

gift of
grace

A Campaign for
Homeless Women
And Children



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Our passion and desire
is to help people get out of
homelessness for good.

Beyond meeting their basic needs,
we want to see them thrive!

JASON WICKLUND

*Christian Aid Center
Executive Director*

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With shelter, food and counsel
provided by Christian Aid Center,
countless men have successfully regained
the dignity of independent living.

We are now seeing a growing need to help
women with children reach similar goals.

The new women and children's facility
will be an essential tool in helping CAC
serve this segment of our community.

TOM AND SANDI MADSEN

Christian Aid Center supporters

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*This two-year-old girl, her three siblings, and
her mother stayed at Christian Aid Center
for a few months until they found housing.*

What hope does a homeless child have?

MORE THAN 200 CHILDREN ARE HOMELESS in Walla Walla. Through no fault of their own, these children live night-to-night wondering where they are going to sleep, if they will be safe, if they will be warm, and if they will be fed.

Their tender young lives are often marked by addiction, abandonment, abuse, and shame that threaten their critical foundational years and position them to renew the cycle of homelessness—placing further strain on community and government resources. For most of them, hope flickers perilously and will not rise until their mothers can find the resources to change the course of their future.

Unfortunately, homeless women with children in Walla Walla County have limited options. The Christian Aid Center shelters single women and mothers with children. But on a typical week, we turn away eight families because of lack of space.

**ON A TYPICAL WEEK,
WE TURN AWAY EIGHT
FAMILIES BECAUSE OF
LACK OF SPACE.**

Our difficulty is not just with space—the condition and design of our buildings inhibit our program's potential. In many ways, the chaos in the women's lives is mirrored in the buildings that support them.

The facilities, even with vigilant and appropriate maintenance, have passed their useful life. They are simply old, dark, stained, worn and unsafe beyond any meaningful remodel.

We believe our community can do better for these women and children and can help them reverse the cycle of homelessness for themselves and future generations.



MEET THE Christian Aid Center



EIGHT

Each week, eight families are turned away because of lack of space.



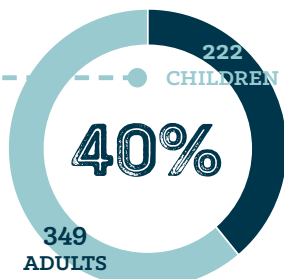
53 children
WERE SHELTERED WITH
THEIR MOTHERS LAST YEAR

40

GUESTS SHELTERED
EACH NIGHT



We achieve
all of this
without
government
funding.



Children comprise almost 40% of the homeless population in Walla Walla County.

NEARLY 300
VOLUNTEERS
HELP EACH MONTH



There are more homeless females than males in Walla Walla County.

The Christian Aid Center has been assisting hurting individuals for over

70
YEARS



WHO DO WE HELP?

We help women and children like Xandra and her family.

“IMAGINE BEING A CHILD and suddenly becoming homeless. That’s what happened to me when my mother decided it would be better for us to live on the street than to stay in an abusive home. So my mother, along with me and my two little brothers escaped to Pioneer Park carrying all of our belongings in garbage bags. We had no plans or place to go other than to get away.

I will always remember how scared I was. Fortunately, someone gave us the phone number to the Christian Aid Center and it wasn’t long before a staff member came to pick us up.

Everyone at the Christian Aid Center was so happy to help us and gave us everything we needed to feel safe.

**I KNEW I WANTED TO
BE JUST LIKE THEM
WHEN I GREW UP.**

Twelve years later, I now have a family and two children. I am going to school to get a degree in education. I came back to the Christian Aid Center not as a guest in need, but as a volunteer to fulfill my dream of helping others like they helped me. The volunteers and staff really made an impression on me and showed me how amazing people can be when God works through them.” —Xandra

Our passion is to see broken lives renewed and rebuilt into the best God intended them to be.

THIS IS A BOLD CHALLENGE in itself, but the current state of our facilities for women and children makes it even more difficult.

