



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CLOSING THE GAP FOR THE CHILDREN WE SERVE

Transitions starts innovative tutoring program for the virtual school year

Spokane, WA: EduCare, the childcare arm of local nonprofit Transitions, has expanded its services to include tutoring for school-age children. As part of Transitions' mission for women and children in Spokane, EduCare offers year-round trauma-informed care for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers experiencing poverty and homelessness.

Even without a pandemic, the children at Transitions have gone through too much trauma. That trauma translates to a wide opportunity gap in many aspects of their lives, especially in educational opportunities, and that gap continues to expand through the years unless someone or something intervenes.

Transitions staff realized during the summer that both participant kids AND parents would need help navigating a virtual education, while also dealing with other barriers to their families' health. Additionally, Transitions' staff would need relief as they supported program participants while schooling their own children. So, Transitions' EduCare program went to work:

1. Hiring a part-time tutor,
2. Transforming the Transitional Living Center (TLC) Community Room into a classroom space complete with supplies, desk space, and a "kids club" for kids to take their breaks,
3. Opening enrollment to school-age children at the Transitional Living Center (TLC), Home Yard Cottages, and any staff's school-age kids,
4. Improving their technology game, utilizing Transitions' resources as well as available community resources, and
5. Making it happen 5 days a week. 19 kids are currently enrolled, and each child is receiving educational assistance 3 mornings every week.

"It was simply the right thing to do," said Transitions' Executive Director, Edie Rice-Sauer. "We had to support our staff during this crazy time, and we had to try to relieve some of the weight on our families."

Great things continue to happen with these amazingly resilient families. Just last week, several moms at TLC and the Home Yard Cottages registered to vote in the upcoming election; and the tutoring program has evolved into more than staff imagined. The students are truly taking ownership of their program—they had elections last Thursday and the Presidents and VP's already had an hour long meeting!

About Transitions: *Transitions works to end poverty and homelessness for women and children in Spokane, WA. To achieve this mission they operate six programs—Women's Hearth, Miryam's House, Transitional Living Center, EduCare, New Leaf Bakery Cafe, and Home Yard Cottages—providing safety, support and opportunities to learn skills for success.*

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