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Catholic Charities to Relocate House of Charity and Build New State of the Art Facility to Expand Low-Barrier Shelter Outside of Downtown Core

Spokane, Wash., April 27, 2022 – Catholic Charities has provided a regional proposal to the City of Spokane and Spokane County to help address homelessness for single adults called House of Charity 2.0 (HOC 2.0). HOC 2.0 would expand our ability to provide 24/7 shelter services to both men and women enrolled in our program and support our most vulnerable community members in a facility located on a site already secured outside the downtown corridor. In addition, this concept would provide an opportunity to create a new comprehensive homeless shelter solution in a new location. This shelter project is not related to the current proposed shelter on Trent Avenue. Catholic Charities is not applying to be the operator of the Trent shelter site. The HOC 2.0 project has been in a discussion phase with the City of Spokane since November 2021.

This project will continue to embody the core principle that Catholic Charities has maintained for over 50 years: Every human person is made in the image and likeness of God and thus demands basic dignity, respect, and compassion. Any person experiencing homelessness should be able to eat, sleep and go to the bathroom indoors, in a safe, welcoming space. This space should include behavioral health services they need to stabilize their lives and then be placed by our team on a path to permanent supportive housing.

HOC 2.0 will provide 24/7 on-site services for men and women experiencing homelessness and offer graduated models for individuals to move upwards on the stability continuum with a potential capacity as high as 250-300 individuals. The number will depend on the identified community need and finalized architectural design plans, which will include a trauma-informed approach.

HOC 2.0 will first and foremost be a low-barrier shelter. However, clients ready to move forward in their stabilization journey will have access to other graduated service models and offered case management and wraparound to help support their journey. Clients can access augmented mental health counseling and care, substance abuse counseling, medical respite, permanent housing services, vocational training, case management, and peer support counseling on-site with 24/7 security that patrols half a mile around the area. HOC 2.0 will also have dedicated apartment-style suites for hospice care for our homeless brothers and sisters, allowing them to go through end-of-life journeys with peace, tranquility, and specialized hospice care.

Catholic Charities will work with the city and transportation providers to solidify dedicated transportation routes for clients to access services, including transportation back and forth from hospitals to ensure vulnerable and medically fragile patrons have access to medical care.

The current House of Charity (HOC) facility located at 32 W. Pacific Avenue would remain in its current location. It will continue to provide support services to Catholic Charities clients and nearby housing residents with new opportunities to meet community needs. However, the current HOC location would no longer sleep or feed individuals experiencing homelessness. The first floor will be used for staffing needs to assist our permanent supportive housing units in the area. The upstairs sleeping space will remain intact and could be contracted and used as an additional sheltering space by regional emergency management groups during inclement weather, fire/smoke season, future contagious disease events, etc. It could also be activated if desired by

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emergency management groups, as a medical isolation and quarantine space, as needed by the city or county during times of crisis like pandemics or norovirus outbreaks.

About Catholic Charities Eastern Washington

Catholic Charities Eastern Washington affirms the dignity of every person, partnering with parishes and the greater community to serve and advocate for those who are vulnerable, bringing stability and hope to people throughout Eastern Washington.

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