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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**INTERFAITH GIVES HOMELESS MOTHERS A HOME FOR MOTHER'S DAY | DALLAS, TEXAS**

"Today 1 in 4 children under the age of 18 are being raised in a single-mother household and almost half live below the poverty line," according to the U.S. Census Bureau. With 94% of Interfaith's residents being single-mothers, we commend the amazing work they do on a daily basis and look forward to celebrating them this upcoming Mother's Day. For many, like 50-year-old Shirley and her 5-year-old daughter, a simple day of appreciation is much needed.

Shirley arrived at Interfaith after leaving her abusive husband. She and her husband are now separated but because of limited finances, are still married. For years, Shirley supported her husband financially by paying for his schooling and managed to pay all of the bills. When she realized the environment was no longer safe for her daughter, she decided to move in with her sister. As a full-time employee, Shirley thought it would be easy to get back on her feet, but struggled to find affordable housing. She then turned to Interfaith and began her savings phase of the transitional housing program, and is determined to pay for her divorce. She is now beginning her new journey to self-sufficiency and meets with our licensed counselor to help with self-care and rehabilitation.

Hundreds of mothers in Dallas are experiencing homelessness and are full-time employees of underpaying jobs. Thanks to Interfaith and those who support the agency, women like Shirley are able to have a place to call home.

If you are interested in helping Interfaith continue to serve single mothers and help them transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency, contact Ashley Agnew, Chief Development Officer, at [aagnew@interfaithdallas.org](mailto:aagnew@interfaithdallas.org) or 469.828.1805.

**ABOUT INTERFAITH FAMILY SERVICES**

For almost 30 years, Interfaith Family Services (Interfaith) has been a leading resource for working poor families and a haven for homeless children who long for stability and hope. Today, we are even more committed to our mission to empower families in crisis and break the cycle of poverty. At the core of our work is a simple yet effective program formula: Stability + Self-Worth + Skills = Self-Sufficiency. First, we stabilize about 100 homeless families (nearly 90% of them female-led) each year by providing them with fully-furnished housing for up to a year in one of the 26 units that we own debt-free, and we offer daily children's programs tailored to the unique needs of homeless children. Next, we increase their self-worth through on-site counseling for parents and play therapy for children. Finally, we develop their skills via career coaching, financial coaching, and life-skills classes for parents, daily homework assistance, and individualized tutoring for children. These comprehensive holistic services lay the foundation for the families' long-term self-sufficiency. Our outcomes prove that our model works. Interfaith families earn more (\$13.51/hour), save more (\$1,631 on average), reduce more debt (\$1,167 on average), and remain self-sufficient longer than the members of any other transitional housing providers that report their outcomes publically.

For more information on Interfaith Family Services or to discover other ways you can support Interfaith's work, please contact Destiny DeJesus, Marketing and Media Coordinator, at [ddejesus@interfaithdallas.org](mailto:ddejesus@interfaithdallas.org) or visit [www.interfaithdallas.org](http://www.interfaithdallas.org).

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