



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DOING WHAT'S RIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE WE SERVE**

*Local nonprofit, Transitions, gets creative to combat COVID-19*

**Spokane, WA:** Homelessness and housing don't stop for a pandemic. The services that Transitions offers are considered essential, but the organization is applying the real *meaning* of Governor Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" initiative to keep their women and families safe.

- Their housing programs—Miryam's House, Transitional Living Center, and Home Yard Cottages—are maintaining their case management mostly through the technology of virtual meetings and a texting app to keep staff and participants connected. A staff member is on site daily to check in and ensure safety.
- Their childcare program—EduCare—is physically closing as of 3/25/2020 for two weeks in order to support social distancing for their families. Teachers are still connecting with kids and parents virtually in order to support continued learning and family development.
- Their job training program—New Leaf Kitchen & Café—has been closed due to outstanding circumstances, canceled catering orders, and trainee safety. Staff remain on standby to help wherever else in the organization they can.
- Their downtown drop-in day center—Women's Hearth—has stayed open until now, taking temperatures at the door, canceling group classes, and asking women with housing options to stay home. But with the in and out movement of participants, being open wasn't staying true to the call for women's safety. So, as of 3/26/2020, the Women's Hearth location will be closed and will support the efforts of other shelter projects in order to keep women safe, in a single location.

"The safety and well-being of our staff and participants take precedence right now, and that means physical, mental, and emotional. We'll do what it takes and use all the tools and creativity we can to support our people," shared Edie Rice-Sauer, Executive Director of Transitions. "It's a difficult time, but our team has the wherewithal to do the right thing, even if it's the hard thing."

*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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