



NEWS RELEASE

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Willow Tree Missions and Hope Lives Youth Ranch to Host National Day of Prayer Event

Monticello, IL – The National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 7th and Willow Tree Missions and Hope Lives Youth Ranch will host a community prayer event from 7:00 am to 8:00 am at the Moore Building Ballroom (100 W. Washington St.) in Monticello. The National Day of Prayer which originated in 1952, is an annual day of observance designated by the United States Congress and held on the first Thursday of May, when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation".

"We are honored to be able to commemorate the National Day of Prayer here in Piatt County since it has been a couple of years since an event has been held in the area. Our organization along with Hope Lives Youth Ranch feels compelled to bring the community together in the spirit of worship and prayer to hold up those in need of prayer in our community and across the world", said Jill A. Maxey, Executive Director of Willow Tree Missions.

The event is free and open to the public. A complimentary breakfast will be provided by Hope Lives Youth Ranch. Those interested in attending are asked to register no later than Friday, May 1 to info@willowtreemissions.org.

ABOUT WILLOW TREE MISSIONS: Established in 2007 first in Cisco and now in located in Monticello, Willow Tree Missions is a Christ centered non-profit corporation that operates resale shops that fund services for victims of domestic abuse. Family Service Center staff assist clients determined to escape abusive situations and create healthier, safer environments for themselves and their children. For victims in imminent situations, we provide emergency shelter and assistance with food, clothing, transportation, and household needs. We partner with law enforcement officials and community advocates to obtain orders of protection, safety planning, and legal referrals. To help clients move forward, we also provide ongoing crisis and spiritual counseling. But we

don't stop there. Recognizing the interaction between education, substance abuse, and emotional/physical trauma, we have instituted Christ centered support programs and proactive educational outreach initiatives. Willow Tree Missions is renovating a 140-year-old building in downtown Monticello and greatly expanding its services to include two transitional housing apartments and a multi-purpose space for educational and support programs. The completed renovations will allow our resale shop to double its footprint, thus increasing its revenue to increase its services. One-time capital funding is essential to meet life safety requirements as we re-purpose the building to meet Willow Tree Missions' programming needs.

About Hope Lives Youth Ranch: Hope Lives Youth Ranch of Monticello teaches kids confidence through horsemanship. Their mission is to use equine-assisted mentoring to help youth recover from trauma, build resilience, and find purpose in a Christ-centered environment of love and encouragement.

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