



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ROTARY SHOWS UP FOR TRANSITIONS

Local Rotary group supports nonprofit with multiple needs

Spokane, WA: Bowed and bent and unable to hold enough jars of peanut butter—that's the current state of the food pantry shelves at Transitions' Women's Hearth. The Hearth gives out food staples to women experiencing poverty and homelessness, and supports women's journeys toward housing, health, and legal stability, among others.

Spending money on some facility needs tends to be low on nonprofit priority lists, but fortunately a local Rotary group has stepped in to supply new equipment and services for Women's Hearth. **Spokane Aurora North West Rotary** partnered with Rotary International and Rotary District 5080* to obtain a \$5,000.00 matching grant for a total of \$10,000 for the 2020–2021** Rotary year.

In addition to the shelving and its installation due to be completed in September, Rotary is funding a new hot water tank to replace the Hearth's 2004 model, which is now contributing to cold showers for participants in the middle of the day. The tank will be purchased and installed around August 27th, well before the winter's arrival.

Spokane Aurora Northwest Rotary members will not only be installing the shelves, but also painting the Hearth's back wall in September or October; as well as making and serving lunch for the women at the Hearth with the COVID-19 precautions still needed at that time.

When asked about the partnership between Transitions and Rotary, Susan Tyler-Babkirk, Program Director at Women's Hearth, said, "I'm so grateful to Rotary—it's such a relief to finally do some of these updates—we try to direct most funds to programming so a lot of these types of activities don't get done. But now we won't have to be careful about how many jars of peanut butter we can store!"

*Rotary District 5080 encompasses Eastern Washington, Northern Idaho and south east British Columbia.

**In 2019-2020 Spokane Aurora Northwest Rotary received a \$10,000.00 matching grant to assist in supplying furnishings for the new Vanessa Behan center.

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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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