

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TRANSITIONS STRENGTHENS FAMILIES THROUGH NEW HOUSING PROGRAM**

**SPOKANE, WASH**— Transitions' Transitional Living Center (TLC) and EduCare programs have been selected to oversee a new city grant, the "Strong Families Initiative." This new systems coordination will decrease the number of children removed from families due to unstable housing. This new approach to homelessness prevention will decrease trauma to children and families, decrease costs to the community and supply twenty housing vouchers from Spokane Housing Authority.

This SFI program seeks to ensure better coordination between several large systems including Spokane Housing Authority, the Department of Children and Family Services and Child Protective Services. It is clear that in order to minimize out of home placements for children, stable housing is a necessity. This grant will fund one Strong Families Facilitator at TLC/EduCare who will work closely with these systems and 20 families currently involved in these systems in the hopes of reducing out of home placements. Spokane Housing Authority is supplying 20 Family Reunification vouchers and DCFS will refer the families.

This grant closely mirrors work currently done at TLC and EduCare with families, but the SFI grant will work with families who live in permanent housing off site. Last year TLC served thirty-five families. Of those served, twenty-eight families moved to permanent housing, twenty-one moms advanced their education and four moms obtained employment.

**Transitions:** Since 1995, Transitions has been helping women, children, and families rebuild their lives affected by abuse, addiction, mental illness, poverty, and homelessness. Transitions administers five programs: Women's Hearth, Miryam's House, Transitional Living Center, EduCare and New Leaf Bakery Cafe. For more information about how you can work to end poverty and homelessness for women and children in Spokane, call 509-328-6702, email [mtracey@help4women.org](mailto:mtracey@help4women.org), or visit our website at [help4women.org](http://help4women.org)

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