

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

April 25, 2019

St. Joseph Missions Women's Shelter
2200 Lake Avenue, Suite 120
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Board Members of St. Joseph Missions,

YWCA Northeast Indiana continues to serve all those in our area who need emergency shelter due to Domestic Violence. For 2018 alone, that was 572 individuals who came through the emergency shelter. Most of the year, we were full to overflowing with primarily women and children needing safe shelter. We also provide transitional housing in the Hope House and Harriet House programs for women in recovery from addictions.

Unfortunately, because we are typically at or over our capacity simply serving those who have experienced Domestic Violence or who are seeking recovery from addictions, we usually cannot accommodate additional people who are homeless who fall outside those areas of service. The other shelters that exist in Fort Wayne are typically full, and we often are aware of women who are homeless, but not escaping domestic violence, who do not have somewhere safe to stay. We participate in the Fort Wayne Area Planning Council on Housing and Homelessness, and that group has frequently noted that there are additional needs for shelter in Fort Wayne, primarily for emergency shelter for single women who are not experiencing domestic violence.

Knowing firsthand the numerous barriers and challenges involved in serving individuals without housing, including mental health challenges, developmental disabilities, physical ailments, and emotional challenges, we support your efforts to seek to assist women who are homeless in our area in having safe shelter. You are welcome to reach out to us for ideas and support, and we welcome you as a collaborator in our efforts to assist those most vulnerable residents in our community.

Sincerely,



Paula Hughes-Schuh, CEO



eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

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