



Dear Board of Directors for the Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance,

Marion Polk Food Share would like to express full support for Church at the Park's plan to expand services to families and adults experiencing homelessness in Dallas and Monmouth. As the regional food bank serving Marion and Polk Counties, we believe programs like this are essential in ending hunger and poverty in our community. This expansion benefits those in rural Polk County, where transition-focused emergency shelters are lacking, and vital in supporting our community's most vulnerable members.

Marion Polk Food Share has partnered with Church at the Park almost since its inception, providing food for mobile services in Cascades Gateway Park. We continue to provide food resources to Church at the Park's growing, much needed programming. They are consistent, trustworthy and innovative partners. We believe that by providing safe, well managed and stable shelter options, people are better equipped to achieve self-sufficiency and move on to more permanent housing options.

As an organization committed to ending hunger and its root causes, we know that safe and stable housing is a critical element in that effort. We are confident that Church at the Park's expansion will help those who need it most. Their expansion to Polk County will improve access for an underserved, rural area, with unique dynamics when it comes to homelessness. We commend Church at the Park's ongoing work to provide services that are responsive to the specific needs of different populations facing homelessness. Please join us in supporting this project.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Gaupo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being the most prominent.

Rick Gaupo
President & CEO