mmcenter.org

STARBUCKS SUPPORTS THE MARJAREE MASON CENTER WITH DIAPER DRIVE

Starbucks locations in Fresno, CA and Clovis, CA hosting a Diaper Drive for the Marjaree Mason Center throughout the month of April 2014

Fresno, CA (April 15, 2014) – The <u>Marjaree Mason Center</u> (MMC) is collaborating with <u>Starbucks</u> locations in Fresno and Clovis to host a Diaper Drive throughout the month of April. Community members are encouraged to drop off new, unused diapers at any Fresno or Clovis company-operated Starbucks location through April 30, 2014. All diaper donations will be provided to the children of the Marjaree Mason Center shelters. MMC has three shelters housing women and children victims of domestic violence in Fresno, Clovis and Reedley.

The Marjaree Mason Center sheltered nearly 600 children affected by domestic violence last year. On any given day, approximately 60 children are residents of our shelters. MMC strives to break the cycle of domestic violence by empowering individuals through advocacy and education. The Marjaree Mason Center is the sole agency in the Central Valley to provide shelter and supportive services to victims of domestic violence. Our vision is to end domestic violence in our community. Help break the cycle by driving awareness to the Marjaree Mason Center services and by supporting victims through this Starbucks Diaper Drive.

About Marjaree Mason Center

For more than 30 years, the Marjaree Mason Center has offered shelter and supportive services to victims of domestic violence in Fresno County. Currently, the center operates the county's only domestic violence shelters.

The Center was founded in 1979 after the murder of Marjaree Mason, a native of Easton. A graduate of Washington High School and Reedley College, Marjaree lived in Fresno for 31 years and was well known in the community. At the time of her death she was completing her degree in business administration at California State University, Fresno and was employed by the National Economic Development Association. She was a member of the National Council of Negro Women, the Ujima Ladies Group, Big Sisters of Fresno, the National Association of Women in Construction and St. Rest Baptist Church. The Center was named in her honor with the approval of her parents.



About Starbucks

Since 1971, Starbucks Coffee Company has been committed to ethically sourcing and roasting high-quality *arabica* coffee. Today, with stores around the globe, the company is the premier roaster and retailer of specialty coffee in the world. Through our unwavering commitment to excellence and our guiding principles, we bring the unique *Starbucks Experience* to life for every customer through every cup. To share in the experience, please visit us in our stores or online at <u>news.starbucks.com</u>.

For more information on Starbucks' Diaper Drive benefitting the Marjaree Mason Center, visit the <u>Facebook event</u> for continuous updates or Starbucks website's <u>Store Locator</u> for the participating location nearest you (in Fresno or Clovis). Additional information about the Marjaree Mason Center can be found online at: <u>mmcenter.org</u>, <u>Facebook</u> or <u>Twitter</u>.

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