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Local Foundation Champions Curriculum for Life Skills, Creates Change

Spokane, WA: Local foundation, the Smith-Barbieri Progressive Fund, has granted funds to support Transitions' Responsible Renters Program.

Transitions, a local non-profit working to end poverty and homelessness for women and children in Spokane, WA, has developed and administered the Responsible Renters Curriculum for twelve years. In 2017 more than 361 individuals have sought stability by accessing the curriculum at Transitions and partner agencies and earned more than 1,167 module certificates.

The two-year grant awarded by the Fund will provide a staff person at Transitions' Women's Hearth. This staff member teaches the curriculum, trains other trainers, and updates the curriculum to keep it timely and legally accurate. The curriculum covers many areas of life stability including: Money Management, Debt Management, Tenant Rights and Responsibilities, and Finding a Home. Participants are awarded certificates for each section they complete which can be used to increase their chances of finding housing.

The Smith Barbieri Progressive Fund aims to build upon our region's strong foundation to ensure those in need have every opportunity to succeed. With strong community partnerships, creativity and tenacity, the Fund works to reduce poverty, broaden affordable housing, foster a dynamic constituency, and spotlight the Inland Northwest as a region.

Fund Founder Sharon Smith adds "One of the major factors that contribute to women becoming self-sustaining and achieving their dreams is education. Life skills training is immediately applicable and actionable and the vast depth of knowledge and experience in this arena makes Transitions the perfect organization to provide it. We're honored to support the continuation of this important program that helps grow people's futures."

To learn more or find a class to attend visit www.help4women.org.

Transitions: Since 1995, Transitions has been helping women, children, and families rebuild lives affected by abuse, addiction, mental illness, poverty, and homelessness. Transitions is made up of five programs: Women's Hearth, Miryam's House, Transitional Living Center, EduCare and New Leaf Bakery Café. 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 mreinbold@help4women.org, or visit our website at www.help4women.org.

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