

(YOUR LOGO)

Date: _____ For additional information contact _____

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLAY EXPLORES CHALLENGES OF HOMELESSNESS Bridging the Empathy Gap

A WOMAN'S PLACE IS IN HER HOME

This original play explores the challenges homeless women encounter, bringing perspective, and bridging the divide between those with places they can call home and those without. The performance, which previewed in Humboldt County in 2018, grew out of a year of research including audio interviews, story circles, visits with homeless women, conversations with advocates, volunteers, social services, police, elected officials and community members. Cast members have included those who are currently homeless and those who have had that devastating experience. The performance is 90-minutes long, with one intermission.

RAISING AWARENESS, RAISING FUNDS

The current northern California tour of "A Woman's Place is in Her Home" is partnering with other non-profit organizations that address the issues of homelessness. The partner in (location) is (non-profit name). Ticket revenue is split between the host organization and the production. Performances may be followed by a Q & A session with the ensemble.

(INFO ON THE MISSION OF THE LOCAL NON-PROFIT PARTNER)

LOCAL PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Performances of "A Woman's Place is in Her Home"

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

Ticket price: _____ Tickets available at: _____

Local Non-profit Partner(s) _____

OPENING MINDS

The profound impact of this production motivated the Arcata Playhouse to revise and remount the show for a spring tour in 2020, including new information about the impact of devastating fires. "A Woman's Place is in Her Home" offers meaningful information and "real stories." It touches hearts, impacts opinions and opens minds to a growing social epidemic. One audience member commented, "*The play has been instrumental in*

pulling back the 'curtain of mystery' and bias surrounding homelessness and is paving the way for empathy and understanding."

HISTORY OF HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness is not a new issue. In the 1870s, the term "homeless" described itinerant "tramps" in search of work. The early 1980s changed the complexion of homelessness. Gentrification of the inner city, reduced services for the mentally ill, a high unemployment rate, emergence of HIV/AIDS, inadequate supply of affordable housing options, rising rents, and stagnant wages were all contributors. In response to what was the country's worst recession since the Great Depression, there were deep budget cuts to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and social service agencies.

In 2010, a federal strategic plan to end homelessness was released, establishing four key goals: (1) Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in 5 years; (2) Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in 7 years; (3) Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children in 10 years; and (4) Set a path to ending all types of homelessness.

Despite these good intentions, a recent report from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), shows that homelessness is continuing to surge. For the third year in a row homelessness has increased in the nation, growing by 2.7%. A significant chunk of this increase stems from California, which saw a 16.9% increase in homelessness in 2019. According to HUD estimates, 21,306 more people lived without shelter in California in 2019. **On a single night in January, an estimated 5,570 individuals were experiencing homelessness in Sacramento County. This is the largest report of nightly homelessness on record for Sacramento County. (insert local statistics here).** Recent research indicates that families experiencing homelessness are more likely to continue to face poverty and homelessness in the future.

SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

A Woman's Place is in Her Home presents a one-hour performance for high schools. After the performance, workshops are facilitated by cast members. At the end of the workshops, students are encouraged to share their work, often offering new perspectives and solutions to the problem of homelessness.