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Heartland Family Service Among First to Receive Bezos Day 1 Families Fund Grant

Jeff and MacKenzie Bezos donate \$97.5 million to 24 nonprofits across the U.S. working on family homelessness

OMAHA, Neb. – November 20, 2018: Today, Heartland Family Service announced it has been selected to receive a \$5 million grant from the Day 1 Families Fund to expand innovative solutions to end homelessness.

“This transformational grant from the Day 1 Families Fund will allow Heartland Family Service to build upon best practices to stem the flow of families experiencing homelessness, quickly rehouse families that do enter the homeless system, and deliver support services to help families avoid returning to homelessness in the future,” said Heartland Family Service Vice President Joanie Poore.

Heartland Family Service will use the Day 1 Families Fund grant to: 1) expand prevention and diversion services; 2) dedicate rapid rehousing resources specifically to families with children; and 3) develop a transition support team to meet needs related to children's services, peer support, and income and workforce supports to support resilience and expand skills that keep families housed.

“We are incredibly grateful to Jeff and MacKenzie for their extraordinary generosity,” said Heartland Family Service President & CEO John Jeanetta. “Heartland Family Service, and the many agencies with whom we partner through our local Metro Area Continuum of Care for the Homeless (MACCH), will make good use of these funds by building on the diversion, prevention, emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, and supportive service strategies we’ve been implementing to end homelessness, particularly for families. We know this award will have a transformative effect, and countless children and families will benefit as a result of it.”

Heartland Family Service is one of 24 nonprofits to receive the first Day 1 Families Fund grants, totaling \$97.5 million. Recipients from around the country include: Abode Services, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Miami, Catholic Community Services of Western Washington, Community of Hope, Community Rebuilders, Crossroads Rhode Island, District Alliance for Safe Housing (DASH), Emerald Development & Economic Network (EDEN) Inc., FrontLine Service, Hamilton Families, Heartland Family Service, Housing Families First, JOIN, LA Family Housing (LAFH), Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS), Primo Center for Women and Children, Refugee Women’s Alliance (ReWA), SEARCH Homeless Services, Simpson Housing Services, The Salvation

Army of Greater Charlotte, The Salvation Army of Greater Houston, UMOM New Day Centers and Urban Resource Institute (URI).

Founded by Jeff and MacKenzie Bezos, the Bezos Day One Fund consists of two programs: the Day 1 Families Fund that provides grants to nonprofit organizations fighting homelessness, and the Day 1 Academies Fund that will fund and build a network of pre-schools in low-income communities across the country. The Day 1 Families Fund's vision comes from the inspiring Mary's Place in Seattle: no child should sleep outside. A small group of expert advisors provided input to the Bezos Day One Fund team to select these organizations. The Day 1 Families Fund will be awarding grants annually. For more information, visit www.BezosDayOneFund.org/Day1FamiliesFund.

About Heartland Family Service

Heartland Family Service currently delivers an array of services to help end homelessness throughout the Omaha and Council Bluffs community. These programs include prevention/diversion, street outreach, navigation, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, and low-barrier emergency shelter targeted to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. Heartland Family Service rapid rehousing programs serve 324 households at any one time and permanent supportive housing serves 129 households at any one time.

From July 2016 through June 2018, our prevention programs served 263 households with 715 individuals. 89% of those served via prevention programs exited to permanent housing and 96% did not return to homelessness after one year. Rapid Rehousing programs served 879 households with 2,013 individuals. 77% of those served via rapid rehousing exited to permanent housing and 86% did not return to homelessness after one year. Permanent Supportive Housing programs served 174 households with 354 individuals. Nearly 90% maintained or exited to permanent housing and 85% did not return to homelessness after one year. Connections, Navigation, and Homeless Street Outreach programs served 440 households with 626 individuals. 73% exited to permanent housing.

The mission of Heartland Family Service is to strengthen individuals and families in our community through education, counseling, and support services. Founded in 1875, Heartland Family Service currently serves more than 52,000 individuals of all ages each year from more than 15 locations in east central Nebraska and southwest Iowa. Our 50 programs provide critical human services to the individuals and families who ultimately shape the future of our community in the following focus areas: Child & Family Well-Being, Counseling & Prevention, and Housing, Safety, & Financial Stability.

When life improves for one of us, life improves for all of us.

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