



AGENDA - CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

3. ROLL CALL.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA.

5. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS.

- A. Presentations from organizations responding to Request for Proposals for services at TA Wilson School

6:05pm *Community Center Concept Plan (Interfaith Shelter, Welcome Home Organization, My Place, Altering Outcomes)*

6:25pm *Residents in Action*

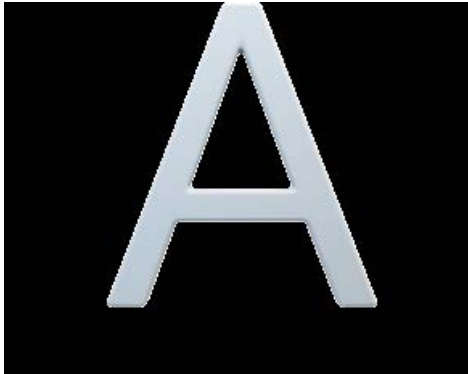
6:45pm *Second Chance 4 All Jackson*

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS.

(3-Minute Limit)

7. CITY COUNCILMEMBER'S COMMENTS.

8. ADJOURNMENT.



COMMUNITY CENTER CONCEPT PLAN

FEBRUARY 13, 2024

This is a Letter of Intent for the collaborative project between the following organizations: Jackson Interfaith Shelter, MyPlace, Inc., Altering Outcomes, and the Welcome Home Organization. Our hopes are to bring a multitude of opportunities to our Jackson community that will tackle homelessness, transportation, transitional housing, youth aging out of foster care, and dependable and quality childcare. Below you will find a brief summary of initiatives for each organization:

Jackson Interfaith Shelter

Jackson Interfaith Shelter (JIS) was founded in 1974 as an emergency place of respite for alcoholic men struggling with homelessness and hunger. Over the past several decades, we have expanded from offering ten beds for men to a current capacity of seventy-six beds for men, women, and children. Additionally, we own sixteen rental units which offer the opportunity for transitional and permanent housing. Each year we provide shelter to 700 individuals and families, as well as 60,000 meals to Jackson community members.

A significant need to enhance the care of those residing at JIS is creating a separate space for families. Currently single men, single women as well as parents with their children all reside under one roof. The needs of a single mom with three small children, an elderly veteran with mobility concerns and a younger individual working on substance use recovery vary greatly. Receiving the Community Center Grant would be an incredible resource towards targeting care and meeting each person residing at the shelter where they are in their specific life journey.

With currently unoccupied property currently owned by JIS, we would be able to construct a shelter that is occupied solely by family units, whether that be two parents or single parents. This update would allow our current facility to transition into a shelter just for single adults, would enhance the number of beds available to single individuals seeking emergency shelter and would allow for more targeted care for the unique challenges each individual or family may be facing. With the new family shelter located on the same property as our current shelter, efficiencies would be created for meal services, staff care, as well as meeting and event space.

MyPlace, Inc.

The mission of MyPlace, Inc. is to reduce the vulnerability for exploitation by offering safe housing and holistic support services to youth and young adults in the Greater Jackson area with a preference to those in vulnerable circumstances. We not only provide a safe, stable home and emotional support, but we also provide case management, transportation assistance, mentorship, advocacy, life skills education, and other various programming. Our ultimate goal is to prevent homelessness and human trafficking in the most vulnerable, and we do so by giving young people space, time, support, and resources to heal and prepare for successful, full independence.

Obtaining the Community Center Grant would allow MyPlace to open a second home, as well as support our new, more formal Aftercare and Community Outreach Programming. The second MyPlace home would be located next to our current location, as agreed upon with the owner, Jackson Interfaith Shelter. MyPlace would renovate and rent the home from JIS, just as we have in our current partnership. Our Aftercare would look like step-down care for residents who have moved on from MyPlace, but still need some structured support in their new independence. The Community Outreach portion would be an initiative/space where we could offer life skills education and support groups to not only MyPlace residents, but anyone in our 16-21 at-risk population who may need it. Groups would be facilitated by MyPlace, as well as run by our community partners who service us on-site, like Family Services and Children's Aid, for example. This could also be a way to serve young people that

are not yet ready to be MyPlace residents, but it would give them some time to gain skills, healing, and prepare for that possibility. This would also allow them to organically build healthy relationships with staff and current residents.

This grant would make it possible for MyPlace to nearly double our housing reach from being able to serve six residents at a time to eleven, as well as simultaneously serve any graduated residents who sign up for aftercare, and more at-risk youth throughout the community who engage in life skills education and support groups. The collaboration this funding would support would fill many gaps in the Jackson community, allowing for the holistic support of more at-risk homeless youth and families than ever before.

Altering Outcomes

Altering Outcomes is an organization founded to support community members throughout the United States. Our vision is to eliminate barriers that make one's transition from dependence to independence unsuccessful. It is our mission to help community members achieve personal and financial independence by building a stable structure of faith, employment, sobriety, shelter, and community. We aid with housing, transportation, safety equipment, clothing, communication tools, and other essential needs required to maintain employment. Through our programs we can reduce expenses and help the participants maintain a reasonable level of discretionary income required to build their new future. Since July of 2022, our services have helped to employ 576 community members. Currently we sponsor 23.8% or 137 active employees. Of our active employees, 72.9% or 100 are employed from local shelters.

Transportation is a critical service and currently 54% or 74 community members utilize the transportation. As of May 2023, local businesses hired 12.6% or 73 full time employees. Our focus through 2024 is to launch the first transitional housing employment campus. The campus will provide shelter based on the members accountability requirements and acceptable performance metrics at the assigned place of employment. The transitional period will be 24-36 months. Exiting the program: the members will have maintained employment, maintained fiscal responsibilities, attended classes, and acquired transportation. With continued support of our community and company sponsors, our program continues to grow and provide solutions that will help community members maintain a stable structure of faith, employment, sobriety, shelter, and community.

The Welcome Home Organization

The Welcome Home Organization's goal for the SOM Community Center Grant is purchase a centrally located building within Jackson, Michigan proper to open a licensed and zoned 24-hour childcare center that will prioritize families receiving DHHS Services, Veteran Families, and Employer Assistance Pay families with quality, dependable, and accessible childcare services.

WHO currently provides support and services for some of the highest, at risk, diverse groups of youth in our community. Our community of the Flat Iron District (Ward 1 & Ward 6) in Jackson faces challenges in obtaining services and being able to access them. Any partnering or collaborative support would allow us to establish an equitable community space that will be open to the community for use.

WHO Headquarters is within a community classified as a food desert, where housing insecurity, food insecurity and lack of resources are apparent and prevalent. Our goal is to provide positive mental and physical support to ensure that youth are thriving in our community and families are excelling. Our goal is to continue to implement programming activities for underserved

populations, and work with other community organizations to provide wrap-around services to support each family. This is done by nurturing and putting forth the collaborative effort with other organizations seeking to do the same.

WHO is focused on the underserved and filling the gaps in services that need to be met. The after-school youth workshops that we hold in collaboration with other non-profits serve between 30-85 youth weekly. Our location provides access to agricultural programs, workforce development, K-12 and early childhood education and development. WHO also provides STEM/STEAM focused initiatives to put the children in the community first and continue to create a thriving, vibrant, balanced youth focused community hub. Our goal is to be the catalyst for change in our community of Jackson. These numbers of decline and unsustainability top the national census numbers for underserved youth and families.

By continuing to build this relationship, to continue to earn trust, and continue to build WHO's network, we will be able to further provide substantial and meaningful support and programming for the communities we serve. We understand how meaningful these projects can be in helping others and creating a positive place for thriving children, working families, and providing equitable community resources.

We appreciate your time and consideration for allowing us to present this proposal and community concept plan.

In Service,

Jackson Interfaith Shelter, MyPlace, Altering Outcomes & The Welcome Home Organization

LETTER OF INTENT TO PURCHASE REAL ESTATE

The purpose of this letter is to set forth some of the basic terms and conditions of the proposed purchase by Altering Outcomes, a 501 C3 Organization (the “Buyer”) of certain real estate owned by the City of Jackson (the “Seller”). The terms set forth in this Letter will not become binding until a more detailed “Purchase Agreement” is negotiated and signed by the parties, as contemplated below by the section of this Letter entitled “Non-Binding.”

1. **PROPERTY ADDRESS:** The property proposed to be sold is located at: 310 West Morrell Street, Jackson, MI, 49203.
2. **PRICE:** The proposed purchase price is Seventy-Five Thousand (\$75,000.00), upon acceptance of a binding Purchase Agreement. The buyer would pay the balance to the Seller at closing.
3. **CLOSING:** On or before August 30, 2024.
4. **POSSESSION:** Possession to be given at closing.
5. **INSPECTION:** After the final acceptance of a binding Purchase Agreement, Buyer may have the Real Estate inspected by a person of Buyer’s choice to determine if there are any structural, mechanical, plumbing or electrical deficiencies, structural pest damage or infestation, any unsafe conditions or other damage, including the presence of radon gas, any lead-based paint hazards, and inspections for other conditions that are customary to the locality, commercial property, and/or that are required by law.
6. **CLOSING COSTS:** Traditional distribution of closing costs.
7. **STANDARD PROVISIONS:** The Purchase Agreement will include the standard provisions that are customary to the locality and/or that are required by law.
8. **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS:** The Annex to be included in the purchase. Removal of Pallet Homes.. See attached letter which describes both the Welcome Home Organization’s goals as well as the Community Center Collaborative holistic goals for the building.
9. **STAND STILL:** Seller shall not initiate or carry on negotiations for the sale of the Real Estate with any party other than Buyer unless either (1) Buyer and Seller fail to enter into a binding Purchase Agreement within 160 days from the time of acceptance of this agreement, or (2) Buyer and Seller agree in writing to abandon this Letter of Intent.
10. **NON-BINDING:** This letter of Intent does not and is not intended to contractually binding the parties and is only an expression of the basic conditions to be incorporated into a binding Purchasing Agreement. This Letter does not require either party to negotiate in good faith or to proceed to the completion of a binding Purchase Agreement. The parties shall not be contractually bound unless and until they enter into a formal, written Purchase Agreement, which must be in form and content satisfactory to each party and to each party’s legal counsel, in their sole discretion. Neither party may rely on this Letter as creating any legal obligation of any kind. Notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph to the contrary, Seller and Buyer agree that the above paragraph entitled “Stand Still” shall be binding, regardless of whether a binding Purchase Agreement is entered into the parties.

11. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS REQUESTED (Purchase Agreement Pending the following to be paid for by the Buyer):

- Childcare Fire Safety Assessment
- Environmental Health Assessment
- Electrical Assessment
- Plumbing/Water Assessment
- Tax Obligation Assessment
- LARA - Child & Safety Assessment (Completed by a SOM Licensing Representative)
- Construction Assessment (to include an estimate for the cost of repairs and updates)

If you would like to discuss a sale of Real Estate with the undersigned on these general terms, please sign and return a copy of this Letter of Intent to the undersigned at your earliest convenience.

The above Letter reflects our mutual understanding and sets forth the basis for proceedings to negotiate a Purchase Agreement as outlined above.

BUYER: _____

The Welcome Home Organization (Community Center Collaborative), 501 C3

Organization

DATE: _____

SELLER: _____

City of Jackson

DATE: _____

Funding

— — —

Funding for the estimated budget has been awarded and solidified for the purchase and constructional upgrades of the land and buildings known as T.A. Wilson School by the Community Center Collaborative Group (Interfaith Shelter, MyPlace, Altering Outcomes, The Welcome Home Organization).

Timeline for Development - Community Center Collaborative



Categories	WHO
Purchase of T.A. Wilson School	\$ 75,000.00
Construction & Repairs (Electrical, Plumbing, Windows)	\$ 125,000.00
Fire Safety Assessment	\$ 600.00
Environmental Health Assessment	\$ 1,200.00
LARA - Childcare Regulation Updates	\$ 45,000.00
TOTAL COST OF PURCHASE & UPDATES	\$ 246,800.00

Residents in Action, Inc.

Response to City of Jackson's TA Wilson Acquisition and Use Request for Proposal 02.16.24

Check List of Proposal Requirements:

- **Proposed Purchase Price –**
 - o \$150,000 or Preferred Suggested community services as identified in the Proposal Description
- **Timeline –**
 - o Ongoing with phases of development and implementation based upon planning and securing funding.
- **Budget –**
 - o To Be Determined after a thorough planning period to assess and prioritize the ideas identified in the proposal
- **Description of Qualifications and Experience of Organization –**
 - o Included in the body of the proposal
- **Description of Qualifications and Experience of Individuals –**
 - o Included as attachments

Residents in Action, Inc. Jackson Michigan

TA Wilson School Building Acquisition and Use - City of Jackson RFP 2024

RESIDENTS IN ACTION, INC

Residents in Action (RIA) is a Black-led, grassroots network of Jackson residents with a mission to advance racial equity for better health and well-being in the Jackson community. Our focus has specifically been on those who have historically experienced inequity; the Black and poor community and the issues that come with those experiences. RIA acts as a central hub that supports individual members as well as Black-led organizations, such as Partial to Girls (PTG), Young People of Purpose (YPOP), etc. RIA convened initially in March 2020 to address the impact of Covid-19 on the Black community and due to its success with addressing other emerging and immediate needs in Jackson. RiA secured itself as a 501c3 non-profit in July 2023 to support continued efforts longer term. RIA leverages positive relationships, social networks, and the generational wisdom and skillsets of Black residents as well as those with lived experience particularly to address the needs and priorities in the community through resident-led improvement efforts.

RiA recently launched its new website: www.residentsinaction.com

SELECTED RIA PROJECTS AND SYSTEMS CHANGE EFFORTS

RIA has had notable success in effectively and efficiently responding to the health and social needs of the Black community and those experiencing economic hardship in Jackson. RIA shared a historical list of the various projects that RIA has completed with City Council on 12/13/22 (updated list submitted as an attachment).

This is a link to a video that RiA created to showcase the various projects and collaborations we have been involved in for the State of Michigan a few years back. We have participated in more projects then but this video will provide a visual of the work and impact RiA and its partner/members have on the community in addition to working on issued of homelessness: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UiRdRea8da0>

HISTORY WITH CITY OF JACKSON AND UNMET NEEDS

RIA submitted a proposal in response to the City of Jackson's Request for Proposal to shelter street homeless individuals and families during the winter months, was selected for the funding award and successfully led the homelessness project in partnership with the City of Jackson from Dec 2022-April 2023. A final homeless report to the City highlighting wins, lessons learned, insights and recommendations was released and presented to City Council June 2023. Multiple local organizations and agencies have and continue to use information from that report to address issues within their area of influence.

- MLive Article –
 - <https://www.mlive.com/news/jackson/2023/05/homeless-aid-program-helped-more-than-300-people-in-3-months-jackson-report-states.html?outputType=amp>
- RiA's Final Report Link –
 - <https://cityofjackson.diligent.community/document/08c0233a-520b-4f67-b7ed-16a79922ce82/>

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2

Because of RiA's established relationships with those who are actively struggling with homelessness and the success of the first sheltering project, RiA was awarded the homeless grant again this winter season (2023/2024) to manage an inside facility at TA Wilson School's Annex which has 32 beds 2 1/2 bathrooms, a laundry area and a community room.

In addition, to staffing and managing the inside TA Wilson facility, in partnership with the City of Jackson who contracted with Second Chance for All, RiA provides high level oversight of the 10 shelter pallets outside the TA Wilson Annex facility in the parking lot area. RiA's 24 hour staffing engaged in street sweeps that initially kick started the list of candidates to fill the facility beds and manages all aspects of administration, organization and management of ongoing walk ins and the waiting list to fill open beds, the screening, assessment and referral process to connect the all residents (inside the facility and the pallets) to local resources, wrap around services for coordination of local agencies like Community Action Agency and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services as well as other services to try to connect people to stable housing and other life supports.

We applaud Jackson's City Council because you have thought outside of the box by partnering with Residents in Action, Inc on the City's Emergency Shelter projects last year and this year. By supporting resident led work, you made a conscious decision to hear our request to do things differently so we can experience different outcomes. Community engagement and fully resourcing people to lead their own change is pivotal in the quest to meet people where they are, to enforce responsibility and accountability for individuals and systems and to encourage progressive action to make a difference in an equitable way. Disrupting status quo and shifting the power dynamic from professional leaders and conference rooms to the resident community to lead with the positive influence and impact of lived experience, established generational connection and built community trust to bridge the gaps between residents and the professional community has proven to be very efficient and effective. RiA identified several concrete examples of the unmet needs in Jackson.

RiA's final report for the homeless project last year and the homeless resource event provided a real life visual of how great the need is even though year over year, the Jackson's "official" homeless report counts few people. We know that there is a housing shortage in Jackson. We know that the City of Jackson contributed to that when hundreds of homes were flattened without a parallel strategy to build homes back up. We know that landlords and rental agencies have policies that the homeless population will never meet eligibility requirements for. We know that the homeless population suffered from health issues (physical, mental and substance abuse/addiction), has a lack of supports, etc. We know that the existing sole Shelter in Jackson does not accommodate the needed capacity of what is realistically occurring.

As a result, RiA is excited to respond to the City of Jackson's newest Request for Proposal which will be to acquire and use the broader school to address homelessness among other emerging needs in Jackson.

We appreciate all who have and are continuing to support collective, collaborative action that centers around meeting people where they are and providing resources to community residents to lead their own change. Please let this serve as a public acknowledgement of how grateful we are. We look forward to many more collaborations in the future.

The following pages will share community driven ideas brainstormed by Jackson residents who have boots on the ground for many years. As a result, many of the ideas have been brewing and vetted for several years now since the onset of the pandemic and are a direct reflection of ideas, strategies and/or solutions for what RiA and its member partners have experienced working with the hardest to reach populations in Jackson.

