



September 8, 2015

Dear Friends,

As the Crisis Center works to end domestic violence in our community, we know that it is imperative that we provide the best care to promote self-sufficiency and long-term, sustainable change in our clients. We are excited to let you know that we will be shifting our short-term shelter program model to providing long-term client advocacy. This will allow us to better service our clients and have a more long-term positive impact.

Extensive research has shown that long-term client advocacy and transitional housing models are far more effective than short-term emergency shelter programs in seeing positive outcomes for clients. After an assessment of our current shelter program, a distinct trend shows that while these clients have domestic violence in their lives, they are chronically homeless and not necessarily in need of confidential shelter. Additionally, while we provide therapy and legal advocacy to many clients from Douglas County, the majority of shelter clients are not from Douglas County. *(In 2014, only 11% of clients served in shelter were from Douglas County; in 2015, that percentage YTD is only 6%).*

Due to the short-term stay *(an average of 24 days)*, our current shelter program does not lend itself to providing on-going case management services for clients; additionally, client data highlights the reality of where clients end up going after their stay in the current shelter program. Over the past 18 months, 260 adult clients were discharged from shelter. Of these, only 13 moved into transitional housing and 24 moved into their own apartment or returned home without their abuser. The remaining clients left and never returned, went to another shelter, or moved in with family and friends.

What's changing? While changing the existing shelter program was not an easy decision to make, this new direction of client advocacy will support more positive outcomes for clients by allowing the agency to hone our services for the best fit of the client using evidence-based trauma interventions through therapy, legal advocacy, and other services, and staying true to our mission of serving victims of domestic violence. Advocates will be able to work with clients for a much longer period of time to see sustainable change.

The new shelter program will have a component that provides options for creating a safe environment outside of the traditional shelter setting; be it at home, in a hotel, or some other safe place, and will focus on longer and more intensive client case management, support, and advocacy. We will also have satellite offices for client advocacy services. Positive outcomes have been seen in shelter programs in other states that have moved this direction, and we will be modeling our program to mirror these

outcomes. Our therapy and legal advocacy programs will continue, as will our community outreach programs, local partnerships, and fundraising events.

So, what's next? As we move forward, we will be selling our administrative office located in Castle Rock and utilizing our existing shelter space as our primary advocacy and administrative office. We will continue to maintain our office in Kiowa, serving Elbert County, as well as potentially adding satellite offices throughout Douglas and Arapahoe Counties for our client advocates. The sale of the Castle Rock building will allow us to support our mission through the creation of an innovative and entrepreneurial social enterprise that will generate new, unrestricted and sustainable funding, provide job readiness opportunities, and create an additional public face for the agency.

What does this mean for you? We value and appreciate the support you have shown to the agency thus far, and look forward to your continued commitment to helping us serve our community and those in need. Continued support from our current funders and donors, as well as engaging new donors, is essential making the most of this opportunity. We will continue to have a need for volunteers in various capacities. Maintaining and growing our donor base and community partnerships is also a priority as we move into this exciting next phase of improved service to our clients and community.

We will be diligent in our communication with you as we move forward with this transition. We will be planning face-to-face meetings as appropriate, and updates will be posted on our website and social media outlets, as well as in our monthly e-newsletter. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us.

This is an exciting time for the Crisis Center and with 30 years of incredible impact toward creating a world free of violence, these innovative steps and your ongoing support will be the key to our continued success.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Walker
Executive Director



Michael J. Prendergast
President, Board of Directors