## Sheltering Wings to Host Public Open House for Domestic Abuse Shelter Expansion for Men

Feb. 20 come-and-go event open to public 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

## 1 in 7 men are victims of domestic abuse

DANVILLE, Feb. 5, 2020 – The public is invited to see the new facility for male survivors of domestic abuse at Sheltering Wings during an Open House on Feb. 20 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Known for offering residential services to women and children escaping domestic abuse, Sheltering Wings has been able to provide housing assistance to male victims only at outside locations. Now, men and their children can receive services and shelter onsite, securely separate from female residents.

"Nationally, one in seven men becomes the victim of domestic abuse. Now, both men and women in our area can find safety and help at Sheltering Wings," said Executive Director Cassie Mecklenburg. "We want everyone to know all victims regardless of gender will have the same support."

Attendees will be able to see the area set aside for men and gain a better understanding of the safety features in place. Not only does Sheltering Wings have redundant security features, Sheltering Wings runs the identity of every person who crosses the shelter's threshold through abuser alert and sex offender registries to ensure the safety and security of all.

"The need for a men's residential shelter is there," said Sheltering Wings Board Chair Tiffany Mulligan, "even if we don't always hear about male victims. Men aren't taught to look for signs of being abused. Instead, they're taught to 'tough it out' or 'be a man," Mulligan said. "Male survivors need to know that Sheltering Wings is here to believe them and offer help."

RSVPs are not needed to attend the open house. Visitors can tour the facility, meet staff and hear a brief program at 5:45 p.m. Learn more about the open house and browse related resources at shelteringwings.org/mensservices.

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**Sheltering Wings** gives domestic abuse survivors control over their lives. In a welcoming, Christcentered environment, we offer crisis/emergency services, life skills, children's services and abuse prevention/education. Start building a stable, independent life today. **You deserve it.** ShelteringWings.org