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INTRODUCTION TO PROPOSED USE

This RFP is being responded to as a transformational dream by residents who were born and raised in Jackson who have generational ties and vested interest in Jackson. Additionally, the specific residents submitting this proposal have and are currently leading positive change with demonstrated success in Jackson. Those efforts have consistently met emerging needs as identified by residents who are struggling with life issues in Jackson.

The ideas and considerations outlined in this proposal not only include the perspectives from those struggling most from the issues at hand but it provides a platform for those struggling to identify issues, brainstorm solutions, plan strategies, explore and secure funding opportunities and then implement and execute the creative and innovative ideas that are born from collective and collaborative planning amongst residents and in partnership with professional leaders, organizations and agencies that uplift resident led work.

The concepts, ideologies and methodologies that Residents in Action, Inc and its partner members advocate for and launch is a paradigm shift that has reaped resistance at varying levels. In fact, some have blatantly rejected us. However, this paradigm shift of residents leading their own change is critical in the positive progression to change the overall trajectory of Jackson's future. Year over year, Jackson has experienced grim statistics with high percentages in poverty rates, food insecurity, housing shortages and homelessness, teenage pregnancy, infant and maternal death and adverse events, general health issues, crime and gun violence, education (local scores, drop-out rates, graduation, suspensions and expulsions, % of pursuit to higher education and skills training), employment, etc. Those statistics also fair worse when racial lenses are placed on and/or applied to the data measures that track Jackson's outcomes.

List of Core RiA Partners/Members for this Proposal

1. **Residents in Action, Inc. (RiA)** - Local collaborative of resident leaders in Jackson who Advocates for, Promotes and Supports boots on the ground groups like PTG and YPOP to provide services for the community (project management, data analysis, community assessments, grant writing, process improvement, contract negotiation, general backbone support, etc.)
2. **Partial to Girls (PTG)** - Founder and CEO, Salena Taylor and PTG supports distribution of basic needs, clothing and baby items (diapers, wipes and formula) and provides assistance with maternal infant supports. PTG also has a birthday program, reading program, hair program and hosts the transparency project. PTG also specializes, assists and support senior/elderly population.
3. **Young People of Purpose (YPOP)** - Supports intergenerational connections in the most historically disinvested side of town by engaging Youth and Seniors in an array of programming such as master gardening, vermiculture, bee keeping, pottery, painting, business and entrepreneurial training, life lessons: Bringing the Village to life.
4. **Black Food Sovereignty Coalition (BFS)** - Led by Myeshia Jones, BFS supports community ideas for addressing food insecurity by encouraging people to participate in and lead strategies to take power and control over their food (food systems and all processes in between from ground to plate).
5. **Family Lifestyle Solutions, LLC (FLS)** - Founded by Daveda Quinn in Dubai UAE, in 2018, connects girls and women with services, counsels, educators, and mentors, to increase leadership and entrepreneurship for those who are underserved and need stability.
6. **Diverse Minds Consulting, LLC (DMC)** - Kesha Hamilton, owner and consultant for Diverse Minds Consulting, LLC, marries her lived experience with historical knowledge to bring you racial equity consultation, coaching, and training that will lead to transformation in organizations.

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7. ***Monday's with My (MWM)*** - Local podcast that highlights and promotes local activities, events, projects, initiatives, groups, businesses, and people doing good things in Jackson. Myeshia Jones also promotes awareness of local issues, concerns and education shared virtually on multiple social media platforms.
8. ***Transcending Minds Consulting, LLC (TMC)*** - Owner Tashia Carter launched this business as an independent contractor after serving in multiple capacities professionally for over 30 years in the local health system, managed care insurance and contracting. The areas of focus are community organizing and engagement, project management, data analysis and integrator functionality with professional systems to promote DEI and antiracism in processes, policy, and organizational managements in systems.

Our Experience

Collectively, these entities have demonstrated success working in the following areas:

1. Poverty,
2. Food insecurity, gardening and nutrition
3. Basic needs
4. Maternal and Infant supports to include but not limited to Baby formula and items
5. Senior/Elderly supports,
6. Youth and Family supports,
7. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Social Justice and Anti-racism
8. General education,
9. Entrepreneurship,
10. COVID education, prevention and support,
11. Homelessness support
12. Screening, assessment and navigation to connect people to resources (i.e. mental health, rehab, etc),
13. Advocating for minorities and other populations who have historically experienced inequity, etc.

In short, each entity has already made positive impacts to and for the Jackson community. Each entity wants to continue its services and programming and wants to grow and expand to address, meet and solve for the ongoing needs of the Jackson community.

Over the last four years, we have been supported by the following funders, organizations and agencies.

Funders

1. City of Jackson
2. Flagstar Bank
3. Henry Ford Health Jackson (Population Health, Community Vitality Fund, and multiple hospital departments)
4. Health Improvement Organization
5. Human Services Coordinating Alliance
6. Jackson Community Foundation
7. Jackson County Intermediate School District
8. Michigan Health Endowment Fund
9. State of Michigan

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Fiduciaries

1. Community Action Agency
2. Family Services and Children's Aid
3. Partial to Girls
4. Save Our Youth
5. United Way Jackson County

Organizations (not all inclusive and organizations who serves as funders and/or fiduciaries were not listed twice in this section)

1. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services - Jackson County
2. Jackson Collaborative Network
3. NAACP - Jackson Chapter
4. Nonprofit Network
5. Racing4Equity
6. Salvation Army
7. Segue

RIA'S IMPROVEMENT APPROACH

RIA and its members deep connection to the community allow for quick and efficient identification of needs through our extensive social networks and communication channels. Our empathy and compassion also allows for understanding of day-to-day living circumstances. RIA's members are trained in improvement methodology, framing analytics, systems thinking, and human-centered design techniques. Our population focus is on minorities, maternal and child health, the homeless population, youth and elderly. We move upstream to address the socio-economic factors that impact health and well-being by listening to the *voice of the people (especially Black residents and those who have historically experienced inequity)* through authentic engagement practices. We are intentional about strengthening positive relationships, building trust, and working in the community without causing harm/trauma as we connect with the community and collect stories and meaningful data to improve the lives of residents of Jackson.

COLLABORATION METHODOLOGY

We realized four years ago with the onset of the pandemic that we are stronger together in this quest to turn Jackson's statistics around as well as to hold systems accountable. Systems change and addressing root causes directly is the only way to make sustainable and lasting change. While we create pathways to make a better world in the future, RiA and its partner members have a goal to address emerging needs now as well by ensuring that people get what they need, that people are connected to resources to help them and that we work to progress the Jackson Community together (residents and professionals). That is why this proposal is being written as collective and collaborative plan from multiple resident-led entities so we can leverage our skill sets to supplement and support each other and build capacity and skill sets along the way. We are confident that we are the best candidate for this space and that our efforts will truly benefit the community overall. We have the passion, vested interest with personal stake since this City is home to use personally as well as our loved ones (family and friends), established trusted relationships with community residents and professional leaders, organizations, and agencies in Jackson. Please reference the letters of support that have been submitted on our behalf along with this proposal.

We secured a grant from Jackson Community Foundation two years ago to establish RiA as a legal entity. Through that process and because of that funding, RiA became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with tax exempt status. We went

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through a rigorous process to develop a plan that forecasted short term and long-term goals and we also explored and created a sustainability plan that will help us and outline and pursue potential funding/financing in the future and longer term. For this project, Residents Action, Inc, will serve as the central hub for its partner members. The focus initially will be on establishing operations in a brick and mortar for RiA's core membership partners; those specifically who have been instrumental in planning for and securing over \$2 million dollars in grant funding and donations since the onset of the pandemic to intentionally re-invest into the Jackson community by providing services, programs, supports, events as well as addressing emerging issues and paying residents for boots on the ground work. We would like to expand the central hub services to other grassroots groups as we grow to support their activities and benefit Jackson in the future as well.

We pride ourselves for having the residents of Jackson themselves lead and execute the work and build the skillsets from within to accomplish this work. There is an old proverb that says, you can give a man a fish and feed him for a day or you can teach him how to fish and feed him for a lifetime. That and the concept of having a supportive village to positively progress our efforts are foundational mindsets. We are sick of band-aiding issues and simply surviving. We need and want to thrive as individuals, groups and as a community. A key ingredient to successfully do that is to become self-sustaining. We have to equitably meet people where they are to accomplish that, and RiA is included in that process as well. This building would be a stepping-stone to establish a foundation, progress ownership, power, control, autonomy, and freedom. It is in City Council's power to provide RiA with what it needs to continue efforts to benefit the community, as a whole. We are asking that you believe in us like we do us and let our work speak for itself from the projects and the work that we have done over the last four years. We don't just sit in rooms and talk, we have consistently taken action and made a difference in the community. Please reference the list of projects provided in the proposal submission packet.

Below is a high-level list of the services that RiA and its partner members currently provide and/or hope to provide in the future. Many are part of the financial sustainability plan to pair with regular fundraising and grant writing funds:

1. Secure funds by writing and submitting grants.
2. Assist with project management services to include community assessments, promotion of community campaigns, data collection using unique community engagement methods and conceptual models.
3. Perform data analysis and complete funder reports.
4. Provide general administration and fiduciary support for smaller groups who have historically struggled with being under-resourced.
5. Bridge the gaps between residents and professional systems by serving as trusted connectors and advisors for more equitable processes.

Proposed Use

Immediate Short-term Goal

The immediate goal would be to continue to address homelessness in Jackson by keeping currently established operations functional. We are actively pursuing grant opportunities and ramping up fundraising efforts to maintain the Annex and pallet use.

Currently, in addition to serving as an emergency shelter, the existing services identified below are what is provided at TA Wilson under the management and operations of Residents in Action, Inc in partnership with RiA partners members and organizations, the City of Jackson and a plethora of other individuals, groups, churches, business, nonprofits, organizations, and agencies. The local community has certainly stood in the gaps to donate, collaborate, and help us successfully meet the needs of the residents and to operationalize the shelter. It isn't

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always perfect, but we are trying to do what we can while we are open to help people the best that we can. Again, we THANK you all for the support.

1. Serve as an administrator for the City of Jackson to provide emergent housing and collaborate with partners that the City of Jackson has enlisted to successfully meet deliverables
2. Relaunched the algorithm that was developed with the last homeless project to specifically identify and prioritize those who are in greatest need for emergency shelter placement.
3. Residents are provided safe, stable, clean, warm, and equitably friendly shelter
4. Residents receive positive social connection with a level of personal accountability and responsibility with simple rules on curfew, chores and interactions in a structured environment.
5. Residents are provided basic needs as applicable (I.e. personal hygiene, food, clothing, cleaning supplies, hair care)
6. Residents are exposed to staff who routinely advocate for them with social workers, courts, probation officers, etc.
7. Residents are provided temporary HMIS IDs so they can get permanent, State of Michigan IDs
8. Residents are provided financial assistance as available for transportation and legal documents as available
9. Residents are provided guidance on how to request their legal documents (i.e. birth certificates, social security cards, etc.) and provided financial assistance to obtain them as available
10. Residents are assisted as applicable to apply (complete applications) for housing starting with low income apartment complexes as well as other applications for benefits.
11. Residents are connected via referral (share resources on where to go) for healthcare, dental, behavioral health, addiction recovery/rehab, prevention services, education, employment, etc.
12. We also advocate for them with social workers, courts, probation officers, etc. Also, follow-up with the organizations and agencies to hold them accountable for follow through on requested referrals and support (professional and other grassroots).
13. Serve as a bridge between the homeless and the professional community by providing service navigation support to connect people to local resources.
14. Partner with local organizations and agencies as applicable and even coordinate onsite visits for ease of connection to resources.
 - MDHHS and CAA come weekly to help people sign up for benefits and to get the homeless verification process started.
 - Other social service organizations and agencies are encouraged to come onsite to provide resources in a group setting and/or with efficient and coordinated scheduled visits that staff can arrange.
 - We have also made outreach to MI Works to schedule on site help to connect people to employment
15. Residents are encouraged to go to the Jackson Interfaith Shelter's work program meetings to secure employment
16. Research longer term housing placement opportunities
17. Push informational and educational materials out as applicable.
18. Leverage our established trusted relationships with the community and this population in particularly to have the raw discussions that are needed to help with compliancy.
19. Adapt to working with other grassroots groups and activities as applicable to address and meet needs.
20. Gather input from homeless individuals to amplify their voices based upon their experience, so their feedback and perspective is considered as well as document and track lessons learned and share the insights with local and State leaders and organizations/agencies to positively influence and impact

application and benefits processes and guidelines, policy and funding decisions in the future.

21. Do our best to contribute efforts to place the Jackson community on a positive trajectory to resolve homelessness and progress the Jackson overall.

Our Dream

Ultimately, our dream is to secure a community space that will authentically allow access to the residents on their own terms and to create a foundation where community driven strategies and solutions can be planned, developed and executed. This proposal will provide a home for eight minority led (Black and female) organizations, all who are organizations led by residents who have actively served as boots on the ground in Jackson for 4 or more years and all who led pathways to step up and serve the community and address emerging needs during Michigan's Executive Order and throughout the COVID pandemic when the professional systems were closed and/or had limited access to services.

Objective and Plan for the Longer Term Goal

We have a dream to do a lot. We know that it will take time to implement all that we want to do but this opportunity offers the potential to carry forward all that we want to do on a continuum. The TA School building has existing structures in place to implement some items immediately and provides the physical space inside and outside the building to renovate and build out in the future.

The objective is to secure the TA Wilson School building, the Annex and the pallets. Below are some of the goals for use of the building and the grounds. None of it is final but our first thoughts based upon the layout of the school and grounds. The what is set but the where is the building is subject to change based upon our discussions with Contractors during the planning period.

Front Southwest side of Building

1. Build and Develop a Community Center that is owned and operated by Residents so they have a space to engineer strategies that effectively address community needs in a way that is not paralyzed by systemic rules and processes that delay progress and subject harm on the highest risk populations.
2. Serve as the central hub and corporate office for Residents in Action, Inc
3. Conference Room with technology

Front Southeast side of Building

1. Partial to Girls - Office, operations, distribution and storage space
2. Young People of Purpose - Office, operations, classrooms and storage space
3. Mondays w/My office - Office, operations and storage space
4. Diverse Minds Consulting, LLC - Office, operations and storage space
5. Family Lifestyle Solutions, LLC office - Office, operations and storage space
6. Transcending Minds Consulting, LLC - Office, operations and storage space
7. Office for marketing and printing services
8. Studio/Media Room
9. Conference Room with technology

Annex and North side of Building

1. Continue operations of the existing emergency shelter and pallets in a similar manner as the current partnership with the City of Jackson with opportunities to sustain longer term.

Residents in Action, Inc.
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2. Expand the shelter bed count with another community room area for a transitional housing plan that potentially considers foster youth, women and children, individuals (men and women), as well as families.
3. Create office cubbies for social service agencies that come on site
4. Open public showers
5. Open public laundry facilities

Gym and Kitchen Areas

1. Open an indoor community event space with a sound system and technology
2. Build a commercial kitchen that is open for use by local entrepreneurs
3. Offer community dinners

Front South side of Building

1. Open a Computer/Technology room
2. Open a Black History Library
3. Open a public daycare
4. Open a head-start class

Outside of Building

1. Build a community garden
2. Picnic areas
3. Basketball Court

Timeline and Budget

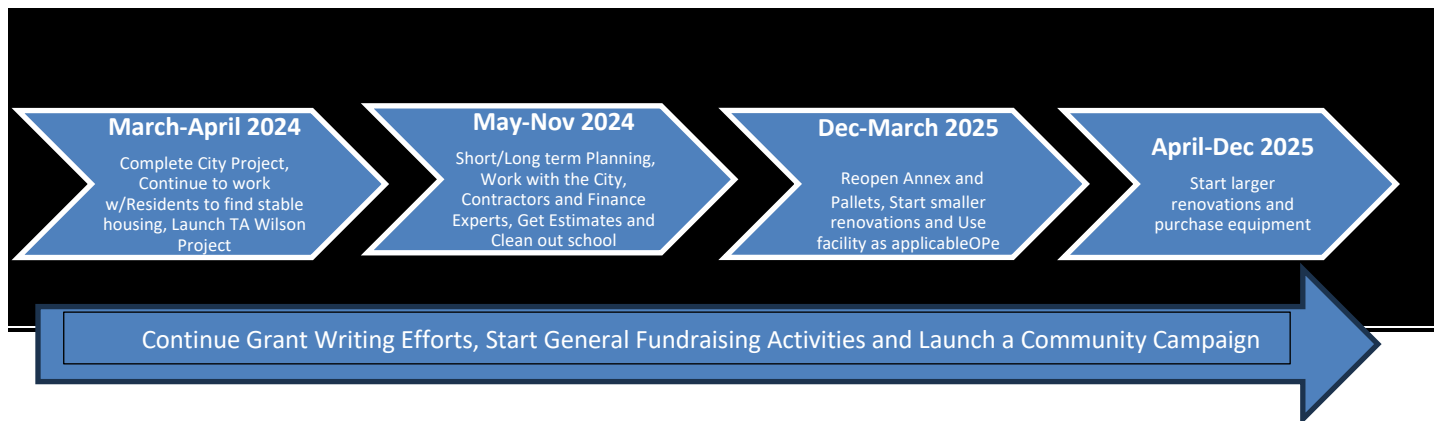
Ideally, we would like to continue services at the Annex and for the pallets, year-around without any disruption. However, depending on the success and timing of securing funds, we may need to close the operations on March 31, 2024 and after the April 2024 Homeless Resource Fair, as expected with the current City homeless project to plan more regarding the broader school facility development with anticipation to reopen the Annex and the pallets for the winter 2024/2025 for emergency winter sheltering.

Over the next eight months (April-Nov), we will aggressively pursue more grants, explore finance mechanisms, start general fundraising activities and launch a community campaign to secure operational, programming and additional capital/renovation expenses.

We are happy to share that we have already secured \$500,000 for capital expenses to kickstart the planning process and that we have several other potential funding/financial opportunities that are in determination to support other RiA priorities.

