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For Immediate Release

BL COMPANIES Contributes Pro Bono Landscape Architecture Design Services to Women Against Abuse Building

WAA is the only shelter in Philadelphia serving victims of domestic violence

[Philadelphia; September 14, 2007] BL Companies, a King of Prussia-based integrated architecture, engineering and environmental services firm, has designed a pro bono landscape architecture plan for Women Against Abuse (WAA), the only domestic violence shelter in Philadelphia.

Women Against Abuse recently moved within Philadelphia. Says Bill Bertino, PE, senior project manager, BL Companies, "We learned about Women Against Abuse and the valuable services they provide to the community during a discussion with the owner of the building that houses Women Against Abuse. We also discovered that the new location for WAA was in dire need of any type of landscaping.

"As a local firm, we feel it is important to give back to our community and fulfill a sense of social responsibility. A landscape design plan for WAA's new home seemed a perfect match for the needs of Women Against Abuse and the talents of BL Companies. Mark Heeb, RLA, a project manager and registered landscape architect from our Harrisburg office led the landscape design efforts. Mark is originally from Philadelphia. Discussions between Mark and Cynthia Figueroa, executive director, WAA, helped gather the preliminary design ideas."

The final design plan includes the beautification and enhancement of the entrance to the WAA headquarters; shaded seating in the front entrance area; and the addition of a variety of plantings to create color and depth from the building to the street.

The landscaping will be installed on **Saturday, September 15**, as part of the **United Way Day of Caring**. Employees from BL Companies' King of Prussia office will assist Mark Heeb and other community volunteers.

About BL Companies, Inc.

Founded in 1986, BL Companies is an employee-owned company that offers integrated architecture, engineering and environmental services to private and public clients. BL Companies has approximately 250 employees with offices in Baltimore, MD, Hartford, CT, Harrisburg, PA, Meriden, CT, New York, NY, Philadelphia, PA, and Poughkeepsie, NY. www.blcompanies.com.

Women Against Abuse, Inc.

WAA is one of the largest domestic violence programs in Pennsylvania. WAA operates the only shelter in Philadelphia that specifically serves victims of domestic violence and founded the nation's first legal center to address issues of domestic violence within the justice system. WAA provides a variety of programs and services to women, including an emergency shelter; a 12 unit transitional housing facility; legal services; and a 24-hour hotline. <http://www.womenagainstabuse.org/>