FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOVE COLUMBIA RECEIVES $1M ARPA GRANT FROM BOONE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROJECT

COLUMBIA - July 25, 2023 - Love Columbia, a local non-profit organization, announced today the receipt of a $1 million grant from Boone County Commission American Rescue Plan Act funds (ARPA) for a groundbreaking transitional housing project. The grant will fund the construction of a six-plex apartment building under the umbrella of Love Columbia's Extra Mile Homes program.

Extra Mile Homes provides transitional housing for families with children experiencing homelessness. Ranita Norwood, Supervisor of Student Services for Columbia Public Schools, reported 379 homeless students at the end of the 2023 school year, the largest number recorded to date. Over a period of four to six months, transitional housing provides a respite for participants to receive financial and life skills coaching to retire debt, save, and prepare for permanent housing.

"Receiving this grant marks a significant step in our commitment to serving the Columbia community," said Gary Ward, the Executive Director of Operations for Love Columbia. Ward, who joined Love Columbia in April 2022, brings over 40 years of experience in design, construction, and development, and will lead the construction project. "Our new six-plex will meet an urgent need in our community to respond to the number of families who have found themselves priced out of the housing market and need an opportunity to reset and regain stability," says Jane Williams, Executive Director. "We are grateful for the County Commission's commitment to provide resources for families impacted by our post-pandemic housing crisis."

Love Columbia has been serving our community since 2008 and providing transitional housing since 2015. Over 50 families have successfully transitioned to permanent

housing through their Extra Mile Homes program. The new six-plex, located in close proximity to the Love Columbia Center, at the Northwest corner of Ash and College, will allow families to easily access services. Love Columbia is a HUD-Approved Housing Counseling Agency that provides a full range of services that includes support for the unhoused, unstably housed, and first-time homebuyers and has provided these services to 971 households, which included 383 homeless children, so far in 2023.
Further details about the project, including the timeline for completion, will be shared in the near future. For more information about Love Columbia and the Extra Mile Homes program, please visit www.lovecolumbia.org.

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About Love Columbia:

Love Columbia is a Columbia-based non-profit organization dedicated to helping individuals and families in Columbia navigate life's challenges. The organization provides a range of services, including financial coaching, job training, and housing assistance. Their vision is to see individual lives and the community transformed through neighbors helping neighbors.

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