RiA's history of grants is evidence that we are capable of securing future grants. We are also hopeful that as this project progresses, more local funding and philanthropic and community partners will come forward by way of individuals, businesses, and other organizations and agencies.

We also have some innovative ideas that we want to propose to earn dollars to support the work that RiA and its member/partners do.



Proposed Purchase Price

It our understanding that the City of Jackson upon approval from City Council paid \$150,000 for the TA Wilson Building, Annex and grounds. Additionally, funds were spent to renovate the Annex and to purchase and install the pallets. Much of the funding used was from the 15% of ARPA funding allocated to assist economically disadvantaged people in the Jackson community (while 85% of the ARPA pool of funding was used for City infrastructure projects.)

Because the source of funding was used as intended and since RiA is a nonprofit that solely intends to use the building as a community resource to address inequities and, disparities and improve outcomes, while we will have the \$150,000 from the grant that we recently secured, we would prefer to pay the City back in services.

For example, with the existing homeless project, the City has interest in regular street sweeps to help redirect the homeless population and/or connect people to resources to help them secure stable housing and other benefits that they may qualify for. As a result, in lieu of the \$150,000 payment, RiA is proposing that we offer \$25,000 per year in navigation services at the rate of \$25.00 per hour over a 6-year period to total the \$150,000. We will retain our right to pay of the balance in full and as applicable but we are hoping that the City would find value in re-investing those dollars back in a productive way that will continue to support the community. Screening, Assessment and Navigation is just one area of service that RiA has to offer. We could also pursue the possibility of being a warming center as well which would be an expansion of what is done in the existing homeless project. We have had the City of Jackson Police Department call and come by several times seeking assistance for individuals so there is definitely opportunity there.

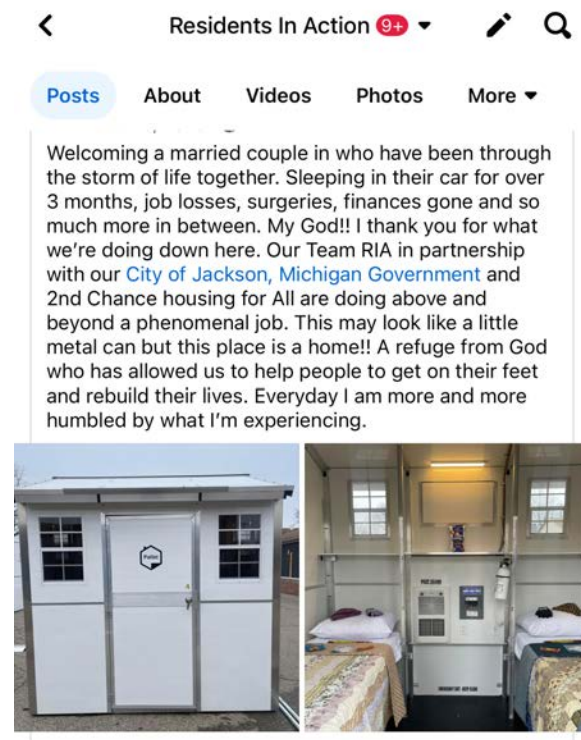
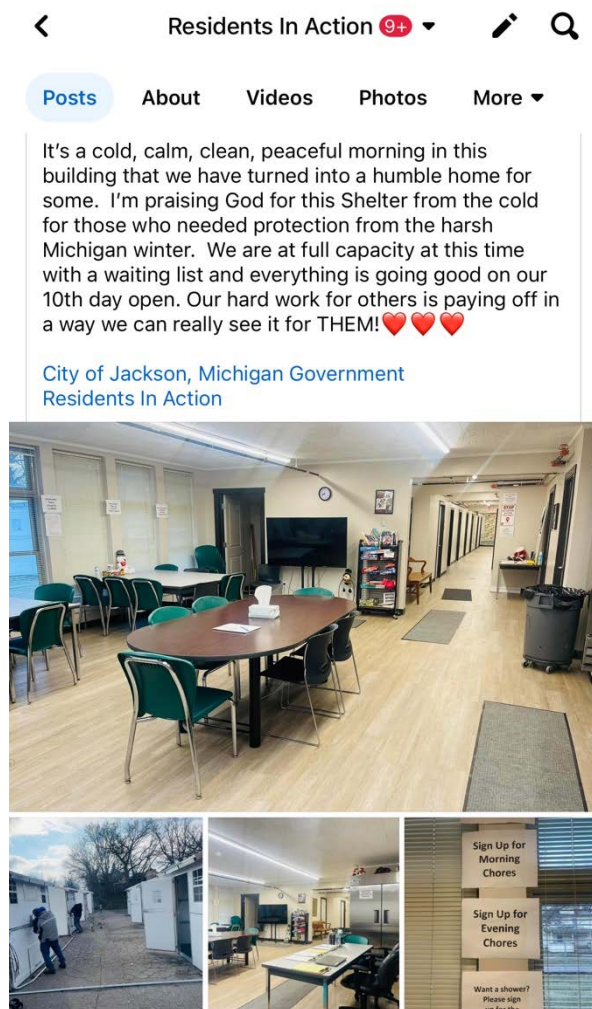
During the planning process, RiA would like to pursue and continue discussion in that regard for other opportunities to negotiate payment.

Additionally, RIA is open to partner with others to identify opportunities and develop plans for accessible and affordable housing to specifically address the population that is 30% AMI and below. Based upon what has been slated in City plans to date does not adequately assist those who are actively experiencing homelessness and/or lower income individuals and families. RIA is very interested in promoting and assisting with other processes to ensure that the City is making equitable decisions for positive impact especially for the populations at greatest risk

SPECIAL NOTES

RiA clearly is not an expert in capital projects and renovation. We will rely on the City and community partners for expertise in that regard. We also have great relationships with local nonprofits who have experience with building projects at varying levels of complexity so we will leverage our relationships with them to get through these processes. At all times, the concept of equity and residents will be front and center. We will advocate for not only their inclusion but for them to participate actively and authentically, even lead as applicable. We will also encourage processes that create jobs and/or skills and capacity building to be offered to consider as priority candidates who are local residents, local businesses and provide ample opportunity to minorities.

PICTURES



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This is Arlo 😊 He's been on the streets for a very long time. What an honor to be sitting here with this celebrated Marine this morning 🔥🔥🔥 He's been with us for a few weeks now in this Emergency Shelter. Knowing his story, knowing he's safe, warm and cared for right now really makes me happy ❤️ He's happy too 😊



When I tell you God don't make no mistakes!! Steven & Savannah turned their lives around for their first baby. They got their focus in order and made a choice to choose Lil River over anything else. This meant starting over from scratch!! He just turned a week old and I'm so proud to see them healing and doing the right thing. I see how they look at him and I know that God makes NO MISTAKES EVER IN THIS LIFE!!! They chose their son!!! 🥰🥰🥰🥰 This little handsome boy is blessed you hear me!!! Everything ain't fancy but honey this lil man was chosen to be with a Team who specializes in Maternal, Infant Supports. He was not born in the cold!! Praise God!! 😊 His mother & father are so attentive to him and so are we ❤️❤️❤️❤️ Keep us all in your prayers and good thoughts please.



One late night while I was doing a homeless street sweep I met Juan. I shared with him that we were about to open the TA Wilson homeless Shelter and invited him to get off the streets. When Juan showed up, TJ ran to hug him. She knew him and said, Salena this is the guy who was hit by the Train 🚂 I knew then that God was lining this man up for a life change and put him with us so that we could help him to heal. Yall, here we are a month and half later and Juan is holding the key in his hand to his new apartment!!! C'mon now!!! ❤️❤️❤️❤️ I had a chill run through me taking this picture of this SUCCESS STORY!! Keep us all in your prayers and good thoughts.



Many of you know Andrew from seeing him around town all the time. Don't worry if you're seeing less of him out here. He's doing good and he's safe with us right now. His smile is telling the story of the care he's receiving with our Team 😊 Praise God!!! ❤️❤️❤️ As always with this work, I ask for your continued prayers & good thoughts.



Homeless Project 2023

This is an example of how the Residents in Action, Inc. Homeless project in partnership with the City of Jackson in the 2022/2023 winter season helped a homeless man. Prior to being placed in a warm and safe hotel room, he was living in his van and had struggled with homelessness for three years after losing his trailer when he complained about the slumlord not following through on maintenance issues. The homeless project offered peace of mind, relieved his stress and allowed him time and focus to address his health issues as well as to get personal business matters in order while he had a stable place to stay.

"I appreciate all you have done and what you are doing. When I was in my van, my legs swelled up bad and many nights I forgot to take my heart/diabetic meds. Since being here I have gotten new doctors and going to appointments on time. I went to DHS and did a S.E.R. form I placed an app with Read Manor. So by you being nice and helping me has given me the incentive to do what was long over due. I'm very thankful for you being there for me. I don't know what's going to happen from here out but I'm thankful and appreciative for everything. Thank you so much! You have made one hell of a difference I can't thank you enough. You guys have been a great help and I would be glad to tell this story to anybody."

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Resumes

Tashia M Carter

Salena Taylor

Diane Washington

Myeshia Jones

Kesha Hamilton



**Tashia Carter, MAOM, BBL
Co-Founder/CEO
Residents in Action
(RiA)**

A Jackson native, activist and community influencer with more than 25 years of experience serving in health/managed care, data analytics, process improvement, operational performance, community organizing, and authentic engagement. She has a Bachelor's in Business Leadership and a Masters' in Organizational Management. She serves as an equity warrior and is committed to shifting power dynamics from professional systems, promoting authentic engagement and supporting strategies towards positive change to keep community voices front and center and to leverage resident leadership, expertise, trusted relationships, social networks and connections for resident led solutions that address inequities. As the Co-Founder/CEO of Residents in Action, she intentionally challenges status quo to drive equitable changes and advocates for those with lived experience to be fully resourced as experts to lead change and progress positive community outcomes. She is an active member of Partial to Girls and Racing for Equity and the acting Vice Chair for the Community Action Agency Board. She has served on multiple other boards and work groups such as the United Way/Jackson Community Foundation COVID-19 Fund Committee, the Ethnos Advisory Committee, Trauma Support Network, Co-Led the Social Justice Group, holds an Executive seat for the local NAACP branch and is often sought by local leaders to provide feedback on emerging needs and issues in the community. Tashia helped coordinate the Southside Art Mural project, led the Jackson Census video project, is actively leading the Black Life Experience project, owns Transcending Minds Consulting, LLC, works as an independent contractor for State of Michigan and Henry Ford Health Jackson and recently spearheaded a homelessness project with the City of Jackson via the Residents in Action community based workforce. She also LOVES peanut butter and spending time with family.

Tashia Marie Carter

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JOB OBJECTIVE

Passionate, detail oriented and self-motivated professional who strives to excel in all tasks. The ideal environment is one that is stable, conducive to change, innovative and will challenge me to utilize and enhance my skills to augment success of the organization. The ideal position will allow and encourage me to maximize community engagement connections to progress work opportunities as well as utilize data analysis to inform processes. I have a strong desire to improve my community by working with people to help and support them to thrive. I have special interest in working with and for disparate populations (i.e., the poor and minorities) because in my city the data shows that those populations are suffering most and because I personally know, work, live and play with people who are struggling. I serve as an advocate or a catalyst (whichever is needed) to authentically progress forward just and equitable practices, policies, regulations, and strategies.

CAREER NARRATIVE

Served as an internal resource in multiple capacities for over 25 years; key account management liaison, systems expert, training experience on operational processes, certified professional medical coding, managed care and health insurance concepts and operations with proficiency on the provider side (i.e., health system – clinically integrated network, physician/hospital organization, hospital, ancillary, and practitioner).

Demonstrated competencies in Non-Profit management, operations, fundraising and strategic development, customer service excellence with special focus on triple aim initiatives (experience, quality, cost), project management with use of DMAIC (LEAN and Six Sigma) applications, data collection methods, action learning processes and conceptual frameworks (ABLE Change, Human Centered Design, etc.), network optimization, population health, clinical integration, performance metrics/monitoring, quality assurance measures and process efficiencies/development, technical and analytical skills, networking, contracting and negotiation experience, advocate of change management, systems integration and configuration experience; An excellent candidate in maximizing reimbursement, process efficiency, and community engagement. These skills acquired through professional work experience and Master level education in Organizational Management may be applied with versatility to any corporation.

EDUCATION

From 09/09	Spring Arbor University	From 09/01	Baker College
To 09/11	Spring Arbor, Michigan	To 06/03	Jackson, Michigan
	Master of Arts Organizational Management		Bachelor of Business Leadership

BOARD, MEMBER AND COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

Jackson Collaborative Network, Youth Net, Clinical Community Linkages Initiative/Jackson Care Hub, Cradle to Career, Health Improvement Organization, Financial Stability Network, Jackson Community Foundation, NAACP, Community Action Agency, United Center for Caring, Jackson Citizens Advisory Council, United Way of Jackson, Racing for Equity, Partial to Girls, Residents in Action

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE OVERVIEW

Non-Profit Founder/Chief Executive Officer	Independent Business Owner
Human Services Coordinating Alliance Coordinator	Independent Contractor
Youth Net Data Coordinator	Collaborative Community Coordinator
Payer Liaison Coordinator	Senior Provider Account Representative
Claims Team Lead/Claims Specialist	Collegiate Level Adjunct Instructor
Professional Photographer	Portrait Studio Manager

DETAIL OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

From 10/23 Founder/Chief Executive Officer

To Present Residents in Action, Inc., Jackson, Michigan

Directed all aspects of Non-Profit management, operations, fundraising and strategic development leadership.

From 10/23 Independent Business Owner and Contractor

To Present Transcending Minds Consulting, LLC, Jackson, Michigan

Led and coordinated all operational duties of a business with independent contracts with the State of Michigan and Human Services Coordinating Alliance. Specializing in diversity, equity, inclusion and anti-racism concepts and training in addition to community organizing, resident led strategies, process and performance improvement, facilitation, conceptual frames work such as Human Centered Design and empathic interviewing.

From 09/17 Youth Net Data Coordinator/Collaborative Community Coordinator

To 10/23 Henry Ford Allegiance Health/Jackson Collaborative Network, Jackson, Michigan

Provided leadership, facilitation and support to community collaboratives focused on addressing root causes of population outcomes through shared measurement, strategy development, collective community action plans, initiatives, cross network projects, partnership development, community engagement, capacity building, data analysis, reporting, grant research and writing, management, and reporting.

From 11/12 Payer Liaison Coordinator

To 09/17 Henry Ford Allegiance Health, Jackson, Michigan

Created and maintained positive working relationships, identified and addressed operational issues, process efficiencies associated with adherence to contractual obligations and performance opportunities, provided expertise and facilitation on resolution of complex issues and annual revenue enhancement targets, partnered with Case Management to monitor appeal and pursue recovery of underpayments in accordance with contractual obligations, network management Physicians Choice Network (PCN) including coordination of provider contracts, fee schedule management, provider data base maintenance, monitoring administrative activity associated with incentive payment requirements for payer reporting and Policy/Procedure development in accordance with payer accreditation delegation requirements, point person to resolve external inquiries received from providers, former members, governmental agencies, and attorneys, departmental and organizational process improvement with a special concentration on maximizing organizational revenue.

From 10/07 Senior Provider Account Representative/ Provider Account Representative (1 promotion)

To 11/12 Priority Health, Jackson, Michigan

Key account liaison and worked directly with physicians, ancillaries, facilities, physician organizations, hospital systems and applicable staff to partner with and establish /develop relationships, train on operational processes, online provider tools, and provider incentive opportunities. Facilitated escalated issues related to billing and service, coordinated root cause analysis to provide recommendations for internal and external processes and participated in evaluation and targeted education on Triple Aim approaches (cost, experience, and quality), Accountable Cost Variance efforts (quality, efficiency, and utilization), Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) programs and strategic network engagement and management policy. Routinely represented the company by attending county business chamber and other community activities to promote Priority Health business and participated on special projects and workgroups to enhance community health improvement initiatives.

From 10/98 Senior Customer Service Specialist/ Claims Specialist/Claims Team Lead (3 promotions)

To 10/07 Physicians Health Plan of South Michigan/Allegiance Health, Jackson, Michigan

Served in several capacities; was promoted 4 times within 10 years. Started as a frontline Customer Service Representative and transferred to the Network Provider Service department. Served as a resource to all departments (i.e., Sales, Customer Service, Care Coordination, etc.) Acted as the liaison for escalated claims and systematic issues, reviewed and approved reimbursement policies, clarified the intent of benefit packages, developed, and maintained policies and procedures, created scripts and training for staff and managed claims staff as it is related to human resource needs and prioritization of assigned tasks.

From 12/03 Adjunct Instructor

To 10/06 Jackson Community College, Jackson, Michigan

Mentor and an Instructor for the Medical Records and Advanced Medical Billing classes at the community college, Interacted, coached and trained a diverse population of students utilizing and applying various adult learning principles as applicable, Stayed current on industry standard concepts, rules and regulations and developed and modified the curriculum, syllabus, tools and associated materials to assist students with basic and advanced concepts of medical coding and billing, Provided real life scenarios, so that the class offered a challenging curriculum and a dynamic and interactive atmosphere.



A Jackson native and the founder of Partial to Girls (PTG) whose mission is women taking action. Salena was one of the first on the scene in Jackson to operationalize a safe community basic needs distribution process with the onset of the pandemic last year. She has received local and national accolades including being featured as a COVID-19 hero on The Kelly and Ryan Show. Salena has experienced multiple failed systems in Jackson throughout her life. Specifically, the lack of community response to issues she personally experienced as a young girl is one of the driving forces for her work. She wants to influence and change systems to be more equitable and deter others from following her troubled path. Salena joined Residents in Action as a concerned citizen to learn about COVID last year. She quickly identified that Residents in Action not only aligned with her personal goals and PTG's mission, it served as a central hub of support to help promote, operationalize, resource and finance the work overall.



