



Contact

Jodi Trost, Director of Development and Communications

612-879-7639

jtrost@ststephensmpls.org

St. Stephen's Human Services Receives Bezos Day 1 Families Fund Grant to Help Solve Homelessness ***Day 1 Families Fund grants \$98.5 million to 32 nonprofits assisting families experiencing homelessness***

MINNEAPOLIS – (November 21, 2019): St. Stephen's Human Services, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending homelessness in Minnesota, today announced that it has been selected to receive a \$5 million grant from the Day 1 Families Fund.

"We are incredibly grateful to the Day 1 Families Fund," said Annie Wells, Director of Family Programs at St. Stephen's. "We believe housing is a basic human right. That's why we serve families in need, regardless of criminal or rental history, mental health challenges, and/or chemical use — we know that every family deserves a safe place to call home, and this grant will help us make that true for more families in the Twin Cities."

This one-time grant, awarded to organizations moving the needle on family homelessness, will allow St. Stephen's to serve more than 900 additional families experiencing homelessness over approximately five years. The organization plans to meet this goal by investing in additional staff to assist with diversion and rapid re-housing efforts, more robust support services and flex funds to help families with emergency needs.

St. Stephen's Human Services is one of 32 nonprofits across the U.S. to receive the second annual Day 1 Families Fund grants, as part of a broad investment by the Day 1 Families Fund to help solve family homelessness. The Day 1 Families Fund issued a total of \$98.5 million in grants this year. The fund worked with an advisory board of homelessness advocates and experts who identified and invited organizations to submit grant proposals to support their efforts to address homelessness. This year, the grant recipients from around the country include: Bethany House Services, Catholic Charities Eastern Washington, Catholic Social Services Alaska, Coburn Place, Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, Covenant House, Family Gateway, FamilyAid Boston, ForKids, Goodwill Industries of Northern Michigan, Great Lakes Community Action Partnership, Homeless Services Network of Central Florida, HOPE Services Hawaii, HopeWorks, Interim Community Development Association, Lafayette Transitional Housing Center, Mary's Place Seattle, MIFA, Our Family Services, Pathways of Hope, St. Joseph Center, St. Joseph's Villa, St. Stephen's Human Services, St. Vincent de Paul, The Road Home, The Road Home Dane County, The Whole Child, UNITY Of Greater New Orleans, Upward Bound House, Welcome House of Northern Kentucky, West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness, and YWCA Columbus.

"St. Stephen's brought out the best in me and helped me open up and become the best person and mother I can be," said one woman who has benefited from St. Stephen's services.

The Bezos Day One Fund was launched in 2018 with a commitment of \$2 billion and a focus on two areas: funding existing nonprofits that help homeless families, and creating a network of new, nonprofit tier-one preschools in low-income communities. The Day 1 Families Fund issues annual leadership awards to organizations and civic groups doing compassionate, needle-moving work to provide shelter and hunger support to address the immediate needs of young families. The vision statement comes from the inspiring Mary's Place in Seattle: no child sleeps outside. For more information, visit www.BezosDayOneFund.org/Day1FamiliesFund.

About St. Stephen's Human Services

St. Stephen's Human Services' goal is to support individuals and families experiencing homelessness in achieving permanent, affordable housing. The organization progresses toward this goal through street outreach, shelter and housing programs. Learn more at <https://ststephensmpls.org/>.