



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## TESSA ANNOUNCES ACQUISITION OF WOMEN'S RESOURCE AGENCY

**September 18, 2018, Colorado Springs, CO--** Two of the most prominent nonprofit organizations that are focused on our area's most vulnerable residents are combining forces to strengthen and broaden their mission and impact on the local community. TESSA and Women's Resource Agency have confirmed their strategic initiative to begin integrating overall services starting immediately as a staged effort, with TESSA as the acquiring entity.

TESSA was established in 1977 to help women and their children achieve safety and wellbeing while challenging communities to end sexual and family violence, and has evolved into a multi-faceted agency that includes a confidential Safehouse, victim advocacy, counseling and children's programs, 24/7 SafeLine, and community outreach and education.

Women's Resource Agency (WRA) name will be changed to Women's Resource Center to denote an activity under the auspices of TESSA. WRA has been providing support to women and teen girls for over 40 years to empower them to attain and maintain self-sufficiency and economic independence through support, training, work attire, and resources they need to seek employment.

With this integration, the community will experience the following impactful benefits:

- ❖ **Seamless services transition - from** crisis through to self-sufficiency and independence
- ❖ **Strategic consolidation of nonprofit resources** to enhance mission delivery
- ❖ **Efficiencies** created in maximizing donor/ foundations gifts
- ❖ **A greater band-width to serve** more women with a larger continuum of services
- ❖ **Name recognition expanded** that will move the services of both agencies to a place of renewal and regeneration
- ❖ **Reducing the risk of duplication** of efforts and dilution of mission effectiveness, as well as the view of negative funders in regards to duplication

"TESSA is delighted to join with WRA to expand our ability to provide high-impact services to people who are experiencing trauma and trials in their lives," said SherryLynn Boyles, Executive Director of TESSA. "This integration means we will be able to expand our reach to better meet the needs of people in our community who are hurting and need a helping hand."

"In the nonprofit sector today 'innovation' and the ability to envision new forms of partnership need to come into play. The building of deeper nonprofit partnerships, mergers and acquisitions for the greater good of their missions and the community, should become a more common conversation," interim Executive Director of WRA, Trudy Hodges said. "However, this often means looking beyond the



territorialism of our “own” mission, to envisioning a more robust future and a more robust continuum of care. It has been my great honor and privilege to work for WRA and with TESSA on such an integration!”

“TESSA applauds the Women’s Resource Agency for their shared vision of a community that works together to do what’s best for the people who need services,” Boyles added.

With commonalities in their guiding principles and core values like ‘Stability’, ‘Empowerment’, ‘Education’, and ‘Community’, this was a natural evolution for the two to join forces and provide a seamless continuum of services to ensure the success within their collective missions.

WRA and TESSA are pleased to have the support from several local foundations on this innovative initiative; El Pomar, Myron Stratton, Edmondson, and the Osteopathic Foundations who were the initial funders of the merger/acquisition expenses. Continued funding partners for WRA were United Way, McCauley Foundation and Leighty Foundations.

TESSA, Colorado Springs, CO, was established in May 1977 in response to a high rate of calls to local law enforcement from women threatened or assaulted by their partners. That initial effort has evolved into a multi-faceted agency that includes a confidential Safehouse, Victim Advocacy, Counseling and Children’s Programs, a 24/7 Safeline, and Community Outreach and Education. Through these efforts, TESSA strives to realize our vision of a community free of personal violence for all.

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