

February 14, 2024

Jayne Downing
Center for Hope and Safety
605 Center Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Letter of Support for HOPE Plaza Housing Project

To whom it may concern:

The Board of Directors and staff members of St. Francis Family Housing (SFFH) encourage you to fully fund the Center for Hope and Safety (CHS) for the HOPE Plaza Project. CHS provides a necessary and vital service in our community and the HOPE Plaza project will expand the vital services CHS already offers and also the options for housing for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking in Salem.

Over the past fourteen years, we have collaborated closely with CHS to provide coordinated services to families who struggle with the trauma of domestic and sexual violence, human trafficking or stalking. We know firsthand what a struggle it can be for survivors of violence, and all homeless families, to find housing in our community. The HOPE Plaza apartments will add a much-needed resource of low-income housing in the downtown Salem area.

SFFH is excited to have additional housing resources for survivors and we know the wrap around services offered on-site will foster long-term success for families living at HOPE Plaza. Services include case management and workshops on resume building; budgeting; and many other self-improvement classes. HOPE Plaza will provide the right combination of support and stability survivors of violence need to rebuild their lives free of violence.

For all these reasons, we strongly encourage your support of the HOPE Plaza Project. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 503-588-0428. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Kim Lemman
Executive Director, St. Francis Shelter

Board Chair: Scott Daniels

Board Members: Marilyn Boman | Suzanne Carey | Christopher J Casebeer | Jamie Diehl | Nicole Kennedy
Brena Moyer Lopez | Nate McCall | Toby McClary | Diana Ramallo | Aimee Steketee | Bridget Welborn