



NEWS RELEASE

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Willow Tree Missions Announces Completion of Transitional Housing Project

Monticello, IL – Willow Tree Missions is excited to announce the completion of its Transitional Housing Project, which is the final piece of the Willow “Giving” Tree Capital Campaign. The Transitional Housing Project is an initiative to provide transitional apartments for survivors of domestic violence who need a safe home where they can rebuild their lives.

For many survivors, leaving an abusive relationship means leaving behind everything that is familiar. Safe, stable housing is often one of the greatest barriers to breaking free from an abuser. These apartments provide families with more than just a place to stay; they offer a place to heal, to rest, to regain their independence, and to begin a future free from abuse.

“This milestone would not have been possible for us without the incredible support of this community. We are deeply grateful for the prayers, financial contributions, in-kind donations, volunteer hours, grants, and countless acts of kindness that made this vision a reality. Every gift, every hour served, and every word of encouragement helped transform these spaces into warm, welcoming homes where new beginnings can take root. Because of this support, this project became far more than a renovation; it became a complete transformation. Community support made it possible to install new flooring, appliances, windows, lighting, plumbing, electrical systems, HVAC, and ceilings. The apartments were thoughtfully redesigned with improved floor plans to better serve families, brought into full code compliance, and furnished with new furniture and essential household items. Every improvement was made with one goal in mind: creating a safe, comfortable, and dignified home where survivors can begin rebuilding their lives”, said Andrea Kocher, Director of Services for Willow Tree Missions.

ABOUT WILLOW TREE MISSIONS: In 2007, Willow Tree Missions was first established in Cisco, Illinois. Hoping to fill a void in rural Piatt County, the founders of the organization were passionate about addressing domestic violence needs with a program funded by a resale shop. Stocked with items donated by community members, Willow Tree Missions and its resale shop symbolized the guiding principle of communities everywhere: "we take care of our own". The growth of Willow Tree Missions led to its relocation in 2009 to Monticello, the county seat of Piatt County, and the subsequent purchase of a building on Monroe Street in 2011, serving as the center for its domestic abuse program. Throughout the years, Willow Tree Missions has evolved from simply assisting victims of domestic violence to working towards the elimination of domestic abuse in our entire county. A funnel of services focuses on education and prevention efforts, community awareness, partnering with law enforcement officials, and helping clients with orders of protection, counseling, and other needs as they arise. Due to continued growth of the organization and the success of its resale shop, Willow Tree Missions expanded its footprint in the community when it purchased a 26,000 square foot building on Monticello's downtown square in 2021. Larger, more visible, and easily accessible, this historic building is the perfect location for a second resale shop, and extensive program space to house the Family Service Center. A capital campaign was initiated in 2022 with the goal of providing funding for renovation of the building. Generous community support has enabled Willow Tree Missions to continue meeting the needs of its clients while growing in its mission to eliminate domestic violence in Piatt County. "We take care of our own".

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Transitional Housing

