



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TRANSITIONS GOES GREEN TO END POVERTY

Spokane, WA: The high cost of some green technologies can make them inaccessible to most low-income individuals and families. Recognizing that access to that technology is an issue of justice for those they serve, Transitions made great strides in 2018 in making green technology available to their participants and programs.

“2018 was a huge year for us in environmentally-friendly technology and reducing fossil fuel use,” shared Transitions’ Executive Director, Edie Rice-Sauer. “We were given a hybrid vehicle, put solar panels on 15 of the 24 brand-new Home Yard Cottages, and started the process of placing solar panels on the Women’s Hearth downtown.”

The vehicle, a Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV, is a hybrid electric / gas vehicle that Transitions started using in the spring of 2018 to deliver catering orders from the New Leaf Bakery Café; it is additionally used to transport women between the Women’s Hearth daytime drop-in center and Volunteers of America’s Hope House night shelter. New Leaf’s fuel costs went down nearly 50% in 2018, and the women at the Hearth are now offered safety and warmth in their evening journey between shelters, rather than health risks and danger.

The Home Yard Cottages, completed in September of 2018, have 15 ultra-efficient units, complete with smart water heaters, efficient ventilation systems, advanced insulation, and to top it all off, solar panels. They are designed to be net-zero, which means the panels create as much energy as is used in each of the 15 units. This is a project of the Washington State Department of Commerce to make green technology in the state available to persons who are low-income, reducing utility costs as part of the solution to poverty and homelessness.

With the replacement of an old, leaky roof at Women’s Hearth came the \$40,000 donation of a solar philanthropy foundation, New Priorities, wanting to get solar panels installed on not-for-profit facilities. Another anonymous donor came in with \$20,050, along with individual donations totaling about \$500, to fill the Hearth’s roof to capacity. Northwest Renewables has now finished installing the 18 kilo-watt system, estimating an annual decrease in electricity costs by 55%, or approximately \$2,400—the cost to cover services for 5 women for a full year.

Susan Tyler-Babkirk, Program Director at Women’s Hearth, is enthusiastic about the opportunities given through this new tech: “Now that the snow has cleared, it’s really exciting to go onto the app and see our energy savings.” With Transitions’ foot forward into green

technology as a tool for ending poverty and homelessness, perhaps other organizations will follow suit?

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Transitions works to end poverty and homelessness for women and children in Spokane, WA. To achieve this mission we 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. For more information about how you can join our work to end poverty and homelessness for women and children in Spokane, call 509-328-6702, email info@help4women.org, or visit our website at www.help4women.org.