

For Immediate Release  
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## **AHA BECOMES CATHOLIC HOUSING SERVICES OF WESTERN WASHINGTON**

**(SEATTLE)** After 30 years of service as the Archdiocesan Housing Authority, the agency, which owns or manages over 2,000 units of housing at 46 properties valued at more than \$200 million throughout Western Washington, is changing its name to Catholic Housing Services of Western Washington

Seattle Archbishop Alex J. Brunett gave the sister agency of Catholic Community Services of Western Washington approval to begin operating under the new name as of Nov. 1.

The organization has provided affordable housing and a variety of services for homeless and low-income individuals and families since 1979.

“The new name has a couple of advantages,” said John Hickman, vice president and director of finance and operations for the agency. “It clearly identifies us with the Catholic tradition of outreach to the poor and marginalized in Western Washington. And it is a way to more accurately recognize our comprehensive mission, which includes more than landlord-tenant relationships. We provide supportive services in almost all of our programs.”

Hickman said another reason for changing the name was to align Catholic Housing Services more directly with Catholic Community Services of Western Washington. Both entities are private nonprofit organizations.

The name change in 2009 also coincides with the agency’s decision earlier this year to offer consulting services to community-based groups to help them develop affordable housing.

“On our own, we are limited and can manage only so many projects,” he said, “but if we partner with other organizations, we can get more done more quickly.”

Hickman said CHS is currently placing special emphasis on projects for communities of concern, especially veterans, American Indian, black and Hispanic populations.

“If you look at the statistics on poverty, it’s very clear there’s a high correlation between poverty and race,” he said. “Our mission is to help make affordable, permanent housing available to everyone.”

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