



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Gigi Tsontos

GTsontos@wtlc.org

(714) 992-1939 ext. 106

Mobile Advocacy meets the needs of DV survivors throughout OC

FULLERTON, CA (December 28, 2017) – This year, Women’s Transitional Living Center (WTLC) made its services available to survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking outside of the traditional emergency shelter, through a program called Mobile Advocacy.

As the oldest domestic violence shelter in Orange County and the third oldest in the nation, WTLC has long been committed to innovative solutions to barriers preventing survivors from accessing much needed services. Through Mobile Advocacy, survivors have access to support even if they choose not to participate in emergency shelter, whether this decision is due to physical or financial limitations, cultural stigma or fear, or simply because they have decided a shelter program is not in the best interest of their recovery. WTLC Advocates meet participants in the comfort of their own homes or in another safe space in the community, as identified by the survivors themselves. There, participants have access to case management, counseling, legal advocacy, and resource and referral services.

WTLC CEO Gigi Tsontos explains, “For a long time there was one accepted path to recovery for a survivor of domestic violence, and that was emergency shelter. That option remains crucial for many survivors and their families, but Mobile Advocacy has reinforced for us just how varied participant needs are—there is no one-size-fits-all method to recovery, and this program helps provide that flexibility.”

Participants receiving counseling services in the community have expressed how much more open they are to sharing feelings and experiences when working from a familiar, comfortable environment, and how much easier it is to be honest with themselves about potential issues at home when a counselor is seeing that space directly. Participants receiving legal advocacy in the community have explained that having access to legal support even when they didn’t have immediate resources for transportation made the difference in being able to pursue urgent services, such as restraining order support.

Over half of all WTLC participants now receive services off-site, in safe spaces in the community that they have selected. By broadening its service area, WTLC hopes to ensure all OC survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking have access to the resources they need to achieve safe, violence-free lives for themselves and their families.

About WTLC:

WTLC is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping individuals and families escape the depths of domestic violence and exploitation by providing the tools and resources to build self-esteem and empower people for independent living. If you or someone you know is the victim of abuse, contact our 24-hour bilingual hotline at (877) 531-5522 or love@wtlc.org. For more information about WTLC, visit www.wtlc.org

###