- With room for only 19 guests, our staff is regularly turning away families who come for help.
- The apartments are old and worn. They are difficult and expensive to maintain.
- Proper security is nearly impossible, leaving women and children feeling unsafe.
- There is no dedicated dining facility, so mothers and their children have no option but to cross the street and eat in our community dining room. While this is safe for resident men and outside adult community members, it is not suitable for children.
- Steep stairs in the apartments make it difficult for small children and guests who are elderly, pregnant or have disabilities.
- The tight and awkward community space is inefficient and distracting for classes, meetings, and counseling sessions.



This mother and baby stayed at Christian Aid Center for two months.

—THE— PLAN

We believe it's possible to create an environment where change can take place.

THE CHRISTIAN AID CENTER is conducting a \$4.85 million capital campaign to build a new shelter with the goal of ending the vicious cycle of homelessness for women and children in our community.

The new 17,000-square-foot facility promises women and children a chance to be safe, to experience dignity, to live in a caring community, and to find restoration and hope. This new building will provide the following spaces:

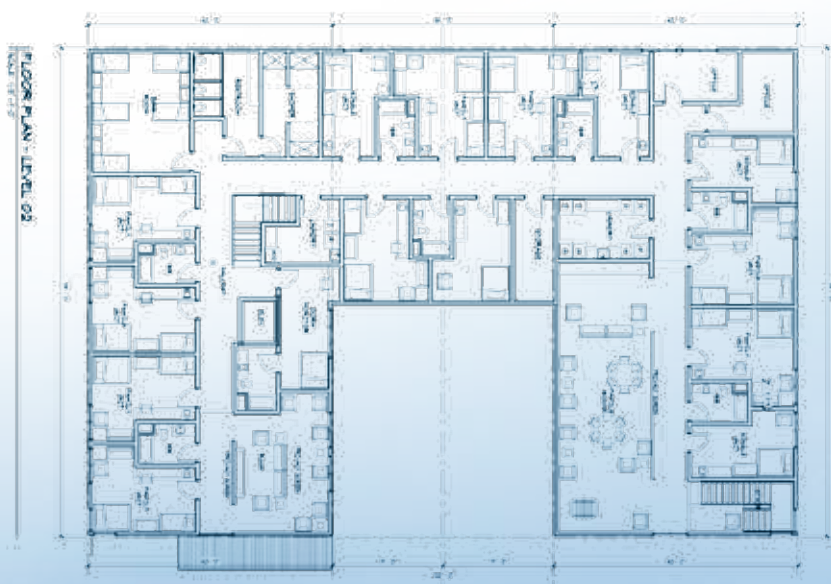
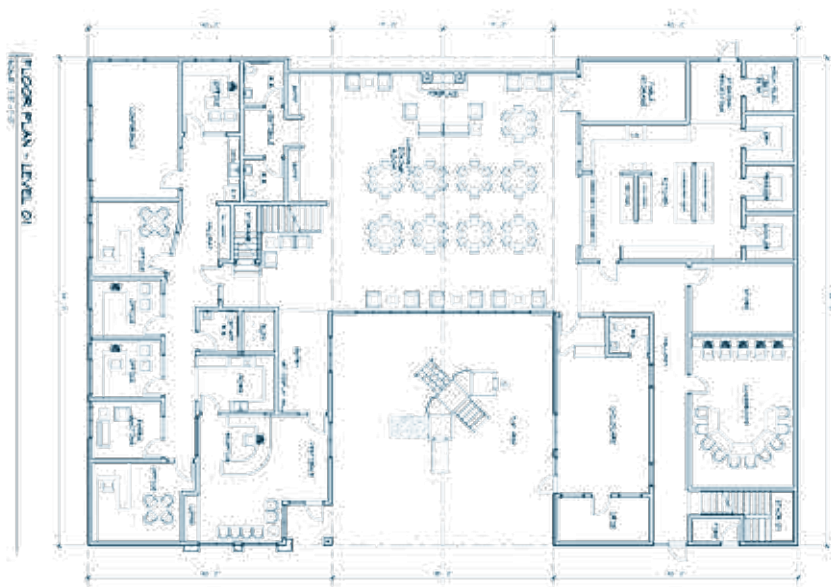
MAIN FLOOR

- Welcome and gathering room
- Dining room with attached kitchen
- Childcare center
- Secure outdoor playground
- Classroom
- Store for guests
- Conference room
- On-site staff offices

SECOND FLOOR

- 16 flexible living-quarters that can house a maximum of 52 guests
- Common living rooms
- Counseling offices
- Apartment for dorm monitor
- Laundry facilities





WHO DO WE HELP?

