

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Providing Solutions for Homelessness: Mason Place Now Open**

The construction of Mason Place, Housing Catalyst's newest housing development, is completed and residents have begun moving into the building. Mason Place was built on the site of the former Midtown Arts Center at 3750 South Mason Street in Fort Collins. Housing Catalyst purchased the Midtown Arts Center in 2018 and transformed the site into a contemporary apartment community specifically designed for people with a disability who have been experiencing homelessness.

Mason Place provides 60 affordable apartments and concentrated support services for a highly vulnerable population in our community. Known as "supportive housing" because of its robust support services onsite, this type of housing is being used across the country to help break cycles of homelessness. The priority is on first moving people into a home, and then working on the root causes of their homelessness.

Residents moving into Mason Place have been referred through a coalition of agencies working with people experiencing homelessness in the community. Most of the residents are between 55-70 years old. Homeward Alliance has been at the forefront of this referral effort and is the primary service partner at this community, providing two case managers onsite to support residents. Homeward Alliance's in-depth experience helping people who are homeless for over a decade makes them an invaluable addition to this housing community.

Walter, a resident who moved in after living on the streets and various shelters, is a retired railroad worker. When asked about his experience moving into Mason Place he said with a broad smile, "I was shocked when I got here! I can't believe it! Everyone is so nice and I can't believe I have a place to live and I don't have to be on the streets. But I feel sorry for the other people that are still there. I really feel for them."

Housing Catalyst has been working to address homelessness in the Fort Collins community for more than two decades, and the completion of Mason Place is another step toward the city's goal of ending homelessness. David Rout, Executive Director of Homeward Alliance, says, "When it comes to our community's ongoing effort to make homelessness rare, short-lived and non-recurring, developments like Mason Place are the gold standard. Mason Place will immediately provide dozens of our most vulnerable neighbors with a safe place to live and the supportive services they need to stay housed, healthy and happy. This is a victory for everyone; not just for people experiencing homelessness, but for all of Fort Collins."

#### **About Homeward Alliance**

Homeward Alliance is a Larimer County-based nonprofit that empowers individuals and families who face homelessness to survive, move forward and thrive. The organization operates a continuum of services for families, adults and seniors, such as basic needs, housing-focused case management, behavioral health and employment programs. Homeward Alliance also oversees the Murphy Center, a

resource center for people experiencing homelessness or housing instability, and is a regional leader in the effort to launch best-practice, data-driven and collaborative solutions.

**About Housing Catalyst**

Housing Catalyst offers sustainable, long-term housing solutions. As Fort Collins' largest manager and developer of affordable housing, Housing Catalyst serves over 4,000 individuals each year. Employing innovative programs and resident support systems, Housing Catalyst offers critical tools and resources that families need while creating vibrant, sustainable communities throughout Fort Collins.

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