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### **Catholic Charities Opens Five Cooling Centers to Current Clients and Spokane Residents**

Spokane, Wash., June 28, 2021 – Our region is entering a heatwave with record-breaking temperatures this week. Many of our community members do not have the tools and supplies needed to keep cool during these dangerous temperature increases. ***Today, Catholic Charities Eastern Washington (CCEW) will open five emergency cooling centers at 10:00 am so that vulnerable and at-risk seniors and individuals experiencing homelessness can have a safe place to go to escape the heat.*** All five centers will open in already existing Catholic Charities state-of-the-art housing complexes. With over 40 total buildings in its portfolio across eastern Washington, CCEW is eager to mobilize safe spaces and the precious presence of loving staff in community-wide emergencies like this heatwave.

“As we continue to provide safe spaces for vulnerable people in need throughout eastern Washington, our organization is able to become more innovative and creative at a moment’s notice,” said Rob McCann, Catholic Charities President & CEO. “All five centers will be opened in already existing Catholic Charities housing complexes. With over 40 total buildings in our portfolio across Eastern WA, CCEW is blessed to be able to mobilize safe spaces and the precious presence of loving staff in community-wide life and death emergencies like this heatwave presents. We look forward to opening the doors to people in need immediately.”

#### **Cooling Center Information:**

Catholic Charities will open the following buildings as cooling centers to at-risk community members and individuals experiencing homelessness:

- **Donna Hanson Haven**, located at 24 W. Second Ave, will be designated for vulnerable and at-risk senior citizen populations (men and women).
- **Fr. Bach Haven**, located at 108 S. State St., will be designated for vulnerable and at-risk men and women over 18.
- **Jacklin Haven**, located at 164 S. State St., will be designated for vulnerable and at-risk women (only).
- **Beatriz & Ed Schweitzer Haven**, located at 9 E 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., will be designated for vulnerable adults with physical disabilities (men and women).
- **Buder Haven**, located at 201 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., will be designated for vulnerable and at-risk men and women over 18.

CCEW has temporarily re-positioned case manager staff to these buildings to ensure a safe and smooth check-in, monitor symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke, and provide security.

#### **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.