

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact:

Sarah Yerden

Assistant Director DEV/COMM

509-455-3039

[syerden@ccspokane.org](mailto:syerden@ccspokane.org)

### **Families Experiencing Homelessness Receive Immediate Rehousing Help at Catholic Charities**

Spokane, Wash. – For Spokane families experiencing homelessness, help and hope are available today. Catholic Charities currently has no waiting time for its Rapid Rehousing program. For families who have become homeless, that means getting help finding a new home the same day they ask for it.

“This decreases the time families are homeless,” said Sharon Stadelman, Catholic Charities managing director of Homeless Resources. “They have an immediate option for rehousing through our connections with landlords and community partners.”

Through Rapid Rehousing, caseworkers assist families with identifying and applying for housing vacancies. The program includes financial support to pay application fees, security deposits and monthly rental payments.

Rapid Rehousing is part of Catholic Charities’ Coordinated Entry system, which provides centralized homeless services. Diversion helps families avoid or quickly resolve homelessness. The Homeless Family Coordinated Assessment, or HFCA, directs families with unstable housing situations to homeless housing services available in our community.

The last time there was no Rapid Rehousing wait time was in June 2016. Amid a tight housing market, Catholic Charities’ and its community partners are making an impact on homelessness in Spokane.

“This speaks to the effectiveness of Coordinated Entry,” said Nadine Van Stone, vice president of crisis response and shelters. Because of the Diversion and HFCA programs, fewer families need help with an emergency housing search. Families who are on the brink of or experiencing homelessness can access these services at the Myrtle Woldson Institute at 19 W. Pacific Ave.

Coordinated Entry offers families a one-stop shop for housing help. Catholic Charities coordinates with partner agencies to give families options for short term and permanent housing vacancies in Spokane County. The Agency’s landlord liaison develops relationships with private landlords so families can choose from a variety of housing vacancies. HFCA coordinates homeless resources for families with children. Single individuals and couples without children can access similar services through SNAP.

*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, chronically homeless individuals and families, and farmworkers, as well as provide access to fresh produce and connect 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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