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Clarifying the Confusion- Two Organizations, Two Missions, One Common Thread

Greenbrae, CA, July 9, 2010- For more than 30 years two distinct organizations have community members scratching their heads in confusion. Marin Services for Women (MSW) and Marin Abused Women's Services (MAWS) are two different organizations, with two different missions, but there is a tie that binds them—caring for women and their children.

Since 1978, Marin Services for Women has been the only agency in Marin County whose sole purpose is the provision of a full continuum of alcohol and drug treatment programs specifically designed to meet the needs of women and their families. Marin Services for Women is a leader in the field of women's substance addiction treatment, focusing their attention on women, their unique challenges and way of relating to the world. MSW provides women and their children and families with a healing place and highly effective, individualized wellness program on their path to recovery. For over 30 years MSW has focused on women and, today, offers progressive, comprehensive, "whole" woman substance addiction treatment and life skills coaching, through a complete and holistic continuum of care and support.

MSW's empowerment model is grounded in shared values of respect, compassion, accountability and mutual support that inform all aspects of our programs. Our trauma-specific treatment approach is empowerment based, culturally responsive and incorporates an understanding of a woman's identity development and women-specific addiction and recovery processes.

"Women are special. Our lives are complicated, our needs are complex. Research confirms what we've known intuitively for a long time: women do better in addiction treatment designed especially for women and delivered by an expert female staff. The people at MSW are 100% committed to meeting each woman where she is at and tailoring treatment to her unique needs. A woman comes to us feeling completely out of control. She leaves with a clear head, a sense of purpose, direction and the support of a community she can keep", comments, Dr. Cindy Myers, C.E.O. at Marin Services for Women.

Marin Abused Women's Services (MAWS) is committed to eliminating domestic violence, now and forever. Started in 1977 as a 24-hour emergency hotline, they use a deep understanding of the roots of domestic violence to create innovative prevention solutions on local, state, national, and international levels. In addition to delivering a wide range of direct and emergency services, MAWS is recognized for its expertise in providing comprehensive prevention programs, advocacy, and training for the benefit of women and their children, men and their communities.

Through leadership at the local, national, and international level, Marin Abused Women's Services advances the thinking and practices of the battered women's justice movement by providing programs and services in Marin County for the empowerment of women and the immediate and long-term safety of women and children, engaging diverse communities in domestic violence prevention, developing and providing transformative education for perpetrators of violence and collaborating with the greater community to create innovative and dynamic solutions to end the violence, abuse, oppression, and intimidation of women.

For more information about the unique, women-specific recovery programs offered by Marin Services for Women, please contact their Admissions Department at 415-924-5995 ext. 130

For more information about Marin Abused Women's Services or to learn more about community resources call their hotlines: Women's English Hotline (415) 924-6616, Women's Spanish Hotline (415) 924-3456, Or (800)799-SAFE for a domestic violence program near you.

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