

NEWS RELEASE

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New Bethlehem Project Plans Eastside Day Center To Serve Families Experiencing Homelessness

Catholic Community Services and Salt House Sign 3-Year Lease, Construction to Start in July

KIRKLAND, Wash., July 12, 2016 – New Bethlehem Project participants Catholic Community Services (CCS) of Western Washington and Salt House in Kirkland have signed a three-year lease agreement that will create a Day Center to serve families with children experiencing homelessness on the Eastside. The Center will open this fall.

The Day Center will provide a warm, safe place for families to stay during the day and provide meals, showers, laundry, computer access and connection to employment, housing and case management services, while offering volunteers many opportunities to serve.

The New Bethlehem Project is a mission of Holy Family Parish in Kirkland in collaboration with Salt House and Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Kirkland, CCS, St. Louise Parish in Bellevue, and other faith communities and organizations. Project team members are excited to join in the regional efforts underway for addressing the large and growing needs for people experiencing homelessness, especially for families on the Eastside, realizing that no one entity can meet the needs alone.

“This agreement is a great step forward in serving those in urgent need on the Eastside,” said Fr. Kurt Nagel, pastor of Holy Family Parish, a vibrant Catholic Community that celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2015. “Through the financial generosity of our parishioners, and donations from our partner faith communities, \$475,000 has been raised toward our \$550,000 campaign goal in support of this important, first New Bethlehem Project.”

"As a new church, Salt House is thrilled for the opportunity to put our faith into action, expressing God's generosity in direct response to the rising epidemic of homelessness for families in our Eastside neighborhood," said Salt House Pastor Sara Wolbrecht, following the signing of the 3-year lease agreement. The Day Center will be housed at Salt House located at 11920 N.E. 80th Street in Kirkland.

The donations will support a major remodel of Salt House's unfinished lower level to accommodate up to 50 adults and children at the Day Center, and also will cover costs of the Center's first full-year of operation. Construction work is expected to commence in July and be complete by the end of September. Once the Day Center is open, additional donations could be used for extension of the Day Center hours, extra Eastside shelter nights, or operational expenses for the second year, depending on the greatest need.

CCS was selected to manage the Day Center due to its many years of experience with various shelter and housing projects throughout Western Washington. "Our housing programs serve homeless and low-income families, individuals, seniors, and youth offering resident support services in addition to a clean and safe place to live," noted CCS Agency Director Bill Hallerman. "CCS welcomes this exciting opportunity to help make a difference on the Eastside."

The 2016 One Night Count found 4,505 people living without any shelter in King County, up 19% from last year's count. Overall, an estimated 10,000 men, women and children are experiencing homelessness in King County when also including those staying in emergency shelters and transitional housing. Several hundred school children in the Lake Washington and Bellevue School Districts have been identified as homeless.

The New Bethlehem Project recognizes Christ's call to serve the poor by being a driving force to meet the urgent, unmet need for year-round Day Center services for families who are experiencing homelessness on the Eastside. More information is available at www.nbpshelter.org. Donation and volunteer opportunities are also available. Donations can be made to CCS – New Bethlehem Project at www.nbpshelter.org or www.ccsww.org.