



September 8, 2022

Catholic Charities Eastern Washington Lawsuit Statement

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*

A lawsuit aimed at stopping development of The Catalyst emergency supportive housing project was recently filed against Catholic Charities Eastern Washington. The lawsuit was filed by a newly formed corporation, Spokane for Safe Neighborhoods, that includes members William Hagy, West Hills Neighborhood Council chair, Gib Brumback, a West Hills developer, Lisa Saddler, director of Ascenda, and Michael Gifford, Finch Arboretum neighborhood representative.

This lawsuit is frivolous and completely without merit. We see it not only as a suit against Catholic Charities, but a suit against the poor, the vulnerable and the homeless of our community. More than 20% of people in our region live at or below the poverty line. It is our sacred obligation to stand with them and stand up for them. We will do exactly that in addressing this lawsuit, no matter how much time or money it may take.

Our initial reaction to the filing was consistent with how we approach all things we do – to respond in prayer. At our September 8 all-staff Mass today at the Holy Names Convent Chapel, Bishop William Skylstad reminded us of the powerful work Catholic Charities does to serve the poor and to be a voice for the voiceless.

We pray for the homeless and for all people in need. We also pray for those who have filed this lawsuit that they may have a conversion of heart.

The overwhelming majority of people in our Spokane community – including so many in the West Hills neighborhood - are generous, compassionate, kind, and loving. We believe that this community at large knows exactly what we at Catholic Charities know to be true: Love always wins.

Main: (509) 358-4250

Toll Free: (800) 831-1209

Fax: (509) 358-4259

12 E 5th Avenue

PO Box 2253

Spokane WA

99210-2253