



# Polk County Family & Community Outreach Department

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**April 5th, 2024**

**To:** Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance

**RE:** Church at the Park Polk County Operations

I'm writing this letter to support the current work and the future work of Church at the Park in rural Polk County. The Polk County Family & Community Outreach Department team is working with the unhoused population on a daily basis. We know firsthand how vital it is to have some kind of transitional and/or emergency shelter program for individuals and families who are facing homelessness in our rural communities.

As of today, our caseload data shows that there are a total of 108 homeless individuals in rural Polk County. Breaking this down further, there are 19 families, comprised of 33 adults and 30 children under 18. There are an additional 43 unsheltered adults and 2 unaccompanied minors. We know these numbers do not reflect all of the homeless in rural Polk County but they do reflect our current caseload.

My department and other agencies like Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency have resources and funding to assist many of these individuals and families with securing permanent housing. That being said, the resource we are lacking is temporary/emergency shelter and transitional housing where the above mentioned individuals and family can stay while other resources and services are being sought. Church at the Park's proposal to operate two smaller sites within rural Polk county would help address this major resource gap.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

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