Salena Taylor
Founder/Exec Director
Partial to Girls

Salena Taylor
705 Sixth St, Jackson, MI 49203
(517) 962-3073, salenataylor67@gmail.com

CAREER OBJECTIVE:

To obtain a position in an environment that will provide stability, allow me to excel and develop my skills as a professional and carry out my commitment to enhance the standards of the organization. I have demonstrated competencies in communication, community engagement and organizing. The ideal environment is one that will be challenging, mentoring and will push me to maximize my potential.

EDUCATION:

From: 2018 Jackson Community College, Associate of Arts
To: Present Jackson, MI

From: 2005 Talent Investment Agency State of Michigan, High School Equivalency
To: 2009 Lansing, MI

EXPERIENCE:

From: Jan 2013 D&M Taxi
To: July 2018 Jackson, MI

Greeted clients and drove a taxi cab to transport passengers for a fee. Picked up passengers in response to radio or telephone relayed requests for service. Collected fees recorded on taximeter based on mileage or time factor. Recorded transactions on logs. I also developed relationships with a diverse set of people who frequently utilized the taxicab service.

From: Dec 2012 Goodwill Industries
To: Dec 2013 Jackson, MI

Served as front line customer service assisting clients as they shopped. Maintained a clean environment. Stocked, organized and priced merchandise. Scanned items for purchase transactions and collected payment as clients cashed out.

From: April 2009 Independent Hair Dresser
To: Dec 2012 Jackson, MI

Coordinated the appointment calendar schedule. Performed general administrative skills. Cleaned equipment and stocked hair supplies. Provided services such as washing, conditioning, straightening, braiding and styling hair. Offered advice on routine hair care.

SPECIAL TRAITS:

Organized, Team Player, Customer Service, Trustworthy, Hard Worker, Willing to learn quickly and efficiently, Personable, Responsible

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

Partial to Girls – Women in Action, President
Jackson Citizens Advisory Council, Vice Chair
Racing4Equity, Member

REFERENCES:

Justin Counts (517) 740-5395	Housing Advocate, Community Action Agency
Tashia Carter (517) 745-9459	Collaborative Community Coordinator, Allegiance Health
LaTasha Estes (517) 748-0883	Home Health Aid, Helping Hands Home Management
Daveda Quinn (989) 493-2470	Trusted Advisor, Great Start Collaborative Jackson County

Margaret Diane Washington
President/Founder YPOPEXPLORERS, Young People of Purpose
P.O. Box 1206 Jackson, MI 49203
Cell: 517-474-0724 - Email: dwashlady1@yahoo.com



**Diane Washington, Founder/Exec Director of YPOP EXPLORERS,
Young People of Purpose (YPOP)**

Diane is a Jackson native, community leader, business-woman and entrepreneur, a recipient of the business woman of the year award. She has worked with Jackson Public Schools, Housing and the City with community programming for over 30 years. She provides summer and afterschool program, camps, and mentorships that empowers youth to succeed using the A,B,C,'S of success, Art, Business, Culture and Service. She is an author, painter and certified ceramicist; she is a visionary and uses her book "Annie's Amazing Art Venture" as a tool and model to educate youth and community with curriculum that systematically promotes advances in exploration and knowledge. She has a marketing degree from Jackson College. She is passionate about her community and committed to building the village and making a difference through community service, (a recipient of the NAACP community service award). As a Master Gardener and leader in neighborhood revitalization, she created the YPOP VILLAGE Educational and Community Gardens and Markets to promote community access to fresh food and produce. She promotes intergenerational programming with youth and seniors and helps adults and the elderly with essential needs and food. She provides places and spaces for environmental and economic growth, and educational endeavors in science and agriculture. She is a connector with many community organizations creating bonds and pathways for success through collaborations and community engagement. She is a former member of many boards, and now holds a seat on the board of the City of Jackson MLK Corridor Improvement Authority, Quest South East Lyons Club and District committee, on the board of Michigan Neighborhood Association, a member of Residents In Action (RIA), a community group that provides leadership in resident led work and leadership in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. She is married to Rev. Starlon Washington and they have 6 children.

MJ

MYESHIA JONES

myeshiajones1991@yahoo.com | 1-517-962-6778 | Jackson , MI 49201

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Relationship focused leader seeking a growth-oriented position where communication, authentic engagement, and expertise in all areas of leadership will be valuable. Highly polished and driven individual with advanced understanding of diversity, inclusion and equity, program development and implementation, and networking and collaboration.

SKILLS

- Program Development Management Over 12 years of
- Diversity, Inclusion, and expertise Curriculum Design
- Community Engagement Vibrant
- Networking
- Development
- Authentic Engagement Training &
- Strong Community
- Development
- Goal-oriented Cultural Awareness/
- Time management skills
- and Interpersonal skills
- service
- Equity experience
- Attitude
- Expertise Organizational
- Implementation
- Involvement Strategy
- Competence

WORK HISTORY

Black Food Sovereignty Learning and Event Director

06/2022 - CURRENT

| Michigan Health Endowment Fund

- Oversaw development and implementation of quality educational programs.
- Represented educational program at meetings and conferences to serve as subject matter liaison for array of services and activities assigned.
- Oversaw event happenings in progress, answered guest questions, acted quickly to resolve problems and trained and supported team members and volunteers.
- Prepared action plans to address concerns discovered through surveys, community observations and conversations with stakeholders.
- Developed partnerships with non-profits, businesses and organizations to build awareness, increase support and share resources. Developed
- and maintained year-round calendar of events, raised brand awareness and drove organic engagement with consumers and partners.

- Established clear objectives and goals for each event, drove execution toward goals and measured and monitored results to track impact.

Health Educator | Jackson County Health
Department - Jackson, MI

03/2015 - 03/2023

- Planned and executed activities to promote communication, leadership, and positive decision making development.
- Taught skills in confidence, public speaking and positive relationship building via both classroom and individual instruction.
- Gave public talks on importance of health education and specific disease prevention and treatment strategies.
- Promoted available resources and connected individuals with services. Developed and led special events that increased community service
- learning knowledge, teamwork and collaboration, and organization and planning abilities.
- Supported individuals with low confidence to help develop communication, social and daily living skills.
- Developed program to work with students and increase interest in higher learning.
- Successfully improved student participation in classroom through integration of creative role-playing exercises.
- Facilitated group sessions and provided one-on-one support.

Resident Root Cause Analysis | Michigan Health
Endowment Fund

06/2021 - 06/2022

- Coordinated and integrated health care resources for community-based programs.
- Implementation of human- centered design approach Organize,
- Collect, and Theme data and stories that are collected during the Human-centered design approach
- Actively listened to community members requests, confirming full understanding before addressing concerns.
- Developed team communications and information for meetings.
- Conducted research, gathered information from multiple sources and presented results.

Director of Community Engagement | Henry Ford
Allegiance Health

04/2020 - 03/2021

- Developed network relationships with industry professionals to enhance community awareness and promote services. Determined
- target demographics and devised strategic marketing initiatives to reach target audiences.
-

-

Create relationships with leaders and stakeholders in new markets that healthcare system desired to grow in.

Focused teams on developing innovative and cutting-edge approaches at all levels with effective resource allocation and strategic planning.

- Assisted with creation of marketing strategy and advertising initiatives used to promote company to community members.
- Led initiatives on Covid 19 community Vaccination Clinics Developed
- impactful and strategic partnerships with community stakeholders. Helped develop organization's Equity mission and vision statements for
- use by all employees and community members. Liaison between organization and elected officials, facilitating
- communications and keeping appropriate parties updated on project developments.
- Created relationships with non-profit organizations and developed volunteer opportunities for organizational leaders to serve on non-profit Community Boards.
- Serve on Diversity and Inclusion committee and educate committee members on Diversity, Inclusion, Equity and System Change. Create
- and develop relationships and partnerships with diverse populations in effort to build trust between healthcare and community.
- Worked with system leaders on equitable initiatives that create better outcomes for patients and community members.
- Create platforms so every employees have opportunities to be engaged with community including volunteer opportunities.
- Created initiatives to contract with diverse vendors.

Success Navigator | American 1 Credit Union

10/2018 - 04/2020

- Develop and maintain directory of community resources to refer employees to as needed
- Respond to requests from employees, Management, or Human Resources to engage with employees in confidential, and professional manner regarding resources needed for successful employment •
Proactively identify resources and training for removing obstacles/barriers to promote employee success. Collaborate with their manager and training to obtain resources or training Refer any
- employees with issues of personal well-being or issues that impact job performance to EAP
- Refer any employee with external challenges in getting to work (i.e.: childcare, transportation etc.) to appropriate community resources
- Connect with employees and encourage them to take action to achieve their employment related goals
-

Assist with designing and presenting group training that promotes individual growth in areas of soft skills, work ethic and professionalism in collaboration with manager

- Set up and conduct new employee touch bases at 6 weeks and 6 months to identify any needed resources or training for successful employment and share feedback as appropriate
- Create collaborative relationship with VP of Branch Operations and Director of Training to communicate and respond to needs for internal resources or training
- Mentor Co-op students through daily touch-bases and guidance in achieving individual and institution goals
- Develop and maintain tracking / reporting processes to monitor usage, resources and referrals provided and outcomes.

Retail Personal Banker | Fifth Third Bank

10/2014 - 10/2018

- Established rapport with new clients to increase satisfaction and loyalty.
- Developed top-performing teams, leading to increased branch efficiency and positive customer feedback.
- Created innovative financial solutions to meet customer needs and provide competitive edge.
- Expanded client base by promoting new financial products.
- Networked to increase client base and encourage existing clients to expand financial portfolios.
- Promoted all financial products by maintaining excellent service offering knowledge.
- Achieved consistent recognition as top sales performer.
- Maximized revenue through improved sales techniques and branch productivity.
- Built client rapport to ensure consistent satisfaction and loyalty.
- Generated status reports, brief books, and IPO pitches.

EDUCATION

Spring Arbor University, Spring Arbor, MI

2019

Master of Arts: Strategic Communication And Leadership

Baker College, Jackson, MI

2017

BBA: Organizational Leadership

-
- **ACCOMPLISHMENTS** Developed Co-Op Mentoring Program
- **NTS** Founder Monday's With My
- 2019 Jackson Magazine 30 And Under Award recipient
- 2018 Community Service Award
- 2017 Today's International Woman
- 2016, 2017, 2018 Top Sales Awards
- 2015 Jackson County RoseQueen
- Co-Chair of Jackson Collaborative Network Council
- Board Member- Partial To Girls
- Founding Member- Residents In Action

CERTIFICATIONS Mental

- Health First Aid Certified
- SafeTalk Certified
- Motivational Interviewing Certificate
- ACE Trauma Trained
- Cultural Conversations
- Diversity, Inclusion, Equity Certified



Daveda Quinn

4415 LEEDS COURT, JACKSON, MI 49201 | |C: (989) 493-2470 DAVEDA20@GMAIL.COM

Professional Summary

Supportive Community Leader with extensive knowledge of community building and active listening. Committed to comprehensive monitoring of residents progress to insure economic stability. Adept at being part of community providing resources to vulnerable populations while staying on top of administrative tasks.

Experience

- Assessed risk and danger to children and families and determined appropriate level of response and intervention.
- Provided comprehensive case management services, including creating treatment plans and connecting clients and families to appropriate resources.
- Identified risk and resiliency factors within individual youth, peer group, family, school, and community and developed strategies for intervention.
- Supported individuals with legal, physical or mental health concerns in dealing with routine needs and complex problems.
- Travel to sites around the community where Jackson Counties hardest to reach community members may be located: food banks, shelters, laundry facilities, and more.
- Provide immediate resources to community members to ensure their basic needs are met including housing, food, and utility assistance.
- Expertise in the field of community relationships and connections to provide services to vulnerable populations.

Skills

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| • Program Development and Management | • Interpersonal skills |
| • Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity Expertise | • Over 40 years of service experience |
| • Community Engagement | • Curriculum Design |
| • Networking Expertise | • Vibrant Attitude |
| | • Organizational Development |

- Authentic Engagement
- Strong Community Involvement
- Goal-oriented
- International Speaker
- Facilitator
- Training & Implementation
- Strategy Development
- Toastmaster
- Mentor
- Cultural Awareness/ Competence

Certifications

- SafeTalk Certified
- Motivational Interviewing
- ACE Trauma Trained
- Cultural Conversations
- ERACCE-Analysis of Systemic Racism
- Diversity, Inclusion, Equity Certified

Work History

Jackson Housing Commission (Case Manager)

June 2021-Present

Communication Specialist (Consultant/Independent Contractor)

Residents in Action/Henry Ford Allegiance/Michigan Health Endowment

February 2021- Present

Trusted Advisor (Consultant/Independent Contractor)

Jackson County ISD

February 2020 to Present

Community Liaison (Consultant/Independent Contractor)

Residents in Action/Henry Ford Allegiance

October 2020 to December 2020

Chemist, IPP Supervisor

City of Jackson, MI

Aug 2009 to Nov 2019

- Carried out the day-to-day functions of the Industrial Pre-Treatment Program
- Monitored discharged
- Test for compliance
- Maintained results
- Created reports
- Maintained Testing Equipment

Environmental Compliance Analyst

March 2000 to Nov 2009

City of Saginaw, MI

- Collected various samples
- Analyzed water and sludge samples

Education

Bachelor's Family Life Education – Spring Arbor University – Spring Arbor, MI

Associates of Science – Delta College – Saginaw, MI

References

Mindy Bradish-Orta

Community Affairs Manager

Mindy.bradishorta@cmsenergy.com

Daniel Mahoney

Mayor, City of Jackson

(517) 94-2706

Mr.mahoney517@gmail.com

Tashia M. Carter

CEO Transending Minds, LLC

Executive Director/Founder Residents in Action

(517) 745-9459

tashiacarter@transcending-minds.com

Kesha R. Hamilton

(517) 392-6631 | KeshaHamilton46@gmail.com

Professional Objective

To apply my education, experience and skills in diversified roles and positions within Social Services, Political Sciences, Administration, DEI and Public & Nonprofit Management.

Education

- Central Michigan University, Global Campus, Political Science, B.S. | December 2021
- Central Michigan University, Global Campus, Public & Non-Profit Administration, B.S. | December 2021
- Jackson College, Jackson, MI, Criminal Justice, A.A.S | August 2018
- University of Phoenix, Online, Accounting | May 2013 – June 2014

Certifications, Certificates

- Racial Healing Circle Practitioner | National Community Action Partnership | May 2023
- Special Education Mediator | SouthEastern Dispute Resolution Services | September 2022
- Diversity & Inclusion Certification | eCornell/Cornell University | August 2022
- MCA Leadership Development Institute | Michigan Community Action | July 2022
- Certified Community Champion | Michigan ACE – Adverse Childhood Experiences | March 2022
- Emerging Leader Award | Jackson Women's History Council | March 2021
- Community Service Award | NAACP | October 2021
- Aluma, Leading w/Conviction | JLUSA | October 2021
- Leading for Equity & Justice | Eastern Michigan University | June 2021
- Certified Trainer | Bridges Out of Poverty | June 2021
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in the Workplace | USF Office of Corporate Training & Professional Development | April 2021
- Mediator, SouthEastern Dispute Resolutions Services | January 2020
- Emerging Leaders, JLUSA | July 2019
- Stewards of Children Trained | Darkness to Light, CAA Jackson | June 2019
- Workforce Trends and Equity | Non-Profit Leadership Alliance | June 2019
- Notary Public, State of Michigan | November 2017
- Phi Theta Kappa, Jackson College | January 2017
- Dean's List, Jackson College | Fall 2016, Winter 2017, Fall 2017, Winter 2018, Spring 2018
- Administrator's Professional Training Course – ACE School of Tomorrow | June 2013

Volunteerism

- Leadership Team | MDHHS Anti-Racism Transformation Team | Jackson, MI | June 2022 - Present
- Board Member, Southeastern Dispute Resolution Services | Jackson, MI | August 2022 - Present
- Racial Equity Commission, City of Jackson | Jackson, MI | January 2021 – Present
- LIVE Show Host | A Meeting of Diverse Minds | August 2020 - Present
- Residents in Action (RiA) | Jackson, MI | March 2020 – Present
- United Way, Community Impact Coordinating Council | Jackson, MI | March 2019- Present
- Income Tax Board of Review, City of Jackson | Jackson, MI | January 2019 – December 2021
- Partial to Girls – Women Taking Action | Jackson, MI | December 2018 – Present
- Nation Outside, Jackson Chapter | Jackson, MI | November 2018 – December 2020
- Jackson Citizens Advisory Council (JCAC) | Jackson, MI | July 2018 – March 2020
- Church of God | Jackson, MI & Macon, GA | 1992 - 2016

Professional Experience

Elected Official

JPS Board of Education (January 2021 – Present)

I represent the community's voice in public education, provide governance, knowledge, and analyze data that provides useful information as being the closest policy makers to the student.

Chair

City of Jackson Racial Equity Commission (April 2021 – Present)

As Chair I provide overall direction to the commissions' tasks and duties to deliver and satisfy the purpose of our establishment. We collect and analyze data that provides useful information to identify and enhance racial equity and DEI initiatives.

Consultant & Owner

Diverse Minds Consulting, LLC (April 2021 – Present)

In this role, I provide consultation, coaching, design and facilitate workshops, presentations, develop solutions, and training tools to guide those who seek my services to further racial equity and DEI strategies.

Training Specialist

Community Action Agency (November 2020 – Present)

In this role I am lead for our team in DEI and antiracism training, development, facilitation. I research, develop, analyze data, provide direction and collaborate to further DEI and antiracist strategies.

Candidate for JPS Board of Education

Jackson Public School District (July 2020 – November 2020)

In this role I partnered with my community to understand their needs in relation to the educational system, secured partnerships with local businesses and owners, established a platform, walked doors, appeared in public, online and promised what I could realistically accomplish with their partnership, support and votes.

