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**For Immediate Release: Collaborative Announces Zero Positive COVID-19 Tests at Northside Aztlan Community Center—NACC Operation Part of Broader Containment Strategy**

On behalf of the multi-sector collaborative overseeing Fort Collins’ response to COVID-19 for people experiencing homelessness, it is our privilege to announce that no one has tested positive for COVID-19 at the Northside Aztlan Community Center (NACC).

This includes the five individuals reported in local media. Those individuals all tested negative. Please note that moving forward, all test announcements will be made by or in coordination with the Larimer County Health Department.

The NACC has, since March 19, served as a day- and overnight shelter for people who are homeless. It operates in place of the Murphy Center for Hope—Larimer County’s hub of services for people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness—and as an additional overnight shelter location for Catholic Charities and the Fort Collins Rescue Mission, which continue to serve some populations in their existing facilities. Five service providers operate onsite: Homeward Alliance, Catholic Charities, Fort Collins Rescue Mission, SummitStone Health Partners, and Health District of Northern Larimer County. Precision Security provides security.

The Health District, specifically, contributed multiple employees to the effort (including an onsite physician) and vastly enhanced health protocols within one week of the NACC launch. Those protocols include temperature checks, symptoms screening, and careful monitoring of high-risk individuals. The Health District also opened a Recovery Center at NACC, monitoring and providing symptomatic guests with a safe space to isolate and recover.

“While we are thrilled by the test results, they have not distracted us from the seriousness of this global health pandemic, and we continue to prepare for all contingencies,” said Holly LeMasurier, who was appointed by numerous providers to serve as the local COVID-19 Homelessness Response Program Manager. “The NACC operation is important, but it is not the end of our response. In the coming days, we look forward to working with our partners at the City, State and County to enhance and expand our capacity, leverage newly-available federal resources and locate new opportunities to improve health outcomes for people experiencing homelessness and the community-at-large.”

Under the direction of LeMasurier, new protocols have and will continue to be implemented to promote social distancing, reduce or eliminate travel for services, and ensure process continuity and communication across shelter sites.

Beyond the City’s in-kind contribution of the NACC space (in addition to cleaning, maintenance and other support), numerous private foundations and individual donors have contributed to the NACC operation, both financially and in-kind. Hundreds of volunteers have contributed to the effort, both behind-the-scenes and on the front lines.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, email Phil Badger-Hanson at [phil@homewardalliance.org](mailto:phil@homewardalliance.org).