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## **Thrive International Empowers Asylum-Seeking Families With Temporary Housing Support**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SEATTLE, February 14, 2024** – Thrive International, a non-profit organization empowering multicultural communities to thrive based in Spokane, WA, has helped 300 asylum-seeking families move from tents in a local church property to hotel rooms. Employing a "housing-first" model, Thrive delivers stable, safe, and affordable housing coupled with on-site wraparound services. Thrive's goal is to provide newly arriving humanitarian immigrants the help and connections they need to move from simply surviving to truly thriving in the Seattle community.

Hundreds of asylum seekers, mostly from Venezuela, Angola, or Congo, have fled violence and corruption seeking refuge in Seattle. Several hundred ended up in tents at Riverton United Methodist Church in Tukwila, WA as fall began the turn to winter. They endured harsh weather conditions with freezing winds and heavy rain as local agencies tried to develop a workable solution. After a state of emergency was declared by the city of Tukwila, King County allocated funding to move families with children and pregnant women out of tents and into a local hotel. Thrive International was contacted by King County after several unsuccessful attempts to find a Seattle-based nonprofit to manage this project. Beginning December 11, Thrive International and King County have moved nearly 350 individuals from tents to a temporary shelter at the DoubleTree Hotel.

Thrive International collaborates with many other local organizations such as King County, the State of Washington (Commerce Department and Department of Social Health Services ORIA), SeaTac Police Department, Highline School District, Seattle OIRA, non-profit organizations Medical Teams International, One America, Port Jobs, Congolese Integration Network, as well as faith communities including Riverton Park United Methodist Church, Seattle Presbytery, and Faith Action Network.

“These families have faced tremendous challenges in the places they have fled from and in their long dangerous journeys to get here. In addition to deserving our compassion, they come eager to fill jobs that our workforce needs,” Thrive International’s Executive Director, Mark Finney, said.

The dreams that motivate these asylum-seeking families’ are for safety, freedom, jobs in the local economy, and education for their children. Thrive International is dedicated to fostering a sense of belonging and empowerment among humanitarian immigrants, recognizing their potential to enrich our community. By offering not only housing but also vital support services in partnership with other local agencies, Thrive International aims to create an environment where individuals and families can flourish and make meaningful contributions to society.

Details:

- Thrive International: <https://thriveint.org/>
- Location: Thrive International Seattle
- Address: 18400 International Blvd, Seattle, WA, 98188
- Potential individuals for interviews:
  - Executive Director Mark Finney (Thrive International)
  - King County Project Director Anna Bondarenko (Thrive International)
  - Director of Housing Lidia Pauline (Thrive International)

***About Thrive International:***

Thrive International is a non-profit organization based out of Spokane, WA. Empowering multicultural communities to thrive, Thrive International provides temporary-refugee housing through Thrive Center (93 rooms of transitional housing), education, and empowerment programs, all under one roof. For more information please visit <https://thriveint.org/>.