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Catholic Charities dedicates 75 new units of permanent affordable housing for chronically homeless families and individuals at former Holy Names Convent

Spokane, Wash. – On Thursday, Nov. 1 Catholic Charities Eastern Washington will celebrate the grand opening of The Sisters Haven, a new 75-unit complex of permanent supportive apartments for chronically homeless individuals and families. Bishop Emeritus Skylstad will be joined by the president of Catholic Charities USA, Sister Donna Markham OP, PhD, to bless and dedicate the new units.

The Sisters Haven is the latest affordable housing complex built by Catholic Charities as part of its push to solve homelessness in Eastern Washington. By housing every homeless man, woman, and child in the region, Catholic Charities can more easily reach people with resources to help them lead stable lives.

Located on the forested grounds of the former Holy Names convent, The Sisters Haven provides residents with access to supportive services through the Catholic Charities Housing Social Services program and to an early child care center.

“I am very excited that we can offer families the chance to get back on their feet in such a beautiful location,” said Catholic Charities Eastern Washington President & CEO Rob McCann.

The Sisters Haven is staffed by a full-time property and assistant property manager and two maintenance technicians. An on-site case manager coordinates the supportive services, which include child care, counseling, social activities and case management.

The nonprofit’s housing-first approach is similar to lifeguarding, according to McCann. “The housing pulls people in crisis out of the water,” he said. “But then we provide supportive services as a way to solve the problems upstream that cause people to fall into the water in the first place.”

The grand opening festivities will begin at 8:30 a.m. with an All Saints Day Mass offered by Bishop Skylstad, followed at 9 a.m. by a light breakfast. At 10 a.m., Bishop Skylstad and Sister Donna will lead the dedication and blessing ceremony. Guided tours of The Sisters Haven will be offered starting at 11 am.

The Sisters Haven includes 23 three-bedroom, 36 two-bedroom, and 16 one-bedroom units. Every unit includes beds for each resident and a washer/dryer and dishwasher. Residents can request other furniture items through Catholic Charities’ Furniture Bank.

The Sisters Haven was funded using \$14.3M in tax credits, not donated funds. The Sisters Haven is named in gratitude to the legions of women religious who have dedicated vocations of care and prayer to the people of Eastern Washington.

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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