



December 21, 2018

RE: Transform Yakima Together merger with Sunrise Outreach Center

To Whom It May Concern,

On December 18<sup>th</sup>, Transform Yakima Together (Transform) merged with Sunrise Outreach Center of Yakima (Sunrise).

In February 2017, Transform Yakima Together took on the task of building and operating a year-round managed homeless encampment in Yakima, which had never been done before in Yakima County. Despite lack of funding, logistical challenges, and opposition confronting Transform at every step, Transform was able to persevere and create a year-round shelter/encampment that now has the necessary approvals to become permanent on the nearby acreage across the street from the U-Haul center.

With foundational funding through 2020 and the prospects of a permanent facility on the horizon, the executive boards of Transform Yakima Together and Sunrise Outreach Center have agreed to merge their organizations to benefit from each other's mutual strengths and minimize any risks and weaknesses.

Sunrise Outreach Center will maintain operations of Camp Hope and all of Transform's programs, without any change in staff or policies. Sunrise's years of experience and resources, including a soup kitchen, YREC/recovery homes, and five food banks, will only strengthen Transform's programs and provide a level of organizational stability.

*To our clients*, we will continue to provide the same or better level of care and programming that you have come to expect. It is our desire to expand and strengthen Transform's programs through this merger. As always, we want to know if there is any way we can serve you better. If so, please let us know.

*To our donors and volunteers*, we cannot thank you enough for your investment of time, love, and resources in the hundreds of lives we have touched together. Our work is not done, and much impact yet to be made. Thank you for your continued support and generosity to all of Sunrise's programs, now including Camp Hope, Tiny Homes, Adopt-a-School, and Art Expressions.

We appreciate the opportunity to serve our great community together, now under the banner of Sunrise Outreach Center.

Sincerely,

Andrew Ferguson

Director of Strategic Development

Sunrise Outreach Center