Rising Strong

Believing in the Power of Family Healing

Rising Strong is a family-centered drug treatment and housing program, providing support for families with children at risk of entering foster care due to parental struggles with substance use.

Launching Rising Strong

Beginning October 2017, Rising Strong will accept up to 20 families. During this first year, families will reside in a beautiful wooded area that previously housed the Holy Names Convent, which sold the property to Catholic Charities specifically to support this mission of healing and hope. In late 2018, the program will expand to 50 families who will reside in low-income tax credit housing built within this 34-acre campus.

A significant resource supporting the program is the recently awarded federal regional partnership grant providing $2.97 million over 5 years for critical services.

Substance use disorders often lead to family disruption and children being placed in foster care. In Spokane, with the child welfare entry rate nearly 40 percent above the state average, addressing substance use is a priority. At Rising Strong, we believe in the power of family connection and preservation to overcome the disease of addiction.

"Spokane badly needs more options for keeping families together while addressing the root cause that lead to their involvement with the system."

Commissioner Michelle Ressa, Spokane Family Court

"With a lot of hard work and love, a place like Rising Strong would've given us hope for a bright future as a family."

Brayana, Former Foster Child

Rising Strong Principles

- We treat and support the whole family
- We look beyond treatment to life success
- We don't quit on families when they struggle
- We respect parents as the experts of their families
- We grow and thrive through partnerships
- We seek objective, empirical evaluation of program results
- We invite families who are representative of the impacted population

Rising Strong will provide assessments and plans for each family member, including detox, recovery coaching, counseling, parenting skills, education supports, vocational training and other necessary elements for healthy family functioning. When they are ready to graduate, we will help them transition to affordable housing. The result will be productive, self-sufficient families who will strengthen our community.

Inspired by Success

Rising Strong is modeled on Exodus, a nationally recognized program that has been operating in Los Angeles for more than 20 years, achieving family reunification rates of more than 90%.

Empire Health Foundation, in partnership with Catholic Charities, led the effort to bring the Exodus model to Spokane. An advisory council which includes the judiciary, Children's Administration, CASA, treatment providers, Spokane Public Schools, the Office of the Public Defender and the Attorney General's Office also provided input on the program design.

"This program could have prevented the trauma of having my child go into a foster home, which leaves a lasting impact on families. I would have given anything to have an opportunity like this available to us."

Ambrosia Eberhardt, Parents for parents program manager

EMPIRE HEALTH FOUNDATION

RISING STRONG
A program of Catholic Charities Eastern Washington

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