



Media Contact:

David Rout, Executive Director

Phone (970) 682-3193

Email: david@homewardalliance.org

**For Immediate Release: Homeward Alliance Announces Relocation of Some Day and Overnight Services to Northside Aztlan Community Center**

Fort Collins, Colorado, March 19, 2020

Homeward Alliance is pleased to announce that, effective 12:00 PM on March 19, 2020, we will be, in coordination with our partners at Catholic Charities and the Fort Collins Rescue Mission, relocating day shelter and some overnight shelter services to the Northside Aztlan Community Center.

Under normal circumstances, people who are homeless access the Murphy Center—which is operated by Homeward Alliance and is the hub of services for people who are homeless or at-risk for homelessness in Larimer County—for morning shelter, evening shelter and more than 40 onsite services. Catholic Charities provides lunch, afternoon day shelter and overnight shelter, and the Fort Collins Rescue Mission provides dinner and overnight shelter (at their respective locations).

The threat of COVID-19, however, has rendered the existing system unsafe.

The population of people who are homeless is disproportionately comprised of seniors and individuals with underlying health conditions that make them more susceptible to serious illness or death. At the same time, none of our community's homeless service facilities is large enough to accommodate the government-recommended precautions related to COVID-19: social distancing or even temporary isolation of symptomatic individuals, among others.

The new space, offered generously by the City of Fort Collins through at least April 10, will allow us to take those precautions—and preserve the health of our clients and staff.

“How we respond to this crisis for people who are homeless will be a determining factor in whether we are able to contain this virus as a community, a state, and nation,” said David Rout, Executive Director of Homeward Alliance. “Thank you to the City of Fort Collins for making the Aztlan Center available to us during this time of need, and on such short notice.”

The facility will be staffed 24/7 by Homeward Alliance, Catholic Charities and the Fort Collins Rescue Mission. At least three security guards will be onsite during daytime hours, and two during the evenings.

The Murphy Center will cease open hours temporarily, but the building will remain accessible on a limited basis to clients who have lockers, mailboxes or other needs in the facility.

Catholic Charities and the Fort Collins Rescue Mission will continue to provide overnight shelter to some subpopulations at their existing facilities. Catholic Charities will provide day and overnight shelter for families at their location.

The Aztlan Center will be reserved for adults.