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**NEW MARKETS TAX CREDITS HELP FINANCE CONSTRUCTION OF NATION'S
MOST COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY PEACE CENTER
Equity investment helped close gap to kick-start the project**

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN February 4, 2016 – Sojourner celebrated the grand opening today of its newly expanded facility, the nation's most comprehensive center to help victims of domestic violence and their families. The 72,000 square-foot Family Peace Center will house partner organizations under one roof, including law enforcement, legal, health and educational support services, making it the only center of its kind in the nation.

Sojourner financed the \$22.3 million project through a capital campaign that raised \$11.9 million in private community support from individuals, corporations and foundations and a \$10.6 million grant from the State of Wisconsin Building Commission. The facility includes multiple new amenities to better serve the individuals and families in need of critical services.

Other funding included leveraging New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) allocations from Community Development Financial Institutions IFF and Forward Community Investments (FCI). PNC Bank, N.A. made a \$6.8 million equity investment in the project utilizing NMTC allocations to complete the financing, which accelerated the construction process and allowed the Family Justice Center to begin serving the community more quickly.

"FCI worked with Sojourner from the very beginning, helping Carmen and the board of directors understand the value of NMTC," said Salli Martyniak, president of FCI. "We find it very rewarding to know that we were able to offer our expertise and \$5 million of our NMTC allocation to a project that is serving as a model to other centers across the country."

The NMTC Program incentivizes community development and economic growth through the use of tax credits that attract private investment to distressed communities across the United States. The new facility is the only one of its kind in the nation to provide a wide area of specialized services that will dramatically transform the way our community responds to family violence.

"IFF is proud to have helped finance such a unique center which serves as a model for the entire country," IFF CEO Joe Neri said. "Community impact is at the heart of what we do, and we gladly provided \$10 million in new markets tax credits to bring services for domestic violence victims together under one, state-of-the-art facility."

"Without the initial support to jump-start the project, we would have had to engage in additional fundraising, which would have put us at least six months behind schedule in opening our doors to thousands of victims and their families who have been impacted by family violence," said Carmen Pitre, president and chief executive officer of Sojourner.

Currently, the center annually serves more than 9,000 women, men and children in crisis, and receives over 16,000 calls to their 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline. Sojourner

anticipates a thirty to fifty percent increase in the number of individuals who will come to the center for help this year.

"This project is a great example of a community coming together to meet the urgent and long-term needs of our neighbors," said Chris Goller, PNC regional president for Wisconsin. "We look forward to the opportunities this project will create for individuals, families and our region as a whole."

"The traditional system for helping survivors of domestic violence can be confusing, stressful and arduous to navigate," adds Pitre, "our new center now allows us to take a proactive approach to domestic violence through our Education Center aimed at educating our young people on how to have safe and healthy relationships, ultimately creating a more peaceful region."

Sojourner has increased the number of shelter beds from 46 to 56 and doubled the number of bathrooms to eight. Other new amenities include more private and family rooms, in addition to a workout room, a quiet room, a health room for screenings, a cafeteria and other small and large capacity meeting rooms.

To date, the new facility has created more than 125 job opportunities for the neighborhood.

About Sojourner

The mission of Sojourner is to transform lives impacted by domestic violence. Sojourner provides crisis housing, system advocacy and individual support. Sojourner is the largest provider of domestic violence prevention and intervention services in Wisconsin, serving more than 9,500 clients annually. Our primary goals are to ensure the safety of victims of family violence and to provide a pathway out of violence for victims and abusers through opportunities to make positive and lasting changes for themselves and their children. Sojourner is committed to creating communities where people live peacefully. **Sojourner 24-Hour Domestic Violence Hotline:** 414-933-2722. www.familypeacecenter.org

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