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### **HopeWorks 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***

**ALBUQUERQUE, NM – November 21, 2019:** HopeWorks, the largest nonprofit provider of services for people experiencing (or at risk of) homelessness in New Mexico, today announced that it has been selected to receive a \$2.5 million grant from the Day 1 Families Fund.

“We are humbled by this tremendous opportunity,” said Greg Morris, executive director of HopeWorks. “This support from the Day 1 Families Fund will significantly increase our capacity to end homelessness for families and expand our breadth of services to keep them housed. No child will sleep outside in Albuquerque.”

This one-time grant, awarded to organizations moving the needle on family homelessness, will allow HopeWorks — through its family housing initiative, Hope Found — to rapidly re-house up to 100 families experiencing homelessness in Albuquerque per year. In addition to Hope Found, HopeWorks also provides a comprehensive day shelter, myriad housing programs, behavioral and mental health services, and employment assistance — all critical to permanently ending an individual or family’s homeless episode.

HopeWorks 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.

“I’ve always been a really independent woman and tried to do everything on my own without help,” says Benita, one of the program’s success stories. At the age of 42, Benita found herself facing homelessness with her children. Through a contact at her daughter’s school, she was referred to Hope Found, and within weeks, was permanently housed. She has now successfully graduated from the program and is paying her own rent. “I know now that there’s help for people like me. I’m really thankful.” Benita’s story is just one of many. Since the program’s inception, Hope Found has rapidly re-housed fifty families with 83 children and 42 adults.

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](http://www.BezosDayOneFund.org/Day1FamiliesFund).

#### **About HopeWorks**

HopeWorks is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Founded in 1985, HopeWorks has grown to become the largest comprehensive provider of services for people experiencing (or at risk of) homelessness in Albuquerque. Every year, approximately 15,000 individuals and families come to HopeWorks for behavioral/mental health services, employment assistance, housing and day shelter services. For more information, or to make a gift in support of individuals and families experiencing homelessness, visit [www.HopeWorksNM.org](http://www.HopeWorksNM.org).

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