



# Charlotte Family Housing

*Working to solve family homelessness*

## **Spiritual Consideration Policy**

### *Volunteers*

We appreciate the strong commitment of our faith-based partners to serve and help CFH families. The investments of volunteer time, donations and talent are wonderful gifts in the midst of a stressful and challenging time, and for that we are grateful. For our families, the shelter is a temporary home, which is often as a result of a traumatic and/or unplanned experience. With that in mind, we endeavor to honor them, respect the space as their home and make it as comfortable as possible. Consequently, we ask that you make sure that those in your organization understand that engagement with you or your organization is not contingent upon participation in your place of worship or seeking a declaration of faith.

### *Special Events*

We are happy to provide opportunities for faith-based partners to host enriching events for our families; however, we request that any events that will feature religious music, worship, prayer and religion-focused teachings be held off-site or at the host organization's location only. Events hosted at our shelter locations should be free from the aforementioned activities and/or proselytizing, i.e., inducing someone to convert to one's own religious faith. We do not want to limit the opportunity for inspiring experiences, but we want to be sure that our families do not feel that their participation in inherently religious activities is connected to the services they receive. Related communication should be invitation-focused, free from religious references and shared as an option for those who desire to participate. We know that you understand that the purpose and intent of service and partnership is to offer caring support to persons in need, free from discrimination or pressure to convert others to one's own faith. We appreciate your respect for our families in this way.

### *Meetings and Studies*

Our empowerment model includes fostering an environment in which the family has the right to make their own decisions and not feel obligated to participate in any activity. Should a family desire to host a home religious-based study or meeting, faith-based organizations are welcome to honor that request, but the request must come from the family.