**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MY SISTER'S HOUSE ANNOUNCES ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIVATE SHELTERING SERVICE FOR LOWCOUNTRY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS**

**CHARLESTON, SC, Mar. 4, 2022 --**My Sisters House, the Lowcountry leader in domestic violence survival, today announced a groundbreaking programmatic shift including the sale of their Group Shelter, a forty-year cornerstone of their tri-county victim services agency. **Clients and their children will now be served through an innovative private sheltering program, mitigating vicarious trauma exposure, confidentiality risks, and heightened security concerns.**

Deciding to enact such a bold strategic shift was a clear necessity to MSH CEO Tosha Connors. However, it required significant reflection, debate, and benefit vs. risk analysis for clients and the agency alike. The true test came when Connors, the MSH Board of Directors, and agency leadership projected the estimated yearly investment for the private shelter model compared to the current Group Shelter model. Private shelter came in at a significantly higher cost per client, yet the team remained resolute. **Connors states, "The benefits for victims – the ability to heal with dignity, autonomy, and absolute confidentiality – far outweighed the costs to develop and sustain this new model, underscoring our evolutionary imperative."**

To some a surprising change, the South Carolina domestic violence victim service community lauded the strategic pivot in client support structure. **"[My Sister's House is] setting trauma-informed programming at the next level ... all of us [agency Directors] can embrace this new, innovative, next-generation way of service delivery!" - Ann C. Kita, M.A., Executive Director of SISTERCARE, Columbia, SC.**

Disheartening statistics show that domestic violence victims attempt to leave an average of seven times before successfully extricating themselves from an abusive partner. By ensuring a positive and peaceful recovery environment, Connors and the MSH team hope to decrease the likelihood of recovering clients returning to their abusers. **Their vision is to continue breaking barriers to survival through innovation, advocacy, and education, better enabling victims and their children to leave once and leave for good.**

**ABOUT MY SISTER'S HOUSE**

*MSH is proud to continue its work as the Lowcountry leader in domestic violence victim service, recovery, and advocacy. Programs of note include individual and group clinical therapy, sheltered and community-based client case management, court advocacy, bilingual Spanish-language services (case management, clinical therapy, and court advocacy), housing, career, and transportation support, community outreach and education, and emergency services partner training. For additional information on MSH programs and services, visit*[www.MySistersHouse.org](http://www.MySistersHouse.org)*.****To access safety planning, services, and resources please call the 24/7 MSH intake and crisis hotline: (800) 273-HOPE or (843) 744-3242.***

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