



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

# **SACRAMENTO, CA. March 4, 2019 - A Community For Peace OPENS UP NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN OAK PARK FOR FOSTER YOUTH, LGBTQ, AND TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY.**

“Lifting Up the Least of Us to Elevate the Rest of Us”

Since 2008, A Community For Peace (ACFP) has been helping clients rebuild their lives by providing emergency housing, counseling, legal services and other lifesaving assistance. But these clients — many coming from South Sacramento — sometimes faced considerable obstacles reaching ACFP's Citrus Heights location. Rather than creating another hurdle for survivors to overcome, ACFP is bringing services where they're needed the most. By fall 2019, the nonprofit will be opening up three new locations in Oak Park to serve Sacramento's most vulnerable and underserved populations. “That happens to be the LGBTQ, Black, Brown communities — in particular foster youth, LGBTQ and transgender adults and youth of color,” said Elaine Whitefeather, ACFP Executive Director. “The unique aspect of our mission is our focus on the underserved and marginalized within a social justice context to address multi-leveled complex trauma needs of the people we're serving.”

## **SACRED SPACE**

Whitefeather points out that many children removed from homes due to domestic violence end up in the foster care system. According to the California Child Welfare Council, foster youth are at high risk of being exploited by sex traffickers. LGBTQ foster youth face even greater risk. With help from nonprofit organizations including Soroptimist International, Rotary International, Sierra Child & Family Services and the faith community, ACFP has opened a youth drop-in center: Sacred Space. “I wanted to create a real, live tangible place where we could plant seeds of peace in a neighborhood and lift up the community of these high risk youth,” Whitefeather said. “I wanted to call it Sacred Space for a reason, because it implies exactly that.” The center provides basic needs like food, clothing, school supplies and a safe place to be with art, mentoring and creative activities after school and on weekends. For kids who need more intensive help with employment, housing or mental health

services, Sacred Space can refer them to partnering agencies or nonprofits that can provide that assistance. Sacred Space is a harm reduction center for the populations most vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation. \*SACRED SPACE, 3841 4th Ave., Sacramento. Partnership with Sierra Child and Family Services. (also the site of New Direction Christian Center)

### **RUTHIE'S PLACE THRIFT STORE**

Ruthie's Place, slated to open summer/fall 2019, will be more than a place to find affordable clothes. Named in honor of WNBA Hall of Fame member and domestic violence survivor Ruthie Bolton, the store will provide foster youth with empowerment life skills, work experience and job training, something many foster youth need to succeed but have difficulty finding. "It's a store for foster youth, run by foster youth," Whitefeather said. "I want foster kids to learn everything there is about owning a business, how to be an entrepreneur and expose them to every aspect of how they can be self-reliant and independent." Ruthie's Place is in partnership with Sierra Child and Family Services, CHILL Sacramento, and Music Changes Lives. \*Opening: Summer/Fall 2019, 3519 Broadway, Sacramento

### **TAPESTRY AND TRANSCENDENT BOUTIQUE AND ART GALLERY**

LGBQ and Transgender victims of intimate partner violence face unique challenges when seeking help. ACFP's TAPESTRY program provides emergency housing, legal advocacy, counseling and other services through an all-LGBQ and Transgender staff that reflects the community it seeks to serve. The unique program will be housed together with Transcendent Boutique and Art Gallery. Set to open late April 2019, Opening: April/May, 3401 2nd Ave., Sacramento

### **ABOUT A COMMUNITY FOR PEACE:**

Our vision is a Tapestry of Peace in Every Community. A Community For Peace is a trauma-informed social justice crisis center serving children and adult survivors of sexual and domestic violence in underserved, marginalized communities, in our region, inclusive of dominant culture. ACFP works to create 'safe access' and cultural bridges to systems mandated to serve them. A Community For Peace is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, Tax ID#68-0457704.

## **UPCOMING EVENT**

### **ACFP South Community Gathering and Open House International Women's Day Celebration 2019**

Saturday, March 9, 2019

11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

3841~ 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Sacramento, CA. 95817

Info: [www.acommunityforpeace.org](http://www.acommunityforpeace.org)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE OAK PARK OFFICE AT (916) 917-5450

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