



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 27, 2023

Contact: Richard Jackoway at
rjackoway@sandiego.gov or (619) 533-6176

Golden Door Steps Up to Help Child Abuse Victims

World-renowned spa and wellness center to fund children's forensic interview rooms

Golden Door announced it will provide funding for state-of-the-art children's forensics interview rooms that will benefit the recovery and healing of young clients of Your Safe Place.

The \$100,000 donation from Golden Door will be used to create a safe and supportive environment for children who have witnessed or experienced violence. Every year, hundreds of children visit Your Safe Place with a parent or guardian who is fleeing domestic violence or other crimes and their needs are treated as seriously as those of the adults they accompany.

This new room will include:

- Child-sized furniture in a dollhouse-like environment.
- Toys, games, books, and coloring pages representing diverse backgrounds and cultures.
- Two-way computer monitors, allowing professionals who may investigate and prosecute cases against alleged perpetrators to observe in a non-threatening way.

“Your Safe Place has needed a children’s space for a long time,” City Attorney Mara W. Elliott said. **“Our most helpless, youngest victims are now going to get the attention they deserve in a room that feels welcoming and safe. With this donation, Golden Door will touch a lot of lives and have a lasting impact on our community.”**

Kathy Van Ness, Golden Door general manager and chief operating officer, said the 250 employees at the San Marcos-based spa are honored to be able to help.

“The work you do is the work of angels,” Van Ness told the staff at Your Safe Place.

Golden Door donates 100 percent of its net proceeds to organizations focused on child abuse prevention -- a mission that has become a part of the Golden Door culture over the past decade. **“We work every day, knowing that what we do can help make a difference,”** Van Ness said.

Your Safe Place is a Family Justice Center operated by the San Diego City Attorney's Office that provides confidential, comprehensive services to anyone who has experienced domestic violence, family violence, elder abuse, sexual assault, or sex trafficking.

The check from Golden Door was presented to the Your Safe Place Foundation, a non-profit that supports the work of Your Safe Place and regularly provides it with funds to help children in crisis.

Diane Doherty, executive director of Your Safe Place, said the Center has already started working with Rady Children's Hospital and San Diego Police Department's Domestic Violence and Child Abuse and Sex Crimes Units on the design and furnishings that will best allow investigators to interact with the youngest victims of sexual assault.

Doherty expects to have the room open this summer.

###