

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Partnership between Catholic Charities, Family Promise, and City of Spokane Providing Necessary Emergency Shelter Space to Families Experiencing Homelessness.

Spokane, Wash., Jan. 29, 2020 – Decreasing demand for temporary family shelter space has led to a mutual decision by Family Promise, Catholic Charities Eastern Washington (CCEW), and the City of Spokane to redirect resources to expand services for single adults.

Those resources will likely focus on 24-hour shelter services for men, weekend services for women, and measures to reduce the likelihood of exposure to COVID. Details are still being finalized.

In December 2019, Catholic Charities Eastern Washington (CCEW) and the City of Spokane opened a temporary family warming shelter to ensure families experiencing homelessness had a safe and healthy place to sleep. The warming center was initially intended to operate for four months; however, we continued serving families in need with the onset of COVID-19.

The warming center has full-time case managers to work with families to remove barriers to stable housing. Since opening, the warming center has housed 33 families and assisted 28 people in finding employment. Partnering with Family Promise Spokane, our goal was to ensure that every family was provided with the assistance that they needed to move forward on a path towards stability and wellness. In recent months, there has been a decrease in families accessing services at both sites. We attribute this to more families accessing services and no longer needing emergency shelter.

Due to the decreased need for shelter space at both the temporary warming center and Family Promise’s permanent family shelter Open Doors, the City of Spokane and CCEW have mutually determined it is best for the system to cease operations at the temporary warming shelter. This decision enables the City’s resources to be re-allocated to high-need areas in the homeless system.

“CCEW is thankful for the opportunity to provide this temporary service and will continue to work with the City and Family Promise to ensure homeless families in our region always have a safe place to shelter and receive support,” said Dawn Kinder, Vice President of Stabilization Services.

The Catholic Charities temporary warming center will host families for the last time on January 31st, 2021. All families currently accessing services will be supported by CCEW staff to transition to Family Promise or housed before the closure.

About Family Promise

Family Promise of Spokane exists to equip families and the community to end the cycle of homelessness in Spokane County.

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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