We help women and children like Nancy and her son.*

“I’VE SEEN A LOT of brokenness in my life. I grew up in a broken home with broken people and I think, consequentially, I became broken as well. Years of being addicted to meth didn’t heal anything, but only brought me in contact with more broken people like me. I continued on a spiral of drug addiction for years, but this year was different. This year, I lost a lot of things in my life: my license, my home, my brother to a drug overdose, and my ten-year-old son to Child Protective Services (CPS).

I was almost arrested for driving on a suspended license six months ago. I was handcuffed, interrogated, and then left on the street in the middle of the night with no transportation and nowhere to go. After that night, I ended up here at the Christian Aid Center. Not only have I been clean for six months, but I am learning so much every day. I’ve graduated from the parenting classes; I’m now in class learning about boundaries, and I’ve even started leading tours of the Center when we have visitors. The people here at the Christian Aid Center believe in me, accept me, and are constantly pushing me out of my comfort zone to the place where I can grow. I am so grateful to the Christian Aid Center for showing me God’s love, peace, and acceptance, and for bringing me to a place where I can begin to heal.” —Nancy

**Name has been changed to protect confidentiality.*

Join others who believe in the Gift of Grace campaign.

THIS PROJECT HAS wide community support with endorsements from the following local leaders:

- **Scott Bieber**, *Chief of Police*
CITY OF WALLA WALLA
- **Kathy Covey**, *Chief Executive Officer* BLUE MOUNTAIN ACTION COUNCIL
- **Jerry Cummins**, *City Council*
CITY OF WALLA WALLA
- **Debbie Dumont**, *Human Services*
WALLA WALLA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNITY HEALTH
- **Richard Fondahn**
General Manager
VALLEY TRANSIT
- **Bill Jordan**, *Past Superintendent*
WALLA WALLA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
- **Liz McDevitt**, *Executive Director*
HELPLINE
- **Tim Meliah**, *Executive Director*
CATHOLIC CHARITIES
- **Terry Nealey**, *Representative*
16TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
- **Renée Rooker**, *Executive Director*
WALLA WALLA
HOUSING AUTHORITY



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Over the years, Donna and I have seen first-hand the need for a women and children's shelter in our community. But Christian Aid Center doesn't have enough space or the modern building most people would consider safe enough.

Join us in supporting this project to help the most vulnerable among us, especially the children.

JOSEPH AND DONNA WUJEK
Christian Aid Center volunteers and supporters

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Sadly, more than a few of the homeless in our community are women with children.

There are organizations that provide assistance, but facilities to shelter them are limited. The Christian Aid Center is raising funds for a new building that will fill that need while also providing hope and counseling in the context of Christ's commandment to love and serve.

Dianna and I are pleased to be able to support this effort and hope you will also.

**THE REV. STEVEN
AND DIANNA WOOLLEY**
Christian Aid Center supporters

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When a woman who is homeless or at risk of homelessness makes the courageous choice to pursue lasting change, the success not only affects her but also the lives of her children.

In my opinion, that is the only way of making an impact on homelessness for future generations.

CRYSTAL WRIGHT
*Christian Aid Center
Women & Children Program Manager*





WHO DO WE HELP?

We help women and children like Debbie and her family.*

“I HAD A MESSED-UP childhood. My mom was a drug addict, so my grandmother raised me till I was seven. But my grandmother had some issues, so I moved back with my mom. My father was never around, and as the oldest of five children, I ended up raising my siblings, starting at the age of 12. About that time, my mom gave birth to a premature baby who died within minutes. My mom lost a lot of blood and almost died herself. It was all very traumatizing. My mom started using heroin, and I became a loner as a teen.

