

May 16, 2019

Lori Bell
Community Enhancement Grant Program
625 Center Street,
Oregon City, OR 97045

Dear Community Enhancement Committee Members,

Please accept this letter as my endorsement of the Second Home program to receive a grant award through the City of Oregon City's Community Enhancement Program.

In 2018, a grant was awarded to Second Home from Clackamas County as seed funding to lay the foundation necessary to bring this highly successful youth housing program to communities throughout Clackamas County. The Oregon City School District has been one of the first communities to diligently work with Second Home staff to set up the necessary framework to launch the program in their district. Now, with the framework in place, we anticipate that Second Home will make a significant impact in the lives of homeless, unaccompanied youths attending or wishing to attend Oregon City High School, complete their high school education and earn their diploma.

Safe, stable, long-term housing is essential for these students to achieve academic success and experience "normalized" living conditions. While our communities have programs directed toward at-risk youth, there are very few programs that offer long-term housing within the community. Second Home keeps youths in their community and connects them with families who can provide the stability required to successfully meet academic goals.

Thank you for providing an opportunity for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon to share the Second Home program with you. We encourage you to strongly consider their request and join in supporting this unique and successful housing program.

Sincerely,



Brenda Durbin

Healthy Families. Strong Communities.