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Stemilt Growers donates \$50,000 to Hospitality Heights

WENATCHEE, Wash. – Today, Stemilt Growers donated \$50,000 to Hospitality Heights, a project led by Hospitality House Ministries, to help build four new shelters for families in need in Wenatchee, Washington. Stemilt’s donation will cover the cost of one mobile unit. These houses will offer shelter to families, fathers with children, and mothers with boys over age 12, groups which are currently not served by the Hospitality House or Haven of Hope.



Three members of the Mathison family presented a check for \$50,000 on behalf of Stemilt Growers to Hospitality Heights to help build new shelters for families in need in Wenatchee, Washington. Stemilt’s donation will cover the cost of one mobile unit. Pictured from left to right are: Courtney Mathison, chair of Stemilt’s Corporate Social Responsibility Committee; West Mathison, Stemilt president; Sam Fletcher, Hospitality House Ministries board member; Ray Reid, Hospitality House Ministries board president; Arvin Marchel, Hospitality House Ministries board member; Teria Kelley, Director of Haven of Hope/Hospitality Heights; Sandy Mathews, Hospitality House Ministries board member; Jim Zumini, Executive Director of Hospitality House Ministries; and Tate Mathison, Stemilt sales leader.

“We are excited to partner with the Hospitality House Ministries in their effort to provide safe housing for families who are homeless in our community,” said Courtney Mathison, chair of Stemilt’s Corporate Social Responsibility Committee.

The goal of the Hospitality Heights project is to build four, single-unit modular homes in Wenatchee, WA. Each home will have two bedrooms, a bathroom, living room, and kitchen. The total cost of the project is \$445,000, and after the Stemilt donation, \$131,000 will still be needed to complete the four homes. An anonymous donor has given a \$75,000 matching grant through the end of the year for any organization or individual that donates to the Hospitality Heights project. The second phase of the project would bring another four homes to the Hospitality Heights.

Hospitality House Ministries started its mission for the homeless in 1982 when a group of community members remodeled an abandoned hotel in Wenatchee. Initially, the group remodeled 7,000 square feet to build a 35 bed shelter. The need for shelter in the area grew and in 1990, construction started for a new 96 bed mission. Then, in 1998, Haven of Hope opened a 27 bed shelter exclusively for women and children.

In 2010, the Hospitality House provided housing for 327 men ages 18-82, served over 45,000 hot meals, and provided 12,369 articles of free clothing. Haven of Hope, a shelter for women and children, provided housing for 88 women and 51 children and served over 23,000 hot meals in 2010.

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About Stemilt: Stemilt Growers is a leading tree fruit growing, packing and shipping company based in Wenatchee, Washington. Owned and operated by the Mathison family, Stemilt is the leading shipper of sweet cherries and the largest supplier of organic tree fruits in the nation. Stemilt has also demonstrated a commitment to sustainable agriculture and social responsibility since 1989, when founder Tom Mathison launched the company's Responsible Choice program.