Mom ended up in prison when I was 15, I got pregnant at 16, and had two children by 18. I didn't have any guidance through those years, and I made a lot of bad choices—meth, alcohol, and abusive relationships. I had no self-esteem.

Fast forward to my mid-20s. I had three children—ages 12, 11 and 9. I was an addict and in an abusive relationship. After I was sexually assaulted, I finally decided to get help. I realized my kids were also in danger, so I asked Child Protective Services (CPS) to take them while I tried to turn my life around.

I came to the Christian Aid Center, desperate. The circumstances that brought me here are sad. But I'm also blessed, because it was God who led me here. I'm learning to take responsibility for my choices and to set boundaries. And with God in my life, I feel better about my future, getting my kids back, and living a good life.” —Debbie

This three-year-old boy, his sister and their mother stayed at Christian Aid Center while she participated in one of our long-term programs.

*Name has been changed to protect confidentiality.

*The best way to help
homeless children
is to help their mothers.*

AT THE CHRISTIAN AID CENTER we provide:



Elizabeth recently completed the Healing Home Program, has found employment, and will soon be moving her family into their own home.



WHO DO WE HELP?

We help women and children like Elizabeth and her family.

“FOR THE LAST thirteen years of my life, I’ve struggled with alcoholism. At first it began as a way to temporarily escape from the trauma of leaving a thirteen-year-old relationship that ended abruptly. Then, I got involved with a very abusive man and the drinking escalated. At the same time, I was trying to take care of my children. I went through two alcohol recovery programs, but I failed to stay sober. In my relationships I was searching for something more, something that I could never find or understand.

After losing my apartment and walking away from that abusive relationship, I moved into a household that struggled with addictions. We enabled each other’s addictions until I got tired of it all—tired of the drinking, tired of the never-ending cycle, and tired of just being tired. I wanted and needed a different way to live. So I moved out without a plan or a place to go and eventually found my way here to the Christian Aid Center.

Now I am taking classes that encourage me to speak about my feelings, teach me how to cope with trauma without alcohol, and how to be a better parent. I’m also studying the Bible. For the first time, I have structure and purpose in my life. I even have dreams and ambitions that I never had before.

With the help of the Christian Aid Center, I have found what I was searching for—Jesus. And through Jesus, I will never be alone. God has a purpose for me.” —Elizabeth

—YOUR—
GIFT

*You can give a Gift of Grace
to homeless women and children.*

EACH OF US HAS AN OPPORTUNITY to make a lasting difference in our community by making an investment to stop the vicious cycle of homelessness. Your participation is vital.

GIFTS NEEDED	Number of Gifts	Gift Amount	Annual Pledge	Monthly Pledge
	2	\$45,000	\$15,000	\$1,250
	3	30,000	10,000	833
	8	24,000	8,000	667
	12	12,000	4,000	333
	24	6,000	2,000	167
	30	3,000	1,000	83
	Many	< 3,000		

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GIVE A GIFT:

- Cash gifts may be pledged over three years.
- Gifts of appreciated securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds) held for more than one year are tax deductible for their full value and avoid capital gains tax when transferred directly to the Christian Aid Center.
- Planned gifts are also an option. Please inquire about how to set-up a specially designed charitable trust, which may provide income for your lifetime and a generous gift.

To make a gift, fill out the enclosed envelope or visit us online at christianaidcenter.org. The Christian Aid Center is a nonprofit organization and your contribution is tax-deductible.

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES are available in the new facility. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Corina Car, *Donor Relations*
Email: ccar@christianaidcenter.org
Call: 509-525-7153



Christian Aid Center Programs

RESCUE

{ 30 days }
Emergency Shelter

SUPPORT

{ up to 4 months }
Connections Program

LIFE-CHANGE

{ up to 18 months }
Healing Home Program

COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION

{ after 18 months }
After-Care Program

AT CHRISTIAN AID CENTER,
accountability means caring for our guests
enough to not do for them what they have
the capacity to do for themselves.
We believe this is essential for personal
growth to take place.



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