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SHELTER, Inc. Receives \$5 Million Bezos Day 1 Families Fund Grant to Help End Homelessness for Families in California's Contra Costa, Solano and Sacramento Counties

Day 1 Families Fund grants \$96.2 million to 32 nonprofits across the country to provide shelter for children and families in need

CONCORD, Calif. – (November 17, 2021): SHELTER, Inc., a community-based organization dedicated to ending family homelessness, today announced that it has been selected to receive a \$5 million grant from the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund—the largest philanthropic grant in SHELTER, Inc.'s history. Launched in 2018 by Amazon founder and executive chair Jeff Bezos, 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.

“We are honored to have been selected by the Day 1 Families Fund to support our community by providing a meaningful philanthropic investment,” said John Eckstrom, CEO of SHELTER, Inc. “The San Francisco Bay Area has always been a wonderful, but expensive, place to live, but post-pandemic our lowest income neighbors continue to struggle with housing. This generous grant will help vulnerable families with dependent children establish a major foundational component of generational economic growth: safe and stable housing.”

This one-time grant will allow SHELTER, Inc. to provide long-term rental subsidies to families who have lost their housing along with the wrap-around services to build new skills, habits and beliefs to help them remain stably housed. Seventy percent of the participants in SHELTER, Inc. programs are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color), low-income and often marginalized. A portion of the Day 1 Families Fund grant will be leveraged to increase the housing stock for target populations.

SHELTER, Inc. was selected as a Day 1 Families Fund grant recipient by an independent advisory board comprised of homelessness experts with experience in policy, advocacy, racial equity, child welfare and housing and service delivery, as well as firsthand experience in homelessness.

This year, the Day 1 Families Fund issued a total of \$96.2 million in grants to 32 organizations across the country. The 2021 Day 1 Families Fund grant recipients are: ACLAMO; Adopt-A-Family of the Palm Beaches; Alabama Rural Coalition for the Homeless, Inc.; All Chicago Making Homelessness History; AACI (Asian Americans for Community Involvement); Building Changes and Africatown International; Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa; Colorado Coalition for the Homeless; Covenant House Alaska; Destination: Home; Doorways; Family Life Center; Family Service League; Friends of the Family; Homeless Action Network of Detroit; Homeward; LifeMoves; Lubbock Open Door; Mesilla Valley Community of Hope; Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter & Services; Mississippi United to End Homelessness; Newcap, Inc.; Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA); Portland Homeless Family Solutions; Project Community Connections, Inc.; Rural Alaska Community Action

Program (RurAL CAP); Sacramento Steps Forward; SHELTER, Inc.; Texas Homeless Network; The Link; Tri-County Community Action Agency, Inc.; and Union Station Homeless Services.

“I don’t know where my family would be without SHELTER, Inc. I just can’t tell you the heartache of being homeless. I am ecstatic to have a home for my daughter and son, and I hope that more resources come to SHELTER, Inc. to help others like my family,” said Bernice, a single mother of two.

The Bezos Day One Fund made a \$2 billion commitment to focus on making meaningful and lasting impacts in two areas: funding existing non-profits that help families experiencing homelessness, and creating a network of new, non-profit 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. Since 2018, the Day 1 Families Fund has issued 130 grants totaling more than \$398 million to organizations around the country working to combat homelessness and help families gain housing support and stability. The vision statement comes from the inspiring Mary’s Place in Seattle: no child sleeps outside. For more information, visit www.BezosDayOneFund.org/Day1FamiliesFund.

About SHELTER, Inc.

Since 1986, SHELTER, Inc. has provided essential housing and wrap-around services to help families and individuals facing eviction, living on the streets or struggling to obtain affordable rental housing. SHELTER, Inc., works to prevent and end homelessness with resources and tools that address the root cause of their housing instability. Last year more than 23,000 children, women and men received help from SHELTER, Inc. programs in Contra Costa, Solano and Sacramento counties.

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