



**Shangri-La**  
Enriching Lives Together

Good afternoon, Co-Chair Girod and Co-Chair Nosse, and members of the committee,

My name is Janet Yousey, and I have the privilege of serving as CEO at Shangri-La. We are a nonprofit organization, annually supporting 1000 people with disabilities and families with disadvantages. *I'm here today to request funding for a new Residential Treatment home that will support 5 Oregonians with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI) in Marion County.* In case you're not familiar with residential treatment homes (RTHs), let me give you some context. RTHs provide 24-hour support to people with serious mental illness such as major depression, schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder. Often, our residential homes are a landing place for people after a stay in the State Hospital, homelessness, or other difficult living situations. Our homes provide a place for people to stand on their own, with supports as they need them, to stabilize, connect to resources, and plan for their futures.

As I'm sure you are aware, Oregon continues to need additional living options to support people experiencing mental health conditions. Shangri-La has been opening homes over the last several years and would like to continue to do so; as we feel we are skilled in this work and provide services we are proud of. However, as a nonprofit organization who relies on OHA rates to provide day-to-day operational funding for our programs, we do not have the luxury of being able to fund the needed start-up costs of a new home. We know that it costs over a million dollars to purchase and remodel a home and are here to ask for you to allocate funding for us to be able to do this.

Just in case you need a little more swaying to support Oregonians experiencing severe mental illness, here are a few facts:

- Mental illness, like physical illness, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, geography, race, religion, social class, or income.
- Mental illness has nothing to do with being lazy or weak. Mental illness is not a character flaw. It is a medical disorder that needs treatment.
- Of the nearly 60 million Americans who experience mental health concerns each year, many will never seek treatment for various reasons including *lack of access*.
- Oregon has the highest rate of mental illness in the country and only ranks near the middle in access to care.

Shangri-La is ready and able to support Oregonians with mental illness. We simply need the funds to open more doors. *While we can contribute a small match, I would be thrilled if you would consider funding a home purchase and remodel, of approximately \$1,076,400, to support an additional 5 Oregonians experiencing SPMI.*

Thank you,  
Janet Yousey, CEO  
Shangri-La