

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Christmas Bureau to Open Dec. 12, Promising Christmas Cheer for All in Eastern Washington**

Spokane, Wash. – Christmas Bureau has provided toys, books and grocery store vouchers for thousands of low-income individuals and families every year since 1945. Christmas Bureau is an annual holiday assistance program coordinated by Catholic Charities Eastern Washington, Volunteers of America and The Spokesman-Review. It is funded by donations from businesses and individuals.

The Christmas Bureau will run from 10:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m. every day except Sunday between December 12 and 21. It is located at the Spokane County Fair & Expo Center Ag Building at 404 North Havana. Recipients will receive a food voucher and one toy for each child under age 17 and book for each child under age 14. Recipients should expect long lines and wait times.

“The Christmas Bureau is a wonderful way we work with our community partners to spread Christmas cheer,” said Sierra Heinen, events manager & Christmas Bureau coordinator for Catholic Charities Eastern Washington.

Last year, the Christmas Bureau had one of its most successful years. It provided assistance to 26,103 people, serving as a shining example of the generosity and compassion of the Eastern Washington community.

Heinen looks to continue the tradition of success in 2018. “I hope that through the Christmas Bureau, everyone in our community who wants to can have a festive Christmas, complete with gifts and a meal,” Heinen said.

Documentation is required for every member of a household receiving gifts. For adults, the documentation must include the individual’s name and physical address; for children, it must include the child’s name, physical address and date of birth. See the attached flier for a list of the acceptable forms of documentation.

For more information please visit our website: [www.cceasternwa.org/christmasbureau](http://www.cceasternwa.org/christmasbureau)

*Catholic Charities Eastern Washington affirms the dignity of our most vulnerable neighbors by providing social services across 13 counties. With our community partners in government, industry, and social services, we tackle the region’s biggest challenges, including homelessness and intergenerational poverty. We respond to community members in crisis by providing disaster relief, emergency assistance and rapid rehousing. We stabilize lives by building affordable housing for veterans, seniors, farmworkers and chronically homeless individuals and families, as well as providing access to fresh produce and connecting seniors with volunteers to help with household chores. We advocate in hope by providing childbirth and parenting support and early learning, counseling, immigration legal services and support for parishes.*

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