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YWCA Greater Cincinnati Awarded \$1.25 Million Bezos Day 1 Families Fund Grant to Help Cincinnati Families Find Safe Shelter, Housing and Stability *Fund grants \$117.55 million to 38 nonprofits across the U.S. making measurable progress on reducing family homelessness*

CINCINNATI – (Nov. 21, 2023): YWCA Greater Cincinnati, the region’s largest provider of domestic violence survivor services, today announced that it has received a \$1.25 million grant from the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund. This is the sixth round of annual Day 1 Families Fund grants, which recognize leading organizations doing compassionate, needle-moving work to help families experiencing homelessness secure housing and achieve stability.

“It is an honor to receive this transformational gift and be recognized for our leadership working to provide safe shelter, housing and supportive services to families fleeing from violence,” said Rickell Howard Smith, president and CEO of YWCA Greater Cincinnati. “YWCA operates the only emergency shelters for domestic violence survivors in Hamilton and Clermont Counties. This grant will allow us to expand our capacity to serve more families in need, reduce their length of stay in our emergency shelters and provide safe, permanent housing.”

This one-time, uniquely flexible grant will support YWCA Greater Cincinnati in serving as a critical lifeline to children and adults in families experiencing homelessness, who represent more than a quarter of the homeless population nationally. YWCA Greater Cincinnati plans to use its Day 1 Families Fund grant to expand services to meet the growing need for access to safe transitional and permanent housing for families experiencing homelessness in Hamilton, Clermont, Brown and Adams counties.

YWCA Greater Cincinnati was selected as a Day 1 Families Fund grant recipient by a group of national advisors who are leading advocates and experts on homelessness and service provision. National advisors brought expertise on housing justice, advancing racial equity and helping programs employ resources effectively to assist families out of homelessness.

Over the past six years, the Day 1 Families Fund has provided 208 grants totaling more than \$630 million to organizations around the country working on the frontlines to identify unsheltered families, help families regain housing and connect families experiencing homelessness to vital services. A selection of more than half of the Day 1 Families Fund grantees who received funding between 2018 through 2021 report that, to date, they have used their grants to divert more than 28,000 families from experiencing homelessness, connect more than 30,000 unsheltered families with safe shelter and help more than 75,000 families access the services they need.

This year, the Fund issued a total of \$117.55 million in grants to 38 organizations. The Day 1 Families Fund has now granted this award to organizations in 48 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. New states this

year include Arkansas, Vermont and Wyoming. The full list of awardees is available at bezosdayonefund.org/day1familiesfund.

Launched in 2018, the Bezos Day One Fund made a \$2 billion commitment to focus on making meaningful and lasting impacts in two areas: funding existing nonprofits that help families experiencing homelessness, and creating a network of new, nonprofit tier-one preschools in low-income communities. The Bezos Day 1 Families Fund issues annual leadership awards to organizations and civic groups doing compassionate, needle-moving work to help families experiencing homelessness—including those who are unsheltered or staying in shelters—regain safe, stable housing and achieve well-being. 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 YWCA Greater Cincinnati

Founded in 1868 as the fifth YWCA association in the United States, YWCA of Greater Cincinnati is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. The agency was at the forefront of racial justice advocacy in the region, establishing the first integrated cafeteria in Cincinnati in the 1950s. Since the 1970s, YWCA has provided direct services to families surviving intimate partner violence and operates the only domestic violence survivor shelter serving Hamilton, Clermont, Brown and Adams counties. The organization executes its mission through programming and advocacy that advances the health and safety for women and girls, women's economic empowerment, and gender and racial equity in the Greater Cincinnati area. For more information, visit www.ywcacincinnati.org.

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