Dear Partner,

Since 1977, AWARE has served Juneau according to our mission: Providing safe shelter and supportive services for women and children who have been subject to domestic or sexual violence, while also effecting the social, political, and legal changes needed to eliminate oppression of and violence against women and children.

After years of work by survivors and allies, men’s violence against women is recognized as a form of oppression, combining elements of privilege/entitlement, objectification of women, coercive control and physical and sexual violence. AWARE was founded with this expression of oppression in mind.

Over the last 40 years, we’ve learned many lessons from survivors. We’ve learned that men’s violence against women is complicated and far-reaching, and the traumatic effects of surviving violence can last a lifetime. We’ve learned that homophobia is often rooted in toxic masculinity, and serves to reinforce men’s violence against women. We understand that messages of power and control through intimidation and privilege manifest within the queer community, and put men, women and transgender adults and children at risk of abuse at unacceptably high rates. We’ve learned that barriers exist in places we’ve overlooked, and in response, we want to open our doors wider and welcome those who have not always felt safe accessing services.

We are still learning. Our teachers are families who need help, the individuals who have been harmed, and those who harm and want to change. This learning has inspired us to change. AWARE has always been, and will continue to be, a safe haven for women and children who have suffered abuse. We are proud of that history. We are also proud to announce that beginning in January 2018, our emergency safe shelter will be able to provide residential services on site to all survivors, regardless of gender identity or expression. Any survivor fleeing domestic or sexual violence is welcome to come by or call AWARE at 586-6623.

We thank you for your continued support, and for referring survivors to AWARE services. Please spread the word that AWARE welcomes all domestic and sexual abuse survivors in need of legal support, shelter, advocacy and many other services at our emergency shelter. If you would like further information or to discuss services, please contact Mandy Cole at mandyoc@awareak.org.

Kindly,

Mandy Cole
Deputy Director, AWARE