

COMMUNITY
LIFE CHURCH 
A Praise Family Church

April 10, 2024

Dear Homeless Alliance Board,


I am writing to express my support for Church at the Park's plan to establish a transition-focused shelter in rural Polk County. As the coordinator of the Polk County Warming Centers and Safe Showers programs, I have firsthand experience of the critical need for such facilities and wrap-around services offered in our community.

Given the challenges faced by individuals experiencing homelessness in our rural areas, a transition-focused shelter would provide invaluable support in helping them navigate towards stable housing and self-sufficiency. I believe this initiative aligns closely with the mission and objectives of our programs, and I am committed to working collaboratively to ensure its success.

I look forward to the opportunity to continue working together with Church at the Park once the shelter site is opened. We are already partnering with two C@P outreach staff on a weekly basis to help those in our programs with the next steps they need, including helping people transition into one of the Salem facilities as needed. It would be a huge step in the right direction to be able to offer this transitional shelter in our own community, so that those who are already unsheltered here can stay connected to the support and surroundings they're already familiar with.

Thank you for your dedication and efforts towards addressing homelessness in rural Polk County. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or if there are other ways we can support Church at the Park's efforts.

Sincerely,



Matt Smucker
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