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Catholic Charities and Providence Health Care Partner to Provide Transitional Care for Community Members Experiencing Homelessness

Spokane, Wash., June 16, 2020 – Providence Health Care continues to partner with Catholic Charities Eastern Washington and those facing homelessness by providing medical care coordination, support, and connections to housing to individuals with nowhere to go and in need of a place to recover after receiving medical care. Providence continued its community investment in the Catholic Charities' Respite Program with a grant of \$408,800 to help alleviate unnecessary hospital readmissions and support clients on a more solid path to healing.

Recipients of this funding are clients who are homeless and in need of medical and mental health support and stabilization but are without any other option except emergency care and hospital stays. In 2019, the Respite Program provided more than 5,700 nights of care to 241 unduplicated individuals. In 2019, more than 350 clients were served, and the average stay was 20 days.

The Respite Program is truly changing the lives of some of our most vulnerable individuals in Spokane. This program is also changing the way hospitals, nonprofits, and other agencies provide whole-person care to maximize the partnerships of medical and social service providers. The long-term impact of the Respite Program is a decreased strain on emergency services and a streamlined system of care for individuals experiencing homelessness, as clients are being connected to long-term stabilizing resources and provided education on their medical conditions.

"We are incredibly grateful to Providence for investing in the Respite Program for many years," said President and CEO Rob McCann. "We have been able to decrease burdens that would otherwise be placed on our community and educate super-users of hospitals, emergency rooms, and urgent care to be more proactive, make healthier life choices, and access resources to end their homelessness."

About Catholic Charities Eastern Washington

Catholic Charities Eastern Washington affirms the dignity of our most vulnerable neighbors by offering collaborative and innovative solutions to the complex challenges facing Eastern Washington. Carrying forth Christ's love, we ease the suffering of individuals and families in crisis, we stabilize lives by connecting clients to housing and their communities, and we advocate in hope to help people make progress in their own lives.

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