



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Beginnings Receives \$75,000 from the Women’s Fund of Santa Barbara to Expand the Safe Parking Program

(SANTA BARBARA, CALIF.) – New Beginnings is delighted to be selected as one of ten local nonprofits who were awarded grants through the Women’s Fund this year. New Beginnings received \$75,000 to support the expansion of the Safe Parking Program, which currently provides overnight shelter to over 150 individuals and families living in their vehicles in Santa Barbara, Goleta, and the unincorporated region of the county in between. The grant will support the expansion within south Santa Barbara County and enable New Beginnings to house their clients more quickly and efficiently. www.sbnbcc.org

Since 2004, New Beginnings has operated the Safe Parking Program, which has served as a model for communities looking to implement programs of their own throughout the country. Today, approximately 50% of community members living in unsheltered settings are sleeping in vehicles. In addition to providing shelter for this population, New Beginnings offers case management, temporary financial assistance, and other wraparound services to help program participants move back into permanent housing.

Kristine Schwarz, MA, MFT, LPCC, Executive Director of New Beginnings said, “Support from the Women’s Fund is enabling us to increase staffing so that we can help additional people, and those with more complex situations needing more in-depth case management. We are grateful to the Women’s Fund members for their commitment to strengthening our community.”

Jacqueline Kurta, LMFT, PsyD, President of New Beginnings’ Board of Directors, said “We are providing services for an increasing number of older adults as well as community members who have been displaced by the COVID-19 pandemic and have become homeless for the first time. The Women’s Fund grant will empower us to connect these people to permanent housing and to other services.”

The Women’s Fund of Santa Barbara is a volunteer-led collective donor organization that enables women to combine charitable dollars into significant grants addressing the critical needs of women, children, and families in south Santa Barbara County. Members have distributed \$8.6 million in grants since 2004, and distributed \$750,000 during this year’s cycle to ten local nonprofits.

New Beginnings provides quality, affordable counseling, shelter, case management and education that strengthens our community and provides our clients with the ability to lead healthy and productive lives. New Beginnings, located at 324 East Carrillo Street, Suite C, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. For more information, please contact our development department at (805) 963-7777 x112 or email at development@sbnbcc.org.

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