Operations Administrative Assistant

United Way of Jackson County (March 2020 – November 2020)

In this role I provided technical assistance to the operations admin director and other employees and volunteers of UWJC, I compiled and maintained a directory of partners, volunteers and donators to expand UWJC's presence.

Loan Funding & Quality Officer (Indirect Lending)

CP Federal Credit Union (January 2019 – March 2020)

Among the duties of this role a primary responsibility was the high level of confidentiality, the collecting and analyzing of data, and the attention to detail required.

Co-Chair

Racing 4 Equity (December 2018 – Present)

As a founding member of Racing 4 Equity and Chair of this group since shortly after its inception I've led the overall direction of our mission to commit to continuous learning, having hard conversations and leading the work in Jackson to become a racially equitable city – we're most popular for our Community Reads.

Administrative Specialist

CP Federal Credit Union (October 2017 – December 2018)

Bank Teller

CP Federal Credit Union (February 2017-October 2017)

Jackson, MI

Prosecutors Administrative Assistant - Internship

Jackson County Prosecutor's Office, Jackson, MI (January 2018 – April 2018)

Client Consultant

Lisa's Imagination Station Academy, Jackson, MI (July 2015-February 2017)

Educational Administrator

Champ Christian Academy, Jackson, MI | Macon, GA (June 2008-January 2016)

School of Tomorrow Accelerated Christian Education (ACE)

Youth Program Director & Administrator

Church of God, Macon, GA (January 2012 – September 2015)

Social Media Presence

LinkedIn Kesha Hamilton

Website www.diversemindconsulting.com

References**Zoe Lyons, Director**

Lyonsz2@michigan.gov

Jackson County Office of the
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
517-780-7171

Tashia Carter, MAOM, BBL

Residents in Action, Executive Director/Co-Founder
Transcending Minds Consulting, LLC, CEO/Owner

Tcarter.riaservices@gmail.com

Tashiacarter@transcendingminds.com

517-745-9459

Joni Lynn Orendello

Attorney, Mediator, Facilitator & Trainer
Executive Director/Co-Founder

Joni@nextstepslawfirm.com

517-392-8203

Marcus Gill, DEI Officer

Jackson County Intermediate School District

Marcus.gill@jcisd.org

O - 517-768-5279

C – 517-395-3209

Letters of Support

Community Action Agency
Diverse Minds Consulting, LLC
Family Lifestyle Solutions, LLC
Family Services and Children's Aid
Henry Ford Health Jackson (Population Health/Jackson Health Network
Jackson Branch - NAACP
Jackson Collaborative Network
Jackson Community Foundation
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services - Jackson County
Mondays with My
Nonprofit Network
Rev Michael Young
Partial to Girls
Racing4Equity
Residents in Action, Inc
Segue, Inc
United Way of South Central Michigan
Young People of Purpose



Community Action Agency

PROMOTING SELF-SUFFICIENCY

February 14, 2024

JACKSON

1214 Greenwood Ave
Jackson, MI 49203
(517) 784-4800
(800) 491-0004
Fax: (517) 784-5188
www.caajlh.org

BARHAM CENTER

711 S. Mechanic Street
Jackson, MI 49203
(517) 513-8779

LENAWEE

400 W. South Street
Adrian, MI 49221
(517) 263-7861
(800) 438-1845
Fax: (517) 263-6531
www.caajlh.org

HILLSDALE

55 Barnard Street
Hillsdale, MI 49242
(517) 437-3346
(800) 750-9300
Fax: (517) 437-3480
www.caajlh.org

TDD/ TYY/ TRS: Call 711



City of Jackson/City Council
161 W Michigan Ave
Jackson, MI 49201

City Council Members,

Please accept this letter of support for the City of Jackson TA Wilson School Building Acquisition and Use Request for Proposal submission from Residents in Action Inc. (RIa). The Community Action Agency (CAA) strongly supports Residents in Action (RIA), an innovative and highly effective, Black-led organization, in its commitment to address social determinants of health and to improve the health and well-being of residents in Jackson. As a trusted resource with deep community connections, RIA bridges the gaps between the residents and professional leadership in Jackson and also challenges the professional community to do things differently and more equitably in its quest to promote systems change with interventions that require residents to build capacity and lead their own change.

Since 1965, CAA has been dedicated to addressing the causes and conditions of poverty and other social determinants of health in Jackson, Lenawee and Hillsdale counties. We aim to provide an equitable and inclusive local approach to support families and communities in reaching their full potential and our commitment to being an anti-racist, trauma informed organization guides our work. Since we began our work with RIA during the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have witnessed what a professional/resident partnership can achieve to address the racial and economic inequities of vulnerable residents in our communities. We are pleased to have another opportunity to support individuals and families address their needs with knowledge, skills, and resources to improve their quality of life. Furthermore, the activities of this project would greatly support our endeavors as the Homeless Access Resource Agency and housing concerns as it relates to social determinants.

RIA's focus on community-driven efforts aligns with CAA's central tenant to foster agency. Supporting *RIA's proposal* allows CAA to support resident-led efforts to build collective power and create systemic approaches that strengthen the community's ability to progress and improve outcomes especially in our low-income neighborhoods, the Black community and with other disparate populations.

For the past three years, CAA has been proud to support RIA in its many efforts and successes in addressing community the needs for those who have historically experienced inequity. We believe that RIA has the ability, commitment, and passion to make real change in Jackson.

Thank you for your consideration of RIA's proposal.

Sincerely,

Toby L Berry
Chief Executive Officer

Community Action Agency is an equal opportunity provider.



Diverse Minds Consulting

February 15, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to support of the proposal submitted by Residents in Action, Inc. for the City of Jackson's TA Wilson School Building Request for Proposals.

Diverse Minds Consulting prioritizes racial justice, diversity, inclusion and equity as we continue to strengthen our Jackson Community. Knowing that these fundamental components are what we need to prioritize in all of our work to insure that we are providing real solutions to the issues we face in this community. As I have collaborated and supported Residents In Action I can say with confidence that their priorities and fundamental believes is what we need in this community as we move to creating real change and positive impact to the residents who need it most in Jackson.

By saying yes to the proposal of Residents In Action you are saying yes to an organization who has proven itself to be a real powerhouse when it comes to providing sustainable and impactful programing in Jackson. This organization prioritizes collaboration and understands that if we are going to make real change we need to work together as a community.

With Positive Intent,

Kesha Hamilton

Diverse Minds Consulting LLC



February 13, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure as Owner/President of Family Lifestyle Solutions to offer the opportunity of writing this letter of commitment for the proposal submitted by Residents in Action, Inc. for the City of Jackson's TA Wilson School Building Request for Proposal.

Family Lifestyle Solutions, LLC works in partnership with Residents in Action (RIA) daily to advocate and lead change in the Jackson community. Together we have forged an alliance to combat poverty, generational gaps, covid, food insecurities, health disparities, and homelessness. This project would allow us to continue the work we do daily and to address the social determinates of health within our community.

Family Lifestyle Solutions was formed in 2018 after I retired as a Chemist for 32 years. It was my heart's desire to be able to give back to my community. As a multi-faceted woman, entrepreneur, and community organizer I began to counsel individuals and businesses' while connecting them with essential resources for success. I am a global leader, author, consultant for nonprofits, Notary, fiduciary, a STEM leader, grant writer, ACE's Trainer, Case Manager, Mentor for LaunchX Summer Program for High School Entrepreneurs, Trusted Advisor, and a Community Connector. I have had the opportunity to contract with local businesses to teach and train their employees on leadership skills and diversity, equity and inclusion. In my day-to-day job I am the community resource manager, the boots on the ground person that ensure babies get formula, seniors get medication, anyone that need food is fed, homeless individuals are housed and so many other essential day-to-day things that my community need.

With the combined collaboration with RIA and various other community organizations we have been able to accomplish so much great work and I am looking forward to continuing the work through this grant. Your consideration is greatly appreciated for giving this opportunity to Residents in Action.

Sincerely,

Daveda Quinn, Owner/President Family Lifestyle Solutions, LLC

156 W. Michigan Ave. Ste 30 Jackson, MI 49201

(517)748-8742

Email: daveda@familylifestylesolutions.com

Website: www.familylifestylesolutions.com



FAMILY SERVICE & CHILDREN'S AID

February 15, 2024

City of Jackson - City Council
161 W Michigan Ave Jackson, Michigan 4920

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Family Service and Children's Aid (FSCA), I am pleased to partner with Residents in Action, Inc. (RiA) to continue their resident led work model. We support RiA's goal to obtain and use the TA Wilson School. The support from the professional network, non-profits and the resident-led partnerships created in RiA's current and previous work in the community with homelessness as well as the other projects and initiatives launched to address the emerging needs in Jackson have made and continue to create significant positive change within our community.

FSCA is a private, fully accredited, non-profit agency founded in Jackson, Michigan in 1944 to service the emotional needs of the citizens of Jackson County. The mission of the agency is Building Strong Families. Building Strong Communities. Our mission, in action, is to strengthen the emotional health and functioning of children, adults, and families through counseling, education, adoption, foster care, advocacy, and program development.

Given our mission, FSCA believes that intentional support of grass-root-organizations and initiatives is critical for the Jackson community overall. RiA's proposal will provide foundational support for this Black led organization to continue its momentum to address the root causes and effects of social determinants and positively impact the quality of life for residents in general. In addition, FSCA provides services to at-risk vulnerable adults through our programs (i.e. Guardian Program). Reaching our Black and Brown community has always been a challenge and RiA's conceptual model has the potential to reach the hardest to reach populations like the homeless and disenfranchised.

We believe that RiA has deep connections with the Black community and with disparate populations as well as the passion, commitment, and capacity to positively impact the health and well-being of residents long term. Having the TA Wilson School will allow RiA to build an asset, formalize infrastructure in their own space and to secure other resources and funding to help them further solidify their efforts.

Strong Families Build Strong Communities

330 W. Michigan Ave.
P.O. Box 6128 (49204)
Jackson, MI 49201

T: (517) 787-7920
F: (517) 787-2440
www.strong-families.org



Over the past four years, FSCA has been a strong supporter of RIA and serving as fiduciary for multiple projects, we have witnessed RIA's many successful initiatives addressing the needs of the Jackson community. We sincerely hope that you will consider supporting RIA's proposal. We believe that RIA, with its deep connection and commitment to progressing the community and addressing emerging needs, is uniquely positioned to make lasting positive change in Jackson.

If I may be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me through my email at bpowell@strong-families.org or by phone at 517-787-7920. Thank you for consideration of this vital funding request.

Respectfully,


Dr Robert Powell, PhD, LPC
Chief Executive Officer

Dc`ps_pw /1*0.02

Agrw md H_aiqml + Agrw Amslagj
/4/ U Kgafge_l H_aiqml* KG 270./

On behalf of Population Health at Henry Ford Jackson Hospital, it is my pleasure to offer this letter of support for Resident in Action (RIA)'s proposal for the Agrw md H_aiqml R? U gjqml Qafmmj @sgjbg le ?aosgggrgm l pcoscqr dmp npmnmq_j,

Henry Ford Jackson Hospital
205 N East Ave
Jackson, MI 49201
517.205.4800

Henry Ford Jackson strongly supports the strategic interventions of this resident-led initiative. The work of RIA greatly enhances our many endeavors to improve the health and well-being of residents in Jackson, and we are especially supportive of the proposal's focus on addressing the root causes and effects of social determinants of health.

The resident led approach applies new thinking and new approaches to create lasting systems change. We believe that RIA has the deep connections with the community, as well as the commitment and capacity to make positive impact. N_prgasj_pjw* this proposal m qcasp _ `pgai _lb k mpr_p ugjj create the foundation for many more resident led opportunities to impact quality of life for residents of color gn our community by supporting operations, infrastructure and backbone support for t fc dsrspc cddmprq md rfgq @-lack-led group.

Henry Ford Jackson understands how important it is to have strong community collaborations. We recognize that social determinants of health must be addressed in partnership with Jackson residents. Henry Ford Jackson has been working with RIA since early 2020; for example, leveraging our procurement process to ensure babies have had access to formula since the onset of the pandemic. It is imperative that health systems support resident efforts to lead system change and we have great confidence in RIA, which has demonstrated its capacity to quickly achieve its aims.

We sincerely hope that you will consider supporting this proposal so that RIA can further its resident-led work, which has been so effective in improving outcomes in Jackson.

Sincerely,



Medical Director, Population Health/Jackson Health Network
Aschult5@hfhs.org

February 16, 2024



City of Jackson – City Council
161 W Michigan
Jackson, MI 49201

To Whom It May Concern:

We are honored to have the opportunity to offer this letter of support for the City of Jackson's TA Wilson School Building Acquisition and Use Request for Proposal response submitted by Residents in Action, Inc.

The Jackson Community Foundation has supported Residents in Action (RiA), an effective grassroots, Black-led organization, with grants over the last few years to help build their capacity. They have an unwavering commitment to addressing emerging needs in Jackson with community driven strategies to improve the health and well-being of Jackson residents. As a trusted resource with deep community connections, RIA bridges the gaps between the residents and professional leadership in Jackson and also challenges the professional community to do things differently and more equitably in its quest to promote systems change with interventions that require residents to build skill, capacity and lead their own change.

The Jackson Community foundation is a philanthropic organization that connects local people who about the community care and can invest their time and dollars with the local people who are working in the community directly with the people in most need.

As the President & CEO of the Foundation, I have been impressed with RiA's initiatives and positive impact in and for the community. Approval of RiA's proposal response to the City of Jackson's TA School Building Acquisition and Use request for proposal would provide an asset to potentially launch a capital campaign project, would provide a foundation to pursue additional funding for operational and programmatic support and would allow RIA and its membership to continue serving the community. RiA addresses structural and environment issues that perpetuate the issues and residents lead the efforts to place Jackson on a better trajectory to improve outcomes as well as set a solid foundation to further sustain community driven efforts longer term.

We sincerely hope that you will consider approving RiA's proposal. We believe that RiA, with its deep connection and commitment to the community and addressing emerging needs, is uniquely positioned to make lasting positive change in Jackson.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monica Moser".

Monica Moser
President & CEO

100 S. Jackson Street, Suite 200, Jackson, MI 49201



(517) 787-1321



jcf@jacksoncf.org



www.jacksoncf.org



100 East Michigan Ave, Jackson, MI 49201

February 13, 2024

City of Jackson - City Council
161 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49201

City Council Members,

On behalf of the Jackson Collaborative Network, it is my pleasure to provide this letter of support for the *City of Jackson's TA Wilson School Building Acquisition* proposal, which has been submitted by Residents in Action (RIA) for your consideration.

The Jackson Collaborative Network exists to advance local collaboration and collective impact to help make Jackson County a safe, healthy, and thriving community. We are committed to working together to identify and address root causes of issues that are contributing to inequitable outcomes for residents. For many decades, community data have shown that existing services systems are not meeting the needs of all residents. Continued disinvestment in the Black community has contributed to persistent inequities that require new and different solutions.

Throughout the past four years, Residents in Action has proven time and again their ability to work directly with residents that have been marginalized by existing systems - meeting them where they are with dignity and respect. The results they have achieved in the past several months on the temporary shelter project alone demonstrate the impact they are capable of making when they are provided with the resources needed to support the work. We applaud the City Council's partnership with RIA throughout the past two years to help address the persistent homeless situation in our community.

We urge you to continue to partner with Residents in Action by supporting their proposal to acquire the TA Wilson School. This would help them have the infrastructure necessary to continue to grow their resident-led efforts to continue tackling some of our community's toughest issues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Sheri Butters". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sheri Butters, Manager
Sbutter2@hfhs.org
517.205.6772



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
JACKSON COUNTY

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

February 13, 2024

City of Jackson – City Council
161 W Michigan
Jackson, MI 49201

To Whom It May Concern:

We are glad to have the opportunity to offer this letter of support for the City of Jackson's TA Wilson School Building Acquisition Request for Proposal response submitted by Residents in Action, Inc.

The Jackson office of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) strongly supports Residents in Action (RIA), a powerful grassroots, Black-led organization, in its commitment to addressing emerging needs and social determinants of health with community driven strategies to improve the health and well-being of Jackson residents. As a trusted resource with deep community connections, RIA bridges the gaps between the residents and professional leadership in Jackson. RIA also challenges the professional community to do things differently and more equitably in its quest to promote systems change with interventions that require residents to build capacity and lead their own change.

Here at MDHHS, we work each day with individuals and families in crisis. Often that crisis is related to food insecurity and other social determinants that negatively impact physical and mental health as well as the quality of life. The effects can be devastating on the family as a whole and each person as individuals. RIA has partnered with MDHHS to identify and address issues by connecting those who are struggling to State and local resources in addition to sharing examples for process improvement.

MDHHS has a special focus with our diversity, equity, inclusion and antiracism efforts. We are particularly cognizant of how our work affects populations who have historically experienced inequity and the hardest to reach populations, like Black families, disconnected youth, the Senior population and those who are living in poverty as that increases the probability and the effects of social determinants. The activities that RIA proposes in this initiative would greatly support our MDHHS endeavors and will ensure that there is community input in our quest for systems change in addition to promoting awareness, providing resources to address needs and funding for the navigational support that is critically essential to improve the quality of life of Jackson residents for short and long term.

Approval of RIA's submission to the City of Jackson's TA School Building Acquisition request for proposal would provide an asset to potentially launch a capital campaign project and provide a foundation for them to pursue additional funding for operational and programmatic support. This would allow RIA and its membership to continue to address the structural and environmental

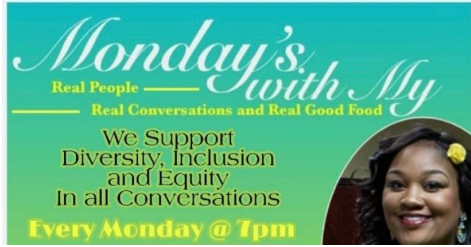
matters that perpetuate the issues with residents leading the efforts to place Jackson on a better trajectory to improve grim statistics and set a solid foundation to further sustain community driven efforts longer term.

