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OC's Oldest DV Shelter Expands Services to Child Survivors

FULLERTON, CA (June 4, 2018) – The Women’s Transitional Living Center (WTLC) has expanded its services to support the recoveries of child survivors of sexual abuse and their families.

WTLC was founded in 1976 by the OC Chapter of the National Organization for Women in response to the large number of women and children who would spend their nights in parking lots because it was safer than going home to a violent household. Since then, WTLC has grown as an organization to provide multiple levels of support to all survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking, both in an emergency shelter setting and out in the community.

This new program was made possible by funding from the California Office of Emergency Services, and will provide clinical and therapeutic services to children under the age of 18 who have experienced sexual abuse. Services will also be available to non-offending adults to support the whole family’s ability to heal, and to ensure the child’s support network is equipped to respond to their recovery needs.

WTLC’s vision is to end the cycle of violence and exploitation, and the organization incorporates prevention efforts that work within the community to work towards this goal. WTLC CEO Gigi Tsontos says, “If we want to create a safer society for future generations, it’s crucial that young survivors are given the tools to find recovery and break the cycle of violence as they grow up.” The Child Survivor program provides age-appropriate counseling services to participants, including art therapy, play therapy, individual counseling, and family counseling. These services are designed to be flexible to each child’s needs and help them process their experiences, heal from trauma, and identify healthy long-term coping mechanisms.

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

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