

# January Leadership Message

## **A Leadership Journey: Empowering Community Change**

In the heart of Spokane, a nonprofit organization was founded on a shared belief in the transformative power of compassion, resilience, and hope. Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington (CCEW) emerged with a vision to uplift and empower homeless and vulnerable populations by providing pathways to stability, opportunity, and a better quality of life.

When I joined CCEW, I quickly discovered that the challenges were even greater than they appeared from the outside. Operating with a limited budget, a small but dedicated staff, and stretched resources could easily seem overwhelming. Yet, where others might see obstacles, I saw potential—potential in the individuals we serve, in the partnerships we could forge, and in the collective impact we could achieve. Most importantly, I saw the extraordinary potential in our dedicated staff: individuals driven by compassion, empathy, and an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of those we serve.

For decades, Catholic Charities has launched and sustained key initiatives aimed at addressing critical needs for youth, adults, families, and seniors. The work of providing comprehensive services while navigating evolving community needs and partnerships is no easy feat. And yet, day after day, year after year, this work continues—guided by optimism, resilience, and a deep belief in the dignity of every person.

My journey with CCEW began long before I joined the team. While working for a philanthropic agency, I was struck by the persistence and vision of CCEW's leadership, particularly Rob. Despite initial challenges in securing funding, Rob didn't give up. Instead, he invited us into a conversation, asking a pivotal question: "What issues are you hoping to address?" That dialogue laid the foundation for a groundbreaking initiative to address Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) by proactively addressing family trauma. Watching Rob and the team bring the Rising Strong program to life was nothing short of inspiring. It was through this partnership that I realized I wanted to be part of an organization making a difference on a generational scale.

Today, as I reflect on this journey, I am proud and humbled to stand alongside you all. This work is not easy—it demands courage, creativity, and an unwavering belief in the power of change. But it is also deeply rewarding. Together, we are not just serving; we are transforming lives and building a stronger, more compassionate community.

This is changemaker work—and I am honored to be on this journey with you.

Brian Myers

VP Shelter & Specialized Services