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November 22, 1999

Mayor Lou Ogden and City Councilors
City of Tualatin
18880 SW Martinazzi Avenue
Tualatin, OR 97062

Dear Lou and Members of the City Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the Council regarding the east county homeless shelter and support from the City of Tualatin. Community Action Organization previously requested \$2,000 to support the re-opening of the east county shelter, which is now called the Good Neighbor Center. We are now asking you to consider an additional \$5,000 contribution.

Following the closure of the RITE Center last winter, a group of community leaders formed the East County Shelter Partnership Council to help re-open the shelter facility. Community Action Organization was asked to provide the management and operation of the facility for the first year. Because of the strong community support and the collaborative approach, CAO agreed to be the shelter operator for the first year.

The shelter service model that has been put in place requires extensive use of volunteers. Local churches agreed to recruit the volunteers needed. The Council committed to establishing itself as a local, non-profit, capable of taking over the operation by the second year. They also committed to raising the funds needed to balance the first years' budget and to continue the operation into the future. The county and local cities agreed to provide funding support; and the County agreed to provide leadership to develop long range funding solutions to stabilize the three (3) shelter facilities in Washington County.

As a result of this strong partnership and everyone's willingness "to go the extra mile", the Good Neighbor Center re-opened in September and is once again providing desperately needed shelter beds to homeless people, the majority of whom are children. Our operating budget for the first year was about \$27,000 short of what is needed. This month we made an appeal to the cities of Beaverton and Sherwood for additional contributions. They unanimously approved an additional \$13,500, bringing our deficit down to \$13,315.

An additional contribution of \$5,000 from the City of Tualatin will bring us very close to achieving our financial goal. The Shelter Council is committed to raising the balance through private fundraising. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,



Jerralynn Ness
Executive Director