



## Contact

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### **Changing Homelessness Receives \$2.5 Million Bezos Day 1 Families Fund Grant to Help End Homelessness for Families in Northeast Florida (Duval, Clay and Nassau Counties)** *Fund grants \$123.45 million to 40 nonprofits across the U.S. to move the needle on re-housing and supporting families experiencing homelessness*

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – (November 22, 2022):** Changing Homelessness, Northeast Florida’s lead agency addressing homelessness, today announced that it has received a \$2.5 million grant from the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund—the largest private gift in the organization’s history. Launched in 2018 by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, the Day 1 Families Fund issues annual leadership awards to leading organizations on the frontlines that are employing compassionate, needle-moving work to help families move from unsheltered homelessness and shelters to permanent housing with the services they require to achieve stability.

“It has been our community’s experience that we make good progress in reducing homelessness when we consistently focus on improving housing goals. Extraordinary progress can be made when we build and support a culture that consistently looks to improve outcomes and does not fear pivoting when presented with new information,” said Dawn Gilman, CEO of Changing Homelessness.

This one-time grant will help Changing Homelessness in its tireless work to support families as they reel from skyrocketing rent costs, limited services and insufficient incomes. Changing Homelessness plans to use the grant funds to leverage and improve existing family programs and fill in identified gaps. With the Home Matters program, families will gain a safe place to call home.

Changing Homelessness was selected as a Day 1 Families Fund grant recipient by a group of national advisors who are leading advocates and experts on homelessness and service provision. National advisors brought expertise on housing justice, advancing racial equity and helping programs employ resources effectively to assist families out of homelessness.

Over the past five years, the Day 1 Families Fund has provided 170 grants totaling more than \$520 million to organizations around the country working to combat homelessness and help families gain housing support and stability. This year, the Fund issued a total of \$123.45 million in grants to the following organizations: Carpenter’s Shelter; CATCH, Inc.; Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona; The Center for Women and Families; Changing Homelessness; Chapman Partnership; Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County; Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc.; Community Services & Employment Training (CSET); Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO); Family Promise of Hawai’i; Family Promise of Northern New Castle County; Family Services of

Tulare County; Flagstaff Shelter Services; Gateway180; Heartland Alliance; H.O.M.E. Inc.; Homeless Alliance; Hope House of Milwaukee; Housing First, Inc.; Housing Forward; HRDC; Ka Hale A Ke Ola Homeless Resource Centers, Inc.; LA Family Housing; Mother Nation; Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter, Inc.; New Reach; Oglala Sioux Tribe; Partners for HOME; PATH; The Salvation Army, Denver Metro Area; Samish Indian Nation; San Diego Regional Task Force on Homelessness; Sojourner Truth House; Solo Por Hoy, Inc.; Start Corporation; Strategies to End Homelessness; The Wellspring; YWCA Cass Clay; and YWCA Missoula's Housing Programs.

“Some people have an antiquated idea of who and how one is impacted by homelessness. It could happen to your bank teller, your waitress—anyone. I know because I was that bank teller during the day and a waitress working the night shift—while experiencing homelessness. Families, often hidden, navigate community services while trying to keep life normalized. Family programs see them and provide assistance tailored to their unique circumstances. These programs can make the difference,” said Tiffany Adams, ESG-CV client services team lead for Changing Homelessness.

The Bezos Day One Fund made a \$2 billion commitment to focus on making meaningful and lasting impacts in two areas: funding existing nonprofits that help families experiencing homelessness, 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](http://www.BezosDayOneFund.org/Day1FamiliesFund).

### **About Changing Homelessness**

Changing Homelessness, formed by an engaged group of social service agencies and religious leaders, has been leading the community efforts to end homelessness in Northeast Florida for nearly 50 years. Learn more at [www.changinghomelessness.org](http://www.changinghomelessness.org).

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