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Maid service helps clean up domestic violence in county

METAMORA -- Despite a soft economy the local Molly Maid franchise and its customers more than doubled their contributions the Ms. Molly Foundations' 12th annual Making a Difference Drive.

In addition to donating a portion of every Molly Maid service fee collected in October, Molly Maid of Metamora's owner Lynne Butler said customers and other community members contributed goods and cash to the effort. She said donations are still trickling in, but so far she's been able to send more than \$2,300 to LACADA.

"We are so grateful ill all our customers and community members who helped us raise these funds and collect needed goods for our local shelter," Butler said. "We know domestic violence is a persistent problem that often goes unnoticed and we are thankful to our community for helping us get the message out that these victims of abuse need our help."

Butler, who holds the oldest Molly Maid franchise, said she helped form the Ms. Molly Foundation and working to stem the tide of domestic violence just seemed like the right thing to do.

Since the establishment of the Ms. Molly Foundation in 1996, more than a half-million dollars have been donated to shelters. The American Medical Association estimates that more than 4 million women are victims of domestic assault by boyfriends and husbands each year and about 1 in 4 women is likely to be abused by a partner in her lifetime. While in 85% of cases the victims are women, men can also be victims of domestic violence -- as are the children and other family members affected by it.

"These statistics are appalling," said Butler "and we are proud to do our part to raise awareness of this important issue."

For more information on the Ms. Molly Foundation, visit mollymaid.com/foundation.