



Catholic Charities

EASTERN WASHINGTON

Dear Neighbors,

My name is Dawn Kinder. I work for Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington (CCEW) and a substantial part of my role is to lead and manage the Catalyst project (4301 W. Sunset Blvd). The Catalyst Project is a highly structured emergency housing program that will be a place of healing and opportunity for people who are experiencing homelessness to move forward in their lives. We have heard that the project caught some neighbors by surprise.

I am writing today because those reports and concerns matter to me and to the team at CCEW. Through this letter we hope to share updates of the Catalyst Project's status, provide information about our plans, demonstrate that we are committed to being a good neighbor, and invite you to continue to be part of the conversation.

The Catalyst Project is located at the former Quality Inn located at 4301 West Sunset Blvd. The State of Washington Department of Commerce has provided funding for the acquisition, repair/remodeling, and operations of the Catalyst Project. The site was acquired in September and work immediately began to make repairs and remodel to the property so that we could be effective in serving people exiting directly from homelessness

The safety of both our program participants and the surrounding community is our top priority. CCEW expects to hire 44 professionals to provide 24/7 staffing for the project. Participants will be provided with on-site and referral services including case management, behavioral health, substance use disorder treatment, employment services and more. All our team members will share in the responsibility to create a safe and supportive environment.

We have taken significant steps to make the Catalyst Project as safe as possible for neighbors, participants, and for staff. Here are some of those measures:

Screening Participants

Everyone who comes to the Catalyst Project will be screened in advance. Participants will be screened for desire and readiness to transition into more stable housing situations and for willingness to abide by program rules. Participants' backgrounds and histories will also be considered to inform their placement and support needs. Catholic Charities will, in partnership with other providers, carefully select participants placed at the Catalyst Project.

Securing the Site

CRISIS RESPONSE

House of Charity

Rising Strong

St. Margaret's Shelter

STABILITY

Catholic Housing Communities

Food For All

Integrated Case Management

Senior Services

ADVOCACY

CAPA/PREPARES

Catholic Charities Walla Walla

Community Behavioral Health Services

Immigration Legal Services

Parish Social Ministry

St. Anne's Children & Family Center

Main: (509) 358-4250

Toll Free: (800) 831-1209

Fax: (509) 358-4259

12 E 5th Avenue
PO Box 2253
Spokane WA
99210-2253

The Perimeter

The site will be surrounded by a fence which will have a controlled access point requiring a code for staff and calling to the front desk for participants. Only registered participants and authorized, vetted guests will be allowed to access the site.

The Building

The building will have two controlled entry points. Participants and visitors will have to conduct check-in via a video panel which will enable staff to check records for authorized access. If any unauthorized people attempt to visit the site they will be asked to leave and trespassed if necessary.

Bag checks will be conducted as participants enter the building. Staff will be checking for weapons, drugs, drug paraphernalia, and alcohol.

Rooms will be lockable, but staff will have 24/7 access for safety reasons. We want Catalyst to be a place where participants can begin to stabilize their lives in a dignified manner, but we will not sacrifice safety for any reason.

The Staff

Our commitment to safety is paramount; we are, therefore, committed to the goal of hiring nine new security personnel to work in shifts at Catalyst. The security staff will be working out of an on-site office with video monitoring capabilities.

Procedure for Participants Out in West Hills Neighborhood

If a participant is a concern or a nuisance in the West Hills neighborhood we ask that you contact us at a phone number we will share in the coming weeks so that we can take steps to remedy the situation as soon as possible. We will send a contact team, as timely as possible, consisting of operations staff and security to provide the participant a ride back to the site. If they refuse, this will be counted as refusal to participate in the program and could result in removal from the program.

Removal From The Program

If participants are removed from the program for failure to adhere to Catalyst living guidelines they will be removed, offered the opportunity to be rehoused at another shelter, and transported outside of the neighborhood.

These policies and procedures have been developed to create a safe environment. We expect that they will continually be updated and improved as we operate the Catalyst Project. We formed a Catalyst Advisory Council to provide a system of continuous improvement, an opportunity for engagement with neighbors, and transparency in the project's operations. This Council is composed of key stakeholders and neighborhood volunteers who are interested in working with CCEW to support the success of both the

Catalyst Project and the West Hills neighborhood. This Council will meet regularly leading up to and after the program launches to solve challenges that arise and celebrate/communicate successes with the broader neighborhood.

We invite your feedback and participation in the project. Please contact dawn.kinder@cceasternwa.org if you have questions, concerns, or input about the project or this letter.

We want Catalyst to break the cycle for our most vulnerable. We want it to be a light in the lives of those living in their darkest moments. By making Spokane better for them, we make it better for all of us, and I invite you to join me so that we may work together on building a better Spokane.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long tail extending to the right.

Dawn Kinder, MSW MHP
Chief Stabilization Officer
Catholic Charities Eastern Washington