



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## **ADVOCATING FOR THE WORK FORCE – JOB READINESS**

### *Transitions' New Leaf Café Moves to New Location to Better Prepare Trainees*

Job training is essential for many women experiencing poverty, transitioning after some time in jail, recovering from situations of domestic violence, and more. Transitions' New Leaf Café offers a unique opportunity to women in the Spokane community who need both the job skills and life skills to seek, maintain, and thrive in employment. Transitions' also employs a Vocational Specialist who helps trainees with job searching, resume building, interviewing skills, alumnae services, etc.

New Leaf Café offers a free 8-week barista training program to women and youth experiencing poverty and/or homelessness in Spokane; 80% of its trainees either find employment or pursue further education within a year after completing the program. That's a hugely successful employment/education rate!

The barista training program consistently trains about 30 aspiring baristas every year—trainees like Mary, who upon being turned down for a job because of her criminal history, wrote a letter of appeal about how hard she'd worked to overcome her challenges. Now she happily works as a barista in a busy coffee spot!

New Leaf Café has loved being in the Catholic Charities building on 5<sup>th</sup> and Division for 10 amazing years, but they've outgrown the space, so, they're moving to the YWCA building at 930 N Monroe. With this move comes the opportunity to serve more customers at a faster pace that better reflects the job market many trainees will be going into. Plus, with this move comes a technology upgrade, so that trainees will be better prepared to work at any local coffee shop, small or large.

To celebrate the move, New Leaf Café is having a Grand Opening event:

- Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>
- Lunch served at 11:30am, program 12:00pm-12:30pm
- Complimentary lunch provided, prepared by the trainees in the New Leaf Kitchen catering program
- RSVP to Sarah Lickfold at [slickfold@help4women.org](mailto:slickfold@help4women.org)

**Need a slot at the event for press photos?** Contact Sarah at [slickfold@help4women.org](mailto:slickfold@help4women.org).

*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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