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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRANT AWARDED TO ST. FRANCIS COUNTY CDC TO SUPPORT ITS WORK TO PROVIDE JUST AND EQUITABLE HOUSING

***The Avon Foundation and the Foundation for the Mid South provide funds to
organizations working to assist women with housing.***

JACKSON, MS (July 11, 2006) – The Avon Foundation in partnership with the Foundation for the Mid South has awarded \$485,000 in grants to nineteen nonprofit housing organizations in the Mid South to aid in their recovery and to support their needs following the hurricane disasters. The grants provide funds to nonprofits working to address housing and shelter issues for displaced women or women who are heads of households and their families.

St. Francis County Community Development Corporation received a grant totaling \$15,000 to provide down payment assistance, credit counseling, case management, emergency housing, and utility assistance to displaced women and their families in its service area. “The Foundation for the Mid South is committed to supporting the nonprofits providing services to those affected by the hurricanes,” said Ivey Allen, president of the Foundation for the Mid South. “There is still a misconception that everyone who evacuated has returned home—this is not the case. With dedicated partners like the Avon Foundation, we are working in new ways to meet the needs of the organizations working to help Mid Southerners, both those returning home and those still displaced, recover from the disasters.”

Grants up to \$50,000 were available through the Avon Foundation Housing Program Fund to support nonprofits’ efforts in addressing an equitable recovery and restoration process. Funding for the grants from the Housing Program Fund was made possible by the Avon Foundation as part of their commitment to effectively respond to national and international disasters.

“The Avon Foundation is proud to be a part of the critical recovery efforts in the wake of the devastating hurricanes,” stated Carol Kurzig, Executive Director, Avon Foundation. “There is still much work to be done and we are pleased to play a part.”

About The Avon Foundation

The Avon Foundation, an accredited 501(c)(3) public charity, was founded in 1955 to improve the lives of women and their families. Now past the half-century milestone, the Avon Foundation brings this mission to life with a focus on breast cancer and domestic violence as well as special projects in response to national or international emergencies. Avon and the Avon Foundation make cash

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donations and raise funds for ongoing relief efforts through the sale of fundraising products sold by Avon Sales Representatives. The Avon Foundation Housing Program Fund was created through the sale of a special Avon fundraising product, the *Heart of America key chain*. For more information on the Avon Foundation visit www.avonfoundation.org.

About The Foundation for the Mid South

The Foundation for the Mid South is a not-for-profit, regional development foundation that invests in people and strategies that build philanthropy and promote racial, social, and economic equity in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Operating since 1989, the total impact of the Foundation's work is estimated at \$150 million in new resources for the region.

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