



Feb 13, 2024

TO: Oregon Legislature | Joint Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: The Capaces Leadership Institute

Re: Greater Woodburn Opportunity Center

The Capaces Leadership Institute is proud to submit this letter of support for capital funding of the Greater Woodburn Opportunity Center.

Capaces Leadership Institute (CLI) was founded to prepare leaders with the political consciousness and capacity needed to lead and support social justice work. The Institute is a permanent part of the Oregon farmworker movement, led by PCUN and is a place where leaders of today and tomorrow: (1) Engage the values and big ideas of social and economic equity; (2) Increase their knowledge and appreciation of social change history—their own and the history of struggles which have shaped theirs; (3) Gain the skills to advance workers' struggles—in agriculture and allied industries, for farmworkers collective bargaining, and for Latino community well-being and (4) Foster greater unity and collaboration.

Since the project started in 2016, I have actively participated in Immanuel Lutheran's process of considering the use of its land for broad community benefit. Our previous Executive Director, Laura Isiordia, was the first stakeholder to urge that a feasibility study be conducted to formally assess the options being considered. To ensure the voice of Woodburn's Latino community was heard, Capaces was also an active partner in the feasibility study process of the project.

The Woodburn Opportunity Center will be a multicultural and intergenerational community gathering space for family stability resource center, public and private events, and spiritual renewal. It is located on 8 acres of land at Linfield Ave and Evergreen Rd in Woodburn. Key value-added elements are:

- Family Stability Resource Center (partners Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action, Family Building Blocks, Catholic Community Services, OIT/Dental Hygiene)
- Community Gathering Space and Event Hall for up to 500 and smaller Indoor/Outdoor spaces for community members
- Inclusion of a small affordable single-family home community (partner Farmworker Housing Development Corporation).
- Home of new Woodburn Business Resource Center (partner Chamber of Commerce).
- Commercial kitchen, new home for Woodburn Community Meal and other hunger relief programs.
- New home for Immanuel Lutheran Church and other spiritual partners

Thank you in advance for considering making an investment in this project.

Sincerely,

*Jaime Arredondo*

Jaime Arredondo, Executive Director CAPACES Leadership Institute