



Media Contact: Stephanie Baron

313.967.1039

News Release

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Ground breaking ceremony planned for new domestic violence emergency housing project

(WAYNE COUNTY) – Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano and other officials will celebrate a ground breaking for new emergency residential housing in the city of Wayne for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

The event begins 10 a.m. Tuesday, August 10 at 4400 S. Venoy Wayne MI. 48184.

The \$5.5 million, 13,200 square foot facility, slated to open in spring 2011, will be owned and operated by the non-profit First Step.

“In these challenging economic times, statistics show that domestic violence increases,” Ficano said. “This facility will empower victims of domestic violence and provide them with security and safety.”

The County pledged \$1.4 million in U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development HOME funds to the project.

The facility will have 12 apartment-like suites which will have bathrooms, kitchenettes, bedrooms and living rooms, said Theresa Bizoe, associate director of First Step.

“It’s designed to give our survivors more privacy, more dignity and more personal space,” Bizoe said.

First Step also provides comprehensive services for its clients like food, clothing, advocacy counseling, legal clinics and recreational opportunities.

“It’s a whole new model for helping survivors of domestic violence,” Bizoe said.

