



04/09/24

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express our full support for the initiative proposed by Church At the Park to establish a transition-focused emergency shelter for families and vulnerable adults in Polk County. As someone deeply involved in the mission of providing opportunities for affordable housing and supporting individuals in achieving significant life goals, we believe this project aligns perfectly with our shared vision for the community.

While rural homelessness may not always be as visible as its urban counterpart, it is indeed a pressing issue that is unfortunately on the rise. It is essential to acknowledge and address the needs of individuals and families who are experiencing housing instability in rural areas. Providing a safe and stable place for people to sleep is not only a basic human need but also a crucial step towards empowering them to work towards self-sufficiency and stability in their lives.

I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the dedication and effectiveness of the Church @ The Park outreach team. Their commitment to serving the community and their proactive efforts in reaching out to those in need have been truly commendable. I am confident that their involvement in this project will significantly contribute to its success and positive impact on the lives of those it aims to serve.

Furthermore, I am pleased to inform you that our organization is fully prepared to partner with Church @ The Park whether it be through providing resources, assistance with housing applications, or facilitating access to necessary support services, we are committed to working alongside the Church and other stakeholders to ensure the success of this much-needed initiative.

In closing, I want to reiterate my enthusiastic endorsement of the Church @ the Park's proposal for transition-focused emergency shelters in Polk County. Together, we have the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our fellow community members.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Houghtaling", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Amy Houghtaling, Polk CDC Board President