



Contact: Dave Meany
Director, Communications & Marketing
509.724.6525 | Dave.Meany@cceasternwa.org

Catholic Charities Receives Grant from The Wildhorse Foundation to Support At-Risk Population

Spokane, WA. – Catholic Charities Walla Walla, part of Catholic Charities Eastern Washington, will provide critical necessities to at-risk or homeless youth and young adults with a \$10,000 grant from the Wildhorse Foundation. The funds will be used to offer hair care and hygiene-product distribution events, as well as stocking CCWW's Spark Resource Center with other essential needs such as shoes, socks, underwear and clothing.

The Spark provides critical support to ensure young people have tools and resources to improve their living conditions and overall well-being. Through this grant, The Spark will partner with Mero Salon to provide haircuts for those who otherwise wouldn't have access to that service. Mero is deeply rooted in our community, consistently offering time, talent and care to support individuals and families in need.

"The experience of a housing crisis or traumatic event can often mean that a young person is surviving from day to day. When financial resources are scarce some basic needs, that many of us take for granted, are pushed to the side," says Heidi Meliah, director of Catholic Charities Youth Services. "This grant will assist young people to purchase personal hygiene items, making employment and school attendance more likely. It will help young people to feel good about who they are and what they can achieve."

Each year, the Wildhorse Foundation makes grants to eligible nonprofit, government, and Tribal organizations within the homeland area of the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla people. Also eligible for funding are Tribal government agencies or Indian charitable organizations with their base of operations within Oregon, as well as national or regional Indian organizations.

The Wildhorse Foundation has awarded a total of over \$19 million in grant funding since its establishment in 2001. Grants are awarded on a quarterly basis with the deadlines being January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1.

For more information, visit the Foundation's website at www.TheWildhorseFoundation.com.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

About **Catholic Charities**: Catholic Charities Eastern Washington works every day to Feed the hungry, Heal the hurting and Welcome the Stranger. CCEW collaborates with parishes and the greater community to serve and advocate for those who are vulnerable, bringing stability, dignity and hope to people throughout Eastern Washington.

About the **Wildhorse Foundation**: The fund reflects the commitment of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to take a proactive, positive role in the well-being of the community. Funds, derived from a percentage of revenues from Wildhorse Resort & Casino, are managed and distributed by a Board of Directors comprised of community leaders and representatives of the CTUIR

###