

Submitter: Gloria Halper
On Behalf Of: Path Home
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5531

I have seen, along with my husband, in person, as volunteers, incredible changes in families experiencing homelessness once they arrived at Path Home (formally Portland Homeless Family Solutions (PHFS)). Our volunteer time began when PHFS was working in the basement of a NW church. Families had their privacy at night by pulling fabric around their sleeping area. It was basic, but it worked as at PHFS there was nothing but courtesy, respect, well trained yet non judgmental staff, follow through, and excellent volunteer training.

We then saw the journey to East Portland when PHFS was able to purchase their own space. The design would be to be one that would help those with trauma feel welcomed and comfortable in the environment. Each space was carefully thought out for what activities would be occurring in it. No detail was left to chance.

Expectations are high, yet achievable...that can be said of those there in need of shelter, as well as of staff and volunteers. The work continues even after housing has been secured. The families know that they will be supported when they leave Path Home in whatever way they need.

Path Home is seeking financial support to build more livable space for unhoused families in our city. Homelessness increases, and as we are just beginning to get a taste of what is now in store for many programs for low income families who will struggle harder to stay in their homes, we must be smart about a more troubled outcome under our current Federal government.

Path Home has an incredible record of success for homeless families who go through their programing. I am writing to ask that the funds Path Home is requesting be granted in order to serve more families in need. Thank you.

Gloria Halper, Portland resident since 1977