Over the past four years, MDHHS has been a strong supporter of RIA in its many successful initiatives addressing the needs of the Jackson community. We sincerely hope that you will consider supporting RIA's proposal. We believe that RIA, with its deep connection and commitment to progressing the community and addressing emerging needs, is uniquely positioned to make lasting positive change in Jackson.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zoe Lyons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Zoe" and last name "Lyons" clearly distinguishable.

Zoe Lyons, Director
Jackson County MDHHS



February 13, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter as the founder of Monday's With My, a community educational and awareness platform, for support of the proposal submitted by Residents in Action, Inc. for the City of Jackson's TA Wilson School Building Request for Proposal.

Monday's With My works in partnership with Residents in Action (RIA) to advocate and lead change in the Jackson community. We understand the importance of prioritizing resident led work, ideas, and solutions. This partnership allows us to connect with the most vulnerable populations in a way that is inclusive, engaging and safe. This project would allow us to continue to keep members of our community informed and engaged as we address the social determinates of health within our community.

With the combined collaboration with RIA and various other community organizations we have been able to successfully demonstrate our ability to organize, mobilize, and make a positive impact in our communities through the many projects we have completed. I am looking forward to continuing the work through this grant. Your consideration is greatly appreciated for giving this opportunity to Residents in Action.

Sincerely,

Myeshia Jones, Owner/Founder of Monday's With My

Myeshiajones1991@yhao.com

517-962-6778



**JACKSON COUNTY BRANCH
NAACP**

801 S. Mechanic Street
P.O. Box 4074
Jackson, MI 49204

T 517-784-3842
President@naacpjackson.org

www.naacpjackson.org

02/13/2024

City of Jackson
City Council
161 W Michigan
Jackson, MI 49201

On behalf of The Jackson County Branch NAACP, it is my pleasure to offer this letter of support for the City of Jackson's TA Wilson School Building Request for Proposal which has been submitted by Residents in Action, Inc (RIA) for your consideration .

In the past we have been especially supportive of the food sovereignty movement as it is beneficial in several ways:

1. **Promotes local food systems:** A food sovereignty movement encourages the production and consumption of locally grown food, which supports small-scale farmers and promotes sustainable agriculture practices. This can help reduce carbon emissions associated with long-distance transportation of food and support local economies.
2. **Protects cultural traditions:** Food sovereignty movements often focus on preserving traditional food systems and cultural practices that have been threatened by globalization and industrial agriculture. This can help maintain cultural diversity and promote a sense of community.
3. **Improves food security:** By promoting access to healthy and affordable food, food sovereignty movements can help improve food security, particularly in marginalized communities. This can help reduce food insecurity and malnutrition.
4. **Empowers communities:** Food sovereignty movements often involve community-led initiatives that encourage participation and decision-making in the food system. This can help build community resilience and promote social and economic justice.

We sincerely hope that you will consider supporting Resident's in Action Inc.'s proposal. Securing a stable brick and mortar home would benefit the community because not only would RiA be able to continue its efforts to address the issues of homelessness, RiA and its partner members will also have a solid foundation to continue the other great work that they are already doing (programming, services and advocacy) for other prioritized areas such as the Black Food Sovereignty project.

Sincerely,

Alicia S. Williams, President
Jackson County Branch NAACP #3142

February 13, 2024

City of Jackson - City Council
161 W Michigan
Jackson, MI 49201

RE: Letter of Support for Residents in Action, Inc.

Thank you for the opportunity to write a letter in support of Residents in Action and their efforts in the community to authentically engage residents, to lead positive change, to bridge connections between residents and the professional community and to promote systems change.

Nonprofit Network has supported development of Residents in Action's leadership with a scholarship to the Nonprofit Network ED Academy and has also supported Residents in Action's efforts through the Black Food Sovereignty Movement in Jackson, County MI to address structural and organizational policy, process and service issues in our local food systems by educating our entire community about the connection between what we eat and our physical, mental and emotional health.

Nonprofit Network is a nonprofit capacity building center serving nonprofits in Michigan. Nonprofits cannot effectively serve communities, solve complex community problems and achieve their missions if they don't address the bias, embedded racism and systems that continue to perpetuate inequities.

Residents In Action - a grassroots, boots on the ground, black-led nonprofit – has the trust and respect of the community. They have relationships with community leaders and are equipped to authentically engage the community to advance prioritized issues.

By securing a brick and mortar facility, collectively and collaboratively, Residents in Action and its partner members will be able to continue their great work in the community which benefits all residents overall. Nonprofit Network fully supports, Residents in Action's proposal submission for the City of Jackson's TA Wilson School Building Acquisition - Request for Proposal.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 517-796-4750.

Sincerely,



Nonprofit Network, Executive Director

02/14/24

Greetings,

I wanted to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for Residents In Action.

I have been a member of the Jackson community for over 20 years. In that time, I have come to appreciate all that Jackson has to offer its residents. One of the challenges for any community is a system and structure that leaves a gap between the needs of every person in the community and the resources to help all people in the community thrive. Too many times we drive on by the poverty that exists in our community. In that instance, in that gap between need and resources, there are wonderful groups of people who make their ministry and step right in that gap with all their spirit, energy and resources. Residents In Action is one such group that I support.

I have witnessed firsthand the impact that Residents In Action, with its steadfast leadership, has had on the people of this community.

When people are facing poverty, they also face the undignified reality of needing to reach out and ask for help. When Residents In Action steps in, they help with everyday resources, such as formula, food, and other necessities, they also help restore the dignity that all too often is taken as a byproduct of living in poverty.

RIA restores the dignity of those who receive what this group offers. The impact is both spiritual as well as the real, day to day, life affirming care through their ministry in our community.

I appreciate this opportunity to express my support for this important community action group. They have built a wonderful and important ministry in this community. One aspect I appreciate about RIA is that they ask nothing of their recipients. They simply ask the question: where is their need in our community? How can we support families in need in Jackson?

It is that simple. Where there is need, you will find Residents In Action.

Thank you for your time and support.

Rev. Michael Young
Myoung4668@gmail.com
517-962-8733

February 12, 2024



To Whom it may concern,

As founder of Partial to Girls (PTG), I am writing this letter of support and commitment, for the *TA Wilson School Building Acquisition and Use* request for proposal submitted by Residents in Action, Inc (RiA). As a local grassroots organization, PTG works closely with Residents in Action (RIA) to improve the lives of residents living in poverty in Jackson with an intentional focus on the Black community, maternal infant supports, and Seniors. We are very supportive of the project's focus on addressing social determinants of health. We hope to build on our efforts to bring awareness and build support and are proud to be selected as partners for this critical work.

Partial to Girls was founded in 2019, with a focus on eliminating childhood poverty. The organization is "women taking action" to change the lives of children in Jackson County. In the three years that we have been working, we have had many successful programs that helped children. People started hearing about us, and with our positive reputation for helping people in the Black neighborhoods, families started reaching out to us. Today, PTG is social network with connections to hundreds of families (i.e. Black, White, Hispanic, Other, etc.) that reach out for support and resources. Since the spring of 2020, PTG has worked with Residents in Action and we serve hundreds of residents each month with our many services; Emergency Supplies & Deliveries to the ill and elderly, Monthly Giveaway, Formula/Baby needs, Women's/Children's Clothing Closet, Crisis Food Support, Covid Resources and Information, Girls Transparency Project, Forget Her/Him Not Birthday recognition, Children's Cultural Books giveaways, and Hair Styling for Children in Need.

PTG has identified an increased volume in emerging needs which has made it important for us to establish good relationships, partner and collaborate with

others who are doing great work in the community. With the assistance of support and partnership with Residents in Action, PTG has continued to serve those who have experienced inequity to include but not limited to the Black community, those living in poverty, other minorities and those who have historically experienced inequity.

PTG is committed to the success of this proposal. PTG is deeply connected in the Jackson community and through our social networks, we can bring residents together due to the trust we have built with residents in need. PTG also posts to social media, puts out fliers, and makes outreach for education campaigns and will share information about what is going on in the community. We will continue to support our partnership with RiA and its resident community-based workforce in this capacity in addition to more consistent and targeted efforts to address the populations in need. More resources and funding in these areas would definitely be beneficial for us to effectively and efficiently meet the emerging needs. PTG will also participate in and necessary evaluation activities (i.e. promote and solicit survey feedback, make direct contacts, communicate identified emerging issues, share recommendations to promote systems change, etc.)

We hope that you will consider supporting RiA's proposal the *City of Jackson's TA Wilson School Building proposal* and resident-led work that positively impacts so many lives.

Sincerely,

Salena Taylor. Founder & Executive Director

Partial to Girls

salenataylor67@gmail.com

517-962-3073



02/13/2024

City of Jackson - City Council
161 W Michigan
Jackson, MI 49201

On behalf of Racing 4 Equity, it is my pleasure to offer this letter of support for the City of Jackson's TA Wilson School Building Acquisition proposal which has been submitted by Residents in Action (RIA) for your funding consideration.

Racing 4 Equity (R4E) was established in November of 2018 with a group of citizens in Jackson who attended Facing Race: Race Forward, the largest multiracial, inter-generational gathering of organizers, educators, creatives and other leaders. After attending and securing tools, knowledge, and inspiration on how to direct their passion they came back and worked to begin moving equity work forward in Jackson. To date Racing 4 Equity is responsible for securing the support and unanimous vote of City Council to create the first in the state, Racial Equity Commission, a Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the Chief Equity Officer position. They're also well known for the popular Community Reads conversations.

Securing the TA Wilson School will provide a stable foundation and an asset to build off of to advance the great work that RiA and its partner members have already done in our community.

Racing 4 Equity connects directly with our community on the issue of systemic racism – and we recognize how historical disinvestment and lack of funding and resources has harmed . Through our popular Community Reads conversations we explore these systemic issues with our community and intentionally connect these issues to history, present day and what we each individually and collectively should do to dismantle the harms created. We issue a call to action and often refer to the work of Residents in Action and how our community can connect with them as they continue their journey to anti-racism.

We sincerely hope that you will consider supporting the proposal that has been submitted by Residents in Action, we recognize the great work they have already done in our community and hope that their work can continue.

Sincerely,

Ebone' Young

Ebone'Young, Chair
Racing 4 Equity

February 15, 2024

City of Jackson - City Council
161 W Michigan Ave
Jackson, MI 49201



On behalf of Residents in Action (RIA), I am writing this letter of commitment in response to the City of Jackson's TA Wilson RFP, as the acquisition and use of the building and space is in alignment with RIA's mission, vision and values as well as priority initiatives outlined on our newly launched website www.residentsinaction.com.

With a focus on equity, actionable learning, and resident engagement, RIA members bridge the gaps between the residents and professional community partners through advocacy, education and collaboration on strategies to address specified concerns in the community, especially amongst those in the Black community and for those who have historically experienced inequity. RIA is also a central hub of support services, coordination, and advocacy that elevates grassroots projects to reach their optimal potential. Since 2020, RIA has worked closely with individual residents, multiple grassroots groups, and small non-profit organizations to improve the lives of Black residents and the hardest to reach populations in Jackson and to promote the concept of residents leading their own change as a cornerstone to resolution of problems and to improve outcomes in a longer term and sustainable way.

RIA looks to continue its work to build awareness, to harness community support and to address the root causes and effects of social determinants of health in the Black and impoverished communities. RiA and its Members and Partners have seen an increasing need of populations who need support. Specifically, with this grant opportunity, RiA will be able to build off of the momentum from the last four years, solidify the backbone infrastructure to support the community with the resident led conceptual model and lessons learned from previous projects that have addressed inequity. Additionally having an asset with space that we own will allow us to

RIA is committed to the success of resident led work and believes that it is the missing link to strategically turn Jackson's grim statistics around. Through the power of the resident-led work that is built upon trusted relationships, we can get results. We will continue to actively influence systems change and to promote an equitable community through implementation of community-driven strategies. We have also started to focus more on sustainable financing to proactively fund solutions for community concerns through intentional networking and by brainstorming new creative and innovative ideas to support our efforts, in addition to exploring fundraising opportunities and pursuing a portfolio of grants from local, State and Federal funders and philanthropic foundations and organizations.

We hope that you will support and approve RiA's proposal for the TA Wilson Acquisition and Use and resident-led work that makes positive change

Sincerely

Tashia M. Carter, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Residents in Action
Tcarter.riaservices@gmail.com 517-745-9459



Administrative Offices
P.O. Box 6159
Jackson, Michigan 49204

Phone: (517) 784-6729
Fax: (517) 784-7546

February 15, 2024

City of Jackson – City Council
161 W Michigan
Jackson, MI 49201

To Whom It May Concern:

We are glad to have the opportunity to offer this letter of support for the City of Jackson's TA Wilson School Building Acquisition and Use Request for Proposal response submitted by Residents in Action, Inc.

Segue, Inc. supports Residents in Action (RiA), an effective grassroots, Black-led organization, in its commitment to addressing emerging needs in Jackson with community driven strategies to improve the health and well-being of Jackson residents. As a trusted resource with deep community connections, RIA bridges the gaps between the residents and professional leadership in Jackson and also challenges the professional community to do things differently and more equitably in its quest to promote systems change with interventions that require residents to build skill, capacity and lead their own change.

Segue, Inc. provides mental health services to residents of Jackson. There are many Social Determinates of Health (SDOH), not the least of which is affordable, safe housing. RiA obtaining this resource substantially contributes to recovery for individuals with serious mental illness. Without a safe place to live individuals must divert their attention from recovery to day-to-day survival. RiA initiatives substantially address this very important area in the lives of persons with serious mental illness.

Segue, Inc. is impressed with RiA's initiatives and positive impact in and for the community. Approval of RIA's proposal response to the City of Jackson's TA School Building Acquisition and Use request for proposal would provide an asset to potentially launch a capital campaign project, would provide a foundation to pursue additional funding for operational and programmatic support and would allow RIA and its membership to continue serving the community. RiA addresses structural and environment issues that perpetuate the issues and residents lead the efforts to place Jackson on a better trajectory to improve outcomes as well as set a solid foundation to further sustain community driven efforts longer term.

We sincerely hope that you will consider supporting RIA's proposal. We believe that RIA, with its deep connection and commitment to the progressing the community and addressing emerging needs, is uniquely positioned to make lasting positive change in Jackson.

Sincerely,



Michael Thompson, CEO
Segue, Inc.

Mission Statement:

Empowering consumers to achieve recovery and independence through respect, progressive treatment and compassion.



United Way of South Central Michigan

Calhoun | Clinton | Eaton
Ingham | Jackson | Kalamazoo

Calhoun County

☎ 269.962.9538

📍 34 W. Jackson St.
Suite 4B
Battle Creek, MI 49017

Clinton | Eaton | Ingham Counties

☎ 517.203.5000

📍 330 Marshall St.
Suite 203
Lansing, MI 48912

Jackson County

☎ 517.784.0511

📍 536 N. Jackson St.
Jackson, MI 49201

Kalamazoo County

☎ 269.343.2524

📍 709 S. Westnedge Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

February 13, 2024

City of Jackson – City Council
161 W Michigan
Jackson, MI 49201

Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you for reviewing this letter of support for the City of Jackson's TA Wilson School Acquisition proposal. The United Way of South Central Michigan (UWSCMI - formerly United Way of Jackson County) supports Residents in Action (RiA), an innovative and highly effective Black-led organization, in its commitment to ride the paradigm shift of people leading their own change, bridging gaps within the professional community and promoting systems change to positively impact Jackson's outcomes.

UWSCMI is deeply committed to equity-based approaches to meet community needs. Over the last four years, we have observed the highly effective work RiA is doing in the community. In 2022, we partnered with them on a project to gather data from the unhoused populations while building relationships and meeting basic needs. Last year, we supported RiA's efforts to address food insecurity with their Black Food Sovereignty project and we have witnessed the progress with its partnership with the City of Jackson to address homelessness through the hotel project and now the TA Wilson emergency shelter. We have been impressed with their work to date. RiA's focus on community-driven efforts aligns with our tenant to foster agency and address poverty in Jackson County.

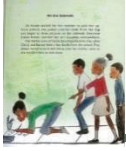
The Jackson City Council is faced with a decision to redress the disinvestment and neglect that has too long impacted the Black community in Jackson as well as intentionally take action to help populations who have historically experienced inequities. RiA securing the TA Wilson School as a brick and mortar home will further support resident-led efforts to build collective power and create systemic approaches that strengthen the Black community and also provide a platform for residents to build capacity, skills and resources to effectuate change in their neighborhoods. As previously mentioned, UWSCMI has been proud to support RiA in its many endeavors and successes in addressing the needs of the Black community and Jackson residents overall. We believe that RiA, with the support of Jackson's City Council and professional systems such as ours, provides the residents buy-in, engagement, and focus that has been absent from other racial equity and neighborhood improvement efforts. We look forward to the positive results caused by resident-led efforts.

Sincerely,

Bethany Stutzman, Senior Director of Community Impact
Jackson Site Lead
United Way of South Central Michigan

UnitedForSCMI.org





YOUNG PEOPLE OF PURPOSE (YPOP)

YPOP EXPLORERS

P. O. Box 1206 Jackson MI 49204

**Board of
Directors**

February 13, 2024

**Founder/
Executive
Director**

Diane
Washington

To: City of Jackson/City Council

Please accept this as a letter of commitment from Young People of Purpose (YPOP).

Chairman

Alex
Curling

Young People of Purpose (YPOP) is wholeheartedly in support of Residents in Action, Inc (RIA).

Vice Chair

Starlon
Washington

Our Jackson community has been impacted by racial injustice and community disinvestment for many years. With this project YPOP will continue to focus efforts on building hope for a better place to live, work and grow. Using our corporate experiences, we can change ordinances, barriers and roadblocks, and allow us to beautify our neighborhood with gardens, buildings and atmospheres that change the future forever.

