



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COLLABORATION, NOT COMPETITION

Local nonprofits, Transitions & Volunteers of America, partner to serve homeless

To those who know Volunteers of America's (VOA) Hope House emergency shelter and Transitions' Women's Hearth daytime drop-in center, it comes as no surprise that they're teaming up once again to serve women experiencing homelessness in Spokane.

Right now, Women's Hearth at 920 W 2nd Ave is closed in support of the city's 24/7 shelter model to keep women in a single, safe location. Meanwhile Hope House got completely moved over to the downtown public library in order to be able to social distance overnight as well as day.

Every February, these two organizations already collaborate on Mardi Bras—a donation drive for bras, underwear, pads, tampons, and bus passes; and now with the COVID-19 pandemic, Women's Hearth is supporting Hope House's move to a 24/7 shelter at the downtown library.

Hearth staff wanted to continue to help women experiencing homelessness in spite of being closed, and Hope House needed more staff for their new daytime hours, so it seemed an obvious fit for three huge reasons:

1. Many of the women staying at the new Hope House are women that Hearth staff already know and work with. During a time of crisis, the familiar faces of people who care about you mean the world.
2. VOA doesn't have to train several brand new staff, maintaining service continuity.
3. Transitions is already paying Hearth staff to do the same work, saving cost to VOA's expansion.

Edie Rice-Sauer, Executive Director of Transitions, and Fawn Schott, CEO of VOA, both agreed that it made sense for them to collaborate, that their organizations are "like family. We support each other through thick and thin."

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.

Volunteers of America has been helping Spokane's most under-resourced for over 100 years. They are a local non-profit organization devoted to ending homelessness by uplifting people and meeting needs.

Transitions Contact:
Sarah Lickfold, Development Director
Email: slickfold@help4women.org
Phone: (509) 994-9580
Website: www.help4women.org

Volunteers of America Contact:
JonCarollo, Development Director
Email: jcarollo@voaspokane.org
Phone: (509) 279-9295
Website: www.voaspokane.org