



Mano a Mano
Family Center

February 13, 2024

Dear Co Chairs Girod and Holvey and Members of the Committee:

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of the Greater Woodburn Opportunity Center, on behalf of the Mano a Mano Family Center.

Mano a Mano Family Center (Mano a Mano) works to promote Hope (resilience) and reduce toxic stress, as a method of helping the families we serve to remain strong. We are based in Salem, but serve about 3,000 families throughout Marion and Polk Counties. About 100 families a year are from the Woodburn area.

Mano a Mano is pleased to support the Greater Woodburn Opportunity Center, a multicultural and intergenerational community gathering space hosting a family stability resource center, public and private events, and spiritual renewal, to be located on eight acres of land at Linfield Ave and Evergreen Rd in Woodburn, Oregon.

Mano a Mano has been aware of the development of the Greater Woodburn Opportunity Center, for the last few years. Safe and welcoming community spaces are sorely needed everywhere in Oregon, and particularly in rural and growing communities, such as Woodburn. The recent growth of in the area where this project will be located makes it reasonable to create such as space, right in an area with so many growing families.

We are particularly thankful for the work of Immanuel Lutheran Church, and others involved in the development stage, in listening to representatives of the grassroots community about the needs, and components that may be useful to serve the families in that area.

Mano a Mano is looking forward to help neighborhood families by coordinating, or assisting other partners with, wraparound supportive services that may include, food assistance, information and referral, navigation assistance to access concrete supports in times of need, family programming, and cultural and community celebrations.

Thank you for considering support of this exciting project for the Woodburn community.

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