Secretary

Loretta
Partridge

I see YPOP's contribution to the project as an important element of getting our needs noticed and addressed by Jackson's government and broader community.

V-Treasure

Joyce
Powell

We want to make sure that families in our community have access to fulfill the needs of the community and have the power to change systems and provide for their family's needs. Our goal is to use every resource available to make positive systematic change that cannot be done alone. Thank you for considering this RIA proposal for the City of Jackson TA Wilson Acquisition and Use Request for Proposal.

Members

Desiree
Miller
Robert
Stephens
Fred
Parke Sr.
LaWanna
Brown

Sincerely,

Diane Washington

Diane Washington

Executive Director

YPOP EXPLORERS, Young People of Purpose

Honorary

Members

Lena
Reynolds
Judy
Cubille
In Memory
of
Dorothy
Parker-
White

Empowering Youth to Succeed through the ABC'S of Success, Art, Business, Culture and Service

YPOP EXPLORERS is a 501c3 nonprofit youth organization based on the book

"Annie's Amazing Art Venture" by Diane Washington

517-474-0724 dwashlady1@yahoo.com

E-mail: dosomething@ypopexplorers.org Website: www.youngpeopleofpurpose.org

Other Supporting Documentation

RiA Information Page

RiA General Overview Presentation

RiA Strategic Priorities Criteria

Michigan Coronavirus Task Force (RiA) Kudos Email

Gretchen Whitmer/Duke Study Article

American Hospital Association Article

Who is Residents in Action?

Residents in Action (RIA) is a support network of community influencers focused on improving the lives of Black residents and others who have historically experienced inequity in Jackson County. Through intentional concentration on Black leadership and by promoting and deploying resident led initiatives, RiA works to build resilience, capacity and expands opportunities by leveraging relationships, connections and personal skill sets to progress community identified priorities.

What do RIA Members do?

With focus on equity, actionable learning and resident engagement, RIA members bridge the gaps between the disparate populations and leaders in the community through advocacy, education and collaboration and implement strategies to address specified concerns. In addition to operating as an equitable channel to facilitate, and disseminate relatable educational materials into the community, RiA is also a central hub of wrap around services and supports that elevate grassroots projects.

RIA History

In March 2020 and with the onset of COVID-19, the group mobilized as a collective support group for one another and diligently addressed the Coronavirus pandemic by making concerted efforts to prevent spread through education. Meeting weekly, the forum was used to identify and create educational materials to help people understand COVID-19 (what it is, why it is serious and how to minimize spread). The group also partnered and collaborated with the Jackson COVID-19 Action Network and the Emergency ICS team to meet emerging needs and to serve as an advisory consultant on processes associated with COVID-19 with local organizations, agencies, businesses and non-profits. Several participants such as Partial to Girls and Young People of Purpose actively operationalized safe distribution of food, other basic needs items and/or baby needs.

Dialogue within the group served as a catalyst to generate creative ideas and solutions which resulted in the launch of several project initiatives.

RIA learned from the experiences and recognized the power of the people to leverage trusted relationships in the community to simply get needed work done. As a result, the group has committed to continue this structure indefinitely of supporting one another, holding each other up, to share informational materials and to continue with community driven projects. We have also started to focus on longer term strategies and to explore sustainable financing to proactively address and fund solutions for community concerns.

RIA Mission

To build individual capacity in order to actively influence systems change and to promote an equitable community through advocacy and implementation of actionable community driven strategies led by residents.

RIA Values

- ***Awareness:*** Personal reflection on how to advance our best intentions and collective awareness of the context and conditions that perpetuate inequity and racial injustice
- ***Accountability:*** Personal commitment to come as you are and to utilize your skills and connections to progress work as well as ownership in challenging areas where systems change is needed
- ***Actionable Learning:*** Ability to take action and adjust behaviors based upon lessons learned
- ***Authentic and Equitable Engagement:*** Inclusive and Diverse perspectives solicited
- ***Anti-Racist Activities:*** Intentional and purposeful effort to dismantle systemic racism

RIA Objectives

- Support one another
- Mobilize around current community concerns and initiatives
- Create, Promote and Disseminate Educational Materials
- We are Community Influencers Taking Action in the Community
- Find solutions to finance a community-based workforce to drive change

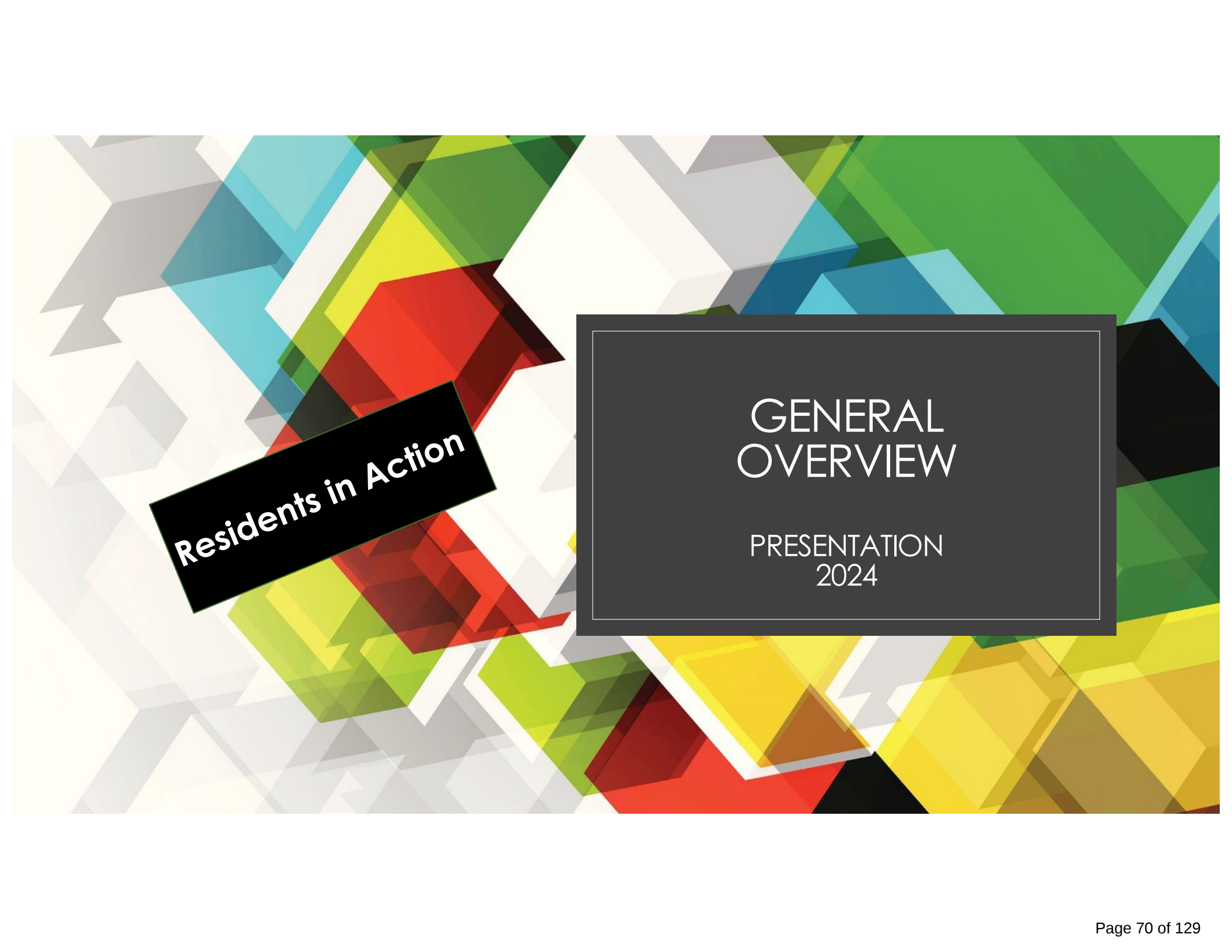
RIA Projects and Successes

During the COVID-19 pandemic

- Learned together what COVID-19 is and why it is serious
- Served in multiple capacities to create, share and disseminate educational materials
- Partnered and Collaborated with JCAN and the Incident Command System wherever we felt it was applicable and supported PTG's Baby Formula Project
- Continued to safeguard our mental health by supporting each other
- Generated a list of Creative ideas on safe activities
- Brainstormed ideas to minimize the spread of COVID-19
- Implemented and Executed the Party Store Project
- Performed Empathic interviews on Testing
- Provided Feedback on CAA's CSBG Plan and City's CDBG Plan
- Launched a sustainability work group to seek out ways to fund activities and initiatives
- Featured in the American Hospital Association newsletter for the collaboration with Partial to Girls and Henry Ford Allegiance Health

Grants

- RiA has secured \$1.5-\$2.0 million dollars since 2020.
- Funds have been directly reinvested into the Jackson community to support the resident led community based workforces, to support, plan and execute grassroots projects, initiatives and strategies and to promote the concept of people leading their own change with funding and resources to be successful
- For more details, please reference the separate attachment to see a full list of projects, funders, fiduciaries and special supporters



Residents in Action

GENERAL OVERVIEW

PRESENTATION
2024

Residents in Action



- **Welcome**
- **Overview - Residents in Action (RiA)**

Who is Residents in Action?

- A support network of community influencers focused on improving the lives of Black residents and others who have historically experienced inequity
- Through intentional concentration on Black leadership and by promoting and deploying resident led initiatives, RiA works to build resilience, capacity and expands opportunities by leveraging relationships, connections and personal skill sets to progress community identified priorities.



RIA Members

What do RiA Members do?

- With focus on equity, actionable learning and resident engagement, RiA members bridge the gaps between the disparate populations and leaders in the community through advocacy, education and collaboration and implement strategies to address specified concerns.
- In addition to operating as an equitable channel to facilitate, and disseminate relatable educational materials into the community, RiA is also a central hub of wrap around services and supports that elevate grassroots projects.

Residents in Action



RiA members serve as:

- **Community Influencers** – Personally committed to implementing strategies to address concerns identified and prioritized by the community
- **Change Agents** – With lived experience willing and able to lead the change that they want to see through a resident community-based workforce model that has demonstrated results
- **System Change Advocates** – Dedicated to challenge mindsets, practices and policies and to disrupt the status quo that perpetuates inequity to make Jackson a more equitable community where people can thrive instead of struggle and remain stagnant in survival mode
- **Capacity Builders** – To arm the hardest to reach populations with knowledge and skills within a community-based workforce that will promote individual and collective agency and courage to stand up as advocates as well as develop a standard expectation of accountability w/individuals & systems

Residents in Action – How we got started.....



Residents
Brainstormed
Ideas



Continue to
Improve
Outcomes

Where we
Are Now

How Do we Get
There

Where we
Want to Be

Leveraged
Skill Sets



Completed
Projects



Continue...

Backbone Support has served as a foundation to plan, strategize and execute backend activity

Residents in Action

- **Our Why?**

- **We LIVE here and We LOVE our community. This IS personal.**
- **The people who need help are people that we live, work and play with; our family, our friends, our neighbors**
- **We are established trusted resources who are boots on the ground everyday and people will open up to us**
- **We can bridge gaps between the residents and the professionals**



Resident-Led Paradigm



- Value of a Resident Workforce Leading as the Trusted Resources
- Value of People Being Served



RIA Backbone Functions

Leadership

Finance

Advocacy

Learning,
Improvement

Data and
Results

Legal Entity Status

- With the help of funding from Jackson Community Foundation, RiA became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit legal entity in July 2023 so we could continue to serve as the central hub to promote Black leadership, residents leading their own change and grassroots activities
- The process validated that RiA is needed to
 - Fill and bridge gaps in the community (esp residents to professional)
 - Organize people, data, funding and process improvement
 - Leverage skill sets of our collective membership to progress goals:
 - improving outcomes,
 - minimizing disparities,
 - creating opportunities,
 - advocating for and networking for populations who have historically experienced inequity

Legal Entity and Capacity

2021

Informal Workgroup →
BB (Ann and Tashia)
worked on legal entity

2022

- JCF RIA BB LEP Project
- MHEF RIA BB CAP Project

2023

- JCF RIA BB LEP Project #2
- MHEF RIA BB CAP Project

Capacity Building

RiA focuses on strengthening and sustaining the effectiveness of its membership for leading change and advancing racial justice

- Building skills as Black leaders
- Building positive relationships with each other
- Building social networks in the Black community
- Balancing power with professional partners
- Maintaining joy in our work
- Managing conflict

Residents in Action - Projects



Residents in Action Projects	Funders	Fiduciaries	Misc Support
Party Store Project	United Way Jackson COVID-19 Fund	N/A	Residents City of Jackson Police Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Baby Formula Supplies	Henry Ford Health Jackson Children's Foundation	Save Our Youth	
Basic Needs Projects	Henry Ford Health Jackson Community Vitality Fund Consumers Power Catholic Social Services Human Services Coordinating Alliance	Save Our Youth	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services United Way Jackson
Rapid Response Initiative Project	State of Michigan Coronavirus Task Force	Save Our Youth	Henry Ford Health Jackson
Voice of Community	Henry Ford Health Jackson Health Improvement Organization	Save Our Youth	
Vaccine Access Project	Henry Ford Health Jackson	Save Our Youth	
Vaccine Communication Campaign	Henry Ford Health Jackson, Community Vitality Fund and United Way Jackson	Community Action Agency	Kamiko Photos
Homelessness Project	Flagstar Bank, City of Jackson	United Way Jackson, Family Services and Children's Aid	
Legal Entity Project	Jackson Community Foundation	Family Services and Children's Aid	
Food Security Project	Michigan Health Endowment Fund	Community Action Agency	
Black Food Sovereignty Project	Michigan Health Endowment Fund	Family Services and Children's Aid	
Covid Project	Henry Ford Health Jackson	Partial to Girls	
Capacity Grant Project	Michigan Health Endowment Fund	Family Services and Children's Aid	



Residents in Action

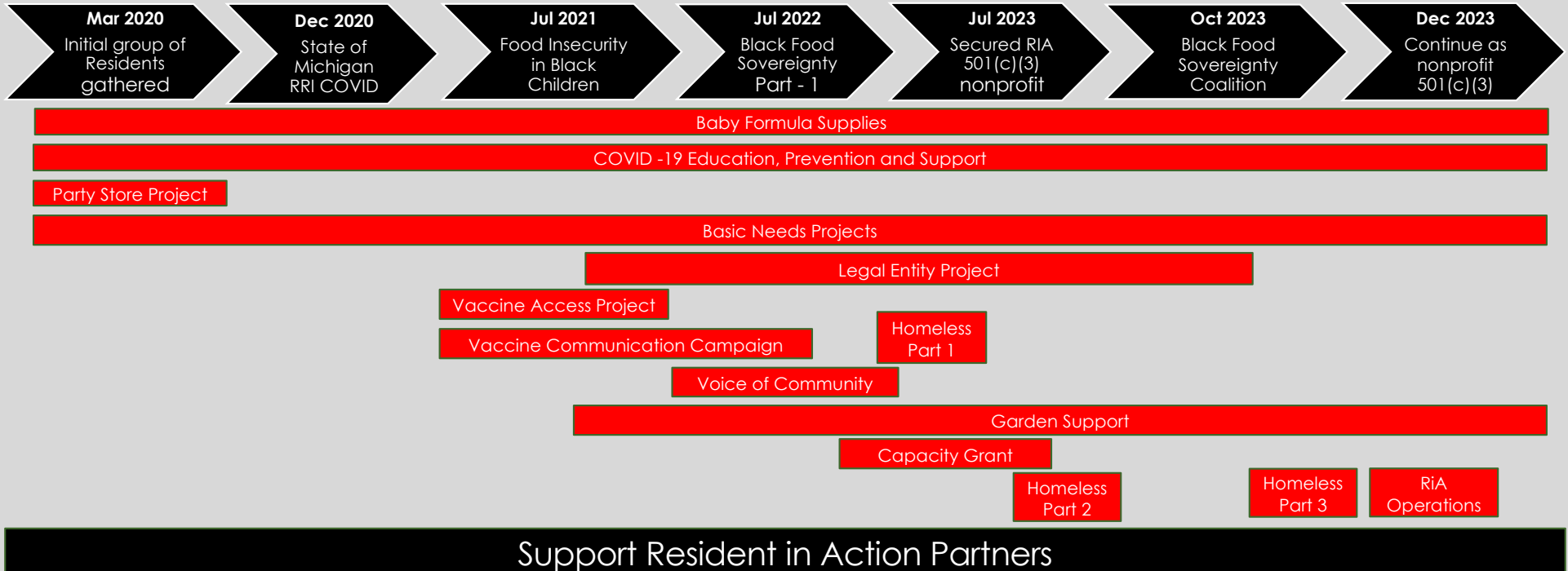
Timeline of Major Project Activities and Milestones Leading to Black Food Sovereignty



Support Resident in Action Partners

Residents in Action

Timeline of Project Activities and Milestones



Residents in Action Getting Results



Project Results: Baby Needs Project & Rapid Response Initiative

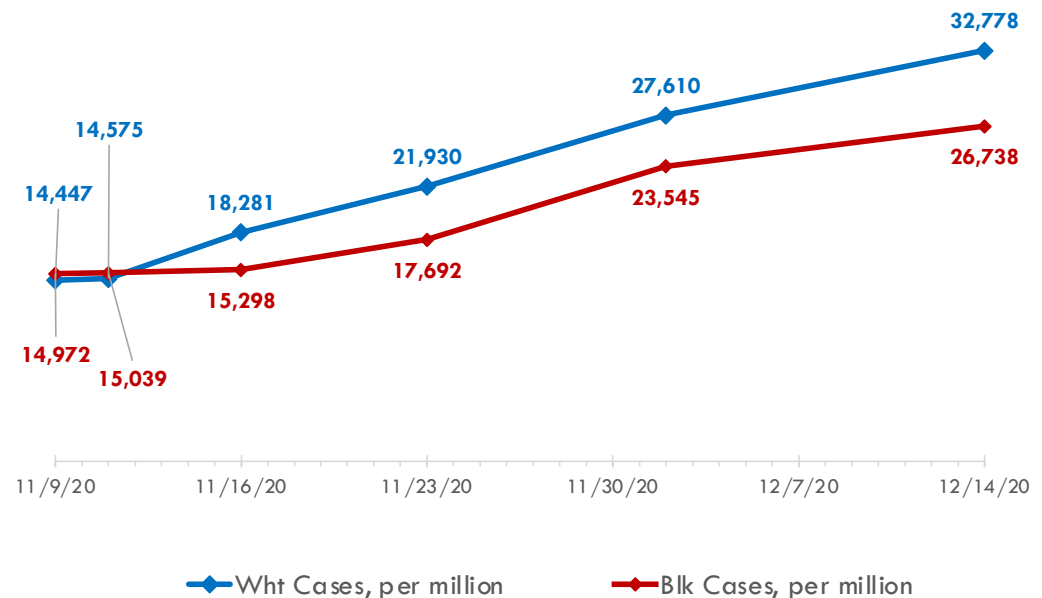
Baby Needs Project

HFAH partnered with Partial 2 Girls (PTG) to ensure no baby went hungry during the pandemic. Through a procurement process, funds went to Partial to Girls who provided food & resources to thousands of families.

Rapid Response Initiative (RRI)

Through HFAH and RiA collaboration, 6,500 Jackson residents received resources to address COVID-19. From Oct 2020 – Dec 2020, there was a reversal in the trend for the rate of COVID-19 among Jackson's Black residents.

COVID-19 CASES, BY RACE
DURING INTERVENTION PERIOD



Data source: https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98163_98173---,00.html

Residents in Action Community Based Evaluation



Through the RRI project, RiA conducted a community-based evaluation; a unique approach where residents co-designed the evaluation, led the work and made meaning of the data. We learned that equitable change needs the following:

- **Resident-Led Change**
- **Financial Resources**
- **Impactful Listeners**
- **Fair/Secure Pay to Resident Workforce**
- **Actionable Data**
- **Transparency and Accountability**



Residents in Action Videos



These are several videos that highlight RiA's work

- **Residents in Action (General) -**
 - <https://youtu.be/UiRdRea8da0?si=htkW7mdyEYl77Vfn>

Accountability to Goals & Commitments



- RiA has committed its focus on equity and addressing/dismantling racism as well as to address the emerging needs of Jackson
- Many Individuals, Organizations, Agencies, Businesses and Non-Profits in Jackson released Public Equity and Social Justice Statements, added DEI and anti-racism committees, modified policies and processes during, after or as a result of the pandemic, etc.
- RiA wants you to be successful in your commitments and we believe that partnering with resident led groups like RiA are critical to that process



Residents in Action

Strategic Areas of focused priority

This list identifies RiA's strategic priorities, what types of grants we look for, what emerging needs warrant our focus and attention to pursue grants, to fundraise and to pursue donations sponsorships:

- **Black Food Sovereignty**
- **COVID-19 education, prevention and support**
- **Family/Youth educational supports**
- **Systems and Mindset change that create opportunities for Black people to THRIVE**
(secure food, housing, basic needs, jobs, positive interactions, social inclusion and support and resources for/to Black leadership, etc.)
- **Maternal and Child Health**
(i.e. infant mortality prevention and life supports)
- **Service line deliveries**
(community assessment, engagement, etc.)
- **Social emotional health including behavioral health and recovery services**
- **Social justice/equity issues**
- **Social networks for broader community support**

Our Questions to You



- How can partnerships with Residents in Action help your organizations/agencies be more accountable in your commitment to improve housing stability, address the root causes of homelessness, poverty, community health in general and to advance equity?

Advocate
for us

Contract
with us

CashApp



Checks can be made to :
Residents in Action Inc
915 Orchard Pl Jackson, MI 49203

Donate to
us

Pay Pal



Partner on
Grants
with us



Residents in Action Highlights

Residents in Action/Partial to Girls unique partnership to purchase and safely distribute baby formula was featured in the American Hospital Association as a bright spot (June 2020)

- Article Link - <https://www.aha.org/system/files/media/file/2020/06/aha-cs-ford-allegiance-0620.pdf>
- American Hospital Association (AHA) Website Link - <https://www.aha.org/center/population-health/community-health-improvement-week>

Misc News Articles

- <https://jtv.tv/salena-taylor-tashia-carter/>

Homeless Project

- RIA/City of Jackson - Homelessness project coverage by local media stations Fox 47 and Channel 6 WLNS
 - <https://www.fox47news.com/neighborhoods/jackson-hillsdale/how-one-jackson-group-partnered-with-the-city-to-help-people-experiencing-homelessness>
 - <https://www.wlns.com/news/local-news/amid-low-temperatures-jackson-hotel-keeps-the-homeless-warm/>
- RIA General Overview coverage
 - <https://www.cityofjackson.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=961&ARC=1870>
 - <https://www.wlns.com/news/jackson-women-team-up-to-help-others-in-need/>
 - <https://www.mlive.com/news/jackson/2023/05/homeless-aid-program-helped-more-than-300-people-in-3-months-jackson-report-states.html>
- RIA/City of Jackson - Homeless Resource Event
 - https://www.fox47news.com/neighborhoods/jackson-hillsdale/the-effort-to-fight-homelessness-continues-in-jackson?fbclid=IwAR19VS6izU0AraQQaodZxXrvHsvqn2jQllsV29rKZpyRq0b_EBrDLK13Ixo&mibextid=Zxz2cZ
 - <https://www.wlns.com/news/michigan/jackson-community-teams-up-to-support-homeless/>
 - <https://www.wilx.com/video/2023/04/06/jackson-organization-directly-connects-homeless-resources/?fbclid=IwAR25KP79E9EF1gr-vKlyr5Dp5Bv8dnxVMcm0hVfqplQ4AMoobZZoWCS7-xo&mibextid=Zxz2cZ#lq75mms2q3z38ax2cir>

Black Food Sovereignty

- Overview - <https://youtu.be/JYv7YqQZQPU>
- Festival at Summerfest - Insert youtube Video link
- Festival at YPOP - insert youtube Video link
 - <https://www.facebook.com/myeshia.jones.31/posts/pfbid035mCqfU8CGGEY8xAHmBLE7e8wvwnj97s8P77oPbB673BLcNxe3PWb4BHE78TFeik5l>

Residents in Action

Individual Member Highlights



- Helped coordinate and plan an **Art Mural project** to highlight local Black leaders to boost morale on the hardest hit side of town
 - <https://www.wilx.com/content/news/A-new-mural-is-appearing-on-the-south-side-of-Jackson-503953711.html>
- Served on planning team for the **Black Lives Matter street painting** and initiation of a **Juneteenth Event Festival series** with local Black entrepreneurs and businesses
- **Served as a Project Lead on a 2020 US Census Music Video Project** with local artist to promote participation in the 2020 US Census
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XwGif1Tk018>
- **Formed Social Justice group** to outline and solicit action for a community-wide common agenda with specific asks to dismantle structural and systemic racism locally.
- **Launched the Black Life Experience Project;** a creative and innovative project to specifically engage people living with inequity and injustice to share local experiences in Jackson. The results will be presented to a cross sector of community service providers. Individuals, local leaders, businesses, non-profits and others from multiple sectors will be challenged to reflect on the personal stories from various levels of perspective and encouraged to make actionable equitable change. The project will use local residents as the content experts and incorporate art, music, poetry, video dramatizations, case studies, a workbook with reflection questions and exercises in a culturally relevant way.

Residents in Action

Member Partial to Girls Highlights



- **Partial to Girls featured on the Kelly and Ryan Show (May 2020)** (
 - [Good Things Going - Partial to Girls](#)
 - [LIVE with Kelly and Ryan](#)
- **JTV**
 - https://jtv.tv/partial-to-girls-provides-community-update/?fbclid=IwAR04hQ7hrE-V44-Fkld-DZQzxVsiZsPO8bctW9NrSaZ6Js_uNcyf-R7a2PE
- **Partial to Girls FB Page**
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/425050824735170/>
- **Residents in Action/Partial to Girls unique partnership** to purchase and safely distribute baby formula featured in the American Hospital Association as a bright spot (June 2020)
 - Article Link - <https://www.aha.org/system/files/media/file/2020/06/aha-cs-ford-allegiance-0620.pdf>
 - American Hospital Association (AHA) Website Link - <https://www.aha.org/center/population-health/community-health-improvement-week>
- **Partial to Girls News Articles**
 - <https://www.wlns.com/news/michigan/jackson-woman-leads-group-to-help-moms-in/>
 - <https://www.wlns.com/news/local-news/jackson-moms-team-up-to-help-during-formula-shortage/>
 - <https://www.wlns.com/news/jackson-mom-creates-diaper-surplus-to-help-families-in-need/>
 - <https://www.wlns.com/6-news-now/hillsdale-girl-overcomes-hair-bullying-with-jackson-community-help/>
 - <https://www.wlns.com/news/jackson-mom-steps-up-to-help-families-in-need/>
 - <https://www.wlns.com/news/jackson-women-team-up-to-help-others-in-need/>
 - <https://www.wlns.com/news/michigan/jackson-groups-work-to-fight-for-mothers-behind-bars/amp/>
 - <https://uwjackson.org/impact-partial-to-girls-serves-female-led-families/>
 - <https://muckrack.com/luke-snyder/articles>
 - <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/jackson-mom-creates-diaper-surplus-to-help-families-in-need/ar-AA173cLb>
 - <https://www.mlive.com/news/jackson/2021/03/she-slipped-through-the-cracks-as-a-teen-now-this-jackson-woman-keeps-that-from-happening-to-others.html>
 - <https://www.wilx.com/content/news/Jackson-woman-donating-baby-supplies-570184141.html>
 - <https://www.wilx.com/content/news/Group-faces-challenges-while-trying-to-pass-out-donated-socks-566101281.html>
 - <https://www.fox47news.com/neighborhoods/jackson-hillsdale/groups-in-jackson-working-to-help-families-impacted-by-continuing-formula-shortage>
 - <https://www.fox47news.com/news/local-news/hometown-heroes-salena-taylor>
 - <https://jtv.tv/partial-to-girls-establishes-headquarters/>

Residents in Action Member YPOP Highlights



Website

<https://youngpeopleofpurpose.org/>

Jackson Magazine

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/712598207209386>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/YPOPEXPLORERSJTV>

JTV

https://jtv.tv/diane-washington-alex-curling-young-people-of-purpose/?fbclid=IwAR3FrQlo3OfzQmE_HmVa31MDfO_liAfkiyTzVfE15j%20nuWqEW_LeDfWBjOfA

<https://jtv.tv/ypop-explorers-first-fruits-festival-9-2-23-photo-gallery/>

Residents in Action



◦ Questions???



RiA Strategic Priorities Criteria

Please see the prioritized buckets of work that the RiA group identified early in 2021 and then re-confirmed on 06/07/23. This document serves as a guideline to identify RiA's strategic priorities, what types of grants we look for, what emerging needs warrant our focus and attention to pursue grants, to fundraise and to pursue donations sponsorships.

The RiA identified areas of focus are below:

- COVID-19 Education
 - Yes
- Social justice/equity issues
 - Yes – Embed in all things; Forefront of our work; Should consider projects in this area
- Social networks for broader community support
 - Yes – Embed in all things; Close connections that people have to one another; Trusted community resource; Could consider projects in this area
- Family/youth/educational supports
 - Yes
- Social emotional health issues
 - Yes – intertwined in the work that we do
- Systems and Mindset change that create opportunities for Black people to THRIVE (secure food, housing, basic needs, jobs, positive interactions, social inclusion and support and resources for/to Black leadership, etc.)
 - Yes – intertwined in the work that we do
- Black Food Sovereignty
 - Coalition Strategy to address power and control over food systems from ground to plate and all processes in between
- Maternal and Child Health (i.e. infant mortality prevention, life supports, etc.)
- Service line deliveries
 - Yes – Ex: Assessments, HCD Empathic interviewing, community engagement, VOC, contracted for services

From: RRigrants@mail.mihealth.org <rrigrants@mail.mihealth.org>
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 12:53 PM
To: rrigrants@mail.mihealth.org
Subject: Rapid Response Initiative: Thank You!

CAUTION CYBER RISK: EXTERNAL E-Mail. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender, expected to receive this content, and you believe it to be safe. Delete this message; or forward the email to spam@hfhs.org if suspicious.

Dear Rapid Response Initiative Partners,

Congratulations on completing your Rapid Response Initiative projects! It has been an honor and our absolute privilege to work with each of you on this important initiative. We are also grateful to Lieutenant Governor Gilchrist II and the entire Task Force on Racial Disparities for this opportunity.

You have accomplished so much in just three months that has, and will continue to, make a real difference in Michigan communities. This progress was made in spite of the incredible challenges posed by the short timeline and uncertain environment of the pandemic. We and the entire Racial Disparities Task Force applaud your hard work and dedication to serving your communities and addressing racial disparities.

Thank you for sharing the details of your program outcomes, populations served, and program reflections. We appreciate the thoughtful reflections and lessons learned that have been provided in your final program reports. These will inform future grant initiatives and will also be shared in abridged form with the Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities. MPHI's final summative program report will be forthcoming. This report will provide greater detail on your collective impact and lessons learned. If you have any pictures of your program in action and/or completed a program evaluation of your Rapid Response project, please send them to astagg@mphi.org.

Lastly, we'd like to share COVID-19 vaccine educational resources and communications materials that your organizations can leverage in your communities.

The [Racial Disparities Task Force Vaccine Toolkit](#) provides a variety of resources for minority audiences, including:

[Social media sample messaging](#)

[Infographics](#)

[Posters/print ads in multiple languages](#)

[Fact cards](#)

[Michigan.gov COVID-19 Vaccine website](#) shares information on Michigan's vaccine plan, data and other resources

[Michigan.gov Communications Resources Toolkit](#) also includes many COVID communication resources including [translated COVID material](#).

With gratitude,

The Rapid Response Initiative Team, on behalf of the Task Force on Racial Disparities

Brenda Jegede, Jacquetta Hinton | Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

Renee Canady, Amy Stagg, Erin Van Haaren, Janice Kidd, Sid Sarinopoulos, Olajumoke Jegede |
Michigan Public Health Institute

Andrea Arce, Jan Percival, Sarah Melvin, Tyler Middlebrook | Accenture

THE OFFICE OF

GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

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Duke University Study: Governor Whitmer's Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities "Making Lasting Structural Change"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 9, 2021

Contact: press@michigan.gov

Duke University Study: Governor Whitmer's Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities "Making Lasting Structural Change"

The task force made "substantial progress" in addressing COVID-19's racial disparities for Michigan communities of color and creating lasting structural change

LANSING, Mich. – A recent **study** by the Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices found that Governor Gretchen Whitmer's Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities, which is led by Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist II, has made significant and sustainable progress towards its goal of reducing health-based racial disparities associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The study also recommended that the lessons learned from the Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities "can be applied in states and territories across the nation to address this longstanding and difficult challenge."

"Our administration took swift action to address the pre-existing racial inequities in health that were dangerously exacerbated by the pandemic, and we are proud of the progress we've made towards eliminating COVID 19's disproportionate impact," **said Governor Whitmer**. "I want to thank the Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities for their excellent guidance that has led to Michigan becoming an example to the rest of the country in how to fairly fight this pandemic and support vulnerable communities. We all have a personal responsibility to slow the spread of the pandemic and eliminate the virus as quickly as possible so we can return to a strong economy and get back to normal daily activities. I ask that Michiganders continue to follow public health guidance by wearing face masks, socially distancing, and washing your hands as we continue to tackle the COVID-19 crisis."

Last year in April, Gov. Whitmer created the Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic's disproportionate impact on communities of color. Although African Americans represent 13.6% of Michigan's population, during the early stages of the pandemic they represented a startling 40% of all COVID-19 deaths. Gov. Whitmer created the task force to serve in an advisory capacity to the Governor and recommend actions to address these racial disparities and the contributing historic and societal inequalities.

"We are incredibly proud of the progress the Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities has made in reducing the staggering, disproportionate impact COVID-19 has had on Black folks," **said Lt. Governor Gilchrist.** "While we have come a long way, we are still living in the midst of this pandemic and in the wake of decades of racial injustices that have led to these health disparities. Our administration remains committed to reducing racial disparities of all kinds among our state's vulnerable populations and continuing to fight this virus."

Since April 2020, the **case study** found that Gov. Whitmer and the Michigan Task Force have substantially reduced the number of confirmed and probable COVID-19 deaths among Michiganders of color. Additionally, under Gov. Whitmer's leadership, racism was declared a statewide public health crisis, six million free masks were distributed, more than 24,000 free COVID-19 tests were administered in underserved communities, and 30 community organizations were funded to address community needs. These bold actions have set the state for long-term, sustainable reductions in racial health disparities.

Governor Whitmer has taken additional actions to continue the task force's work of addressing underlying inequities throughout the state by declaring racism a public health crisis, and by creating the Black Leadership Advisory Council and the Michigan Poverty Task Force, which serve in an advisory capacity to the governor.

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SUPPORTING A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN RESPONSE DURING THE PANDEMIC

Henry Ford Allegiance Health | Jackson, Michigan

Overview

As the public health and economic crises from the COVID-19 pandemic came to Michigan, mothers in Jackson started worrying about feeding their babies. Many of the county's 160,000 residents had previously experienced food insecurity, but what they encountered during the pandemic was different: Store shelves were suddenly empty, and families were beginning to panic when they couldn't obtain essential goods such as baby formula and diapers.

A group of community members in Jackson routinely mobilized to address equity and socioeconomic issues