



April 9th, 2024

Dear Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance Board of Directors,

I am writing to voice my support for Church at the Park as the organization continues to move forward with their plans to serve families and vulnerable adults with ties to rural Polk County who are experiencing homelessness.

Rural homelessness, in comparison to urban homelessness, is often overlooked due to lack of visibility. However, the need for transition-focused emergency shelter for families and vulnerable adults in rural Polk County is apparent. The Willamette Health Council has been made aware of Church at the Park's efforts to address this barrier, including the installation of two micro communities in Dallas and Monmouth.

It is without question that we believe a safe and stable place for people to sleep is critical when taking steps towards self-sufficiency and health improvement. In staying true to our organization's mission to improve the health and wellbeing of the Marion-Polk community, the Willamette Health Council supports initiatives that lead to better outcomes for our vulnerable community members. The proposed initiative from Church at the Park has the potential to empower rural Polk County residents and ultimately strengthen the community's health and wellbeing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Hopkins", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Justin Hopkins
Executive Director
Willamette Health Council