

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRANSITIONS, A LOCAL NONPROFIT HELPING WOMEN, PARTNERS WITH WOMEN IN VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM

Spokane,WA—In a new partnership, Transitions, a local non-profit, is working with the Spokane County Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program to provide free family law clinics and representation in court for low-income and homeless women throughout Spokane. The first of several scheduled clinics was held in February at Transitions' Women's Hearth, where ten committed female attorneys donated their time to work one-on-one with women who had questions regarding divorce, parenting plans, and custody.

In 2011, Transitions served more than 1,200 low-income and homeless women with resources like showers, hygiene products, job searching classes, and a safe place to thrive in a community. As a result of working with these women, Transitions realized that 63 percent of the nation's homeless women have experienced domestic violence, yet can't afford adequate representation for the issues often accompanying it, leaving their family law needs unmet. Women who frequent Transitions often have mental illness and don't trust institutions, while others have a strong mistrust in men. Having female attorneys assist them builds trust, maximizing their benefit from these valuable services and perhaps opening future opportunities.

Kellee Spangenberg, program coordinator for the VLP, proposed the partnership with Transitions after volunteering at the non-profit and seeing first-hand the overwhelming need of the women there for adequate legal counsel.

"Every time I volunteer at Transitions, I leave with a great feeling of community and connection," she says. "It really feeds my soul."

Since 1995, Transitions has been helping women, children, and families trying to rebuild their lives broken by abuse, addiction, mental illness, poverty, and homelessness. Transitions maintains five programs: Women's Hearth, Miryam's House, Transitional Living Center, EduCare and New Leaf Bakery & Cafe. For more information about how you can support the work of Transitions, call 509-328-6702, email vista@help4women.org, or visit our website at help4women.org.

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