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Eastern District of California
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FAIRFIELD NON-PROFIT CHARGED WITH EMBEZZLING DOJ FUNDS INTENDED FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A federal grand jury returned a 16-count indictment today against Claudia Humphrey, 60, of American Canyon, charging her with theft of public money, obstruction of a federal audit, and falsifying records in a federal investigation, Acting United States Attorney Phillip A. Talbert announced.

According to court documents, Humphrey was the executive director of LIFT3 Support Group Inc., a non-profit organization in Fairfield that offered transitional shelter assistance and other services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence, primarily serving residents in Solano County. Humphrey, through LIFT3, sought and received federal grants from the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) in 2011 and 2012. Humphrey caused to be transferred over \$270,000 in grant money that were to be used only for assisting victims of domestic violence into bank accounts that she controlled. Humphrey used over \$50,000 of those victim funds on personal expenses such as travel, shopping, and payments to her family members, among other things.

According to court documents, between October 2014 and August 2015, in an effort to conceal her embezzlement of federal funds, Humphrey obstructed the efforts of the OVW audit of LIFT3. Humphrey falsified purchase documents showing that computers were purchased, and altered and falsified expense ledgers and time sheets.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General. Assistant United States Attorney Todd A. Pickles is prosecuting the case.

If convicted, Humphrey faces a maximum statutory penalty of 10 years in prison on each of the counts of theft of public money, five years in prison for obstruction of a federal audit, and 20 years in prison on each of the counts of falsifying a record in a federal investigation. Additionally, Humphrey faces a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross loss or gain. Any sentence, however, would be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of any applicable statutory factors and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables. The charges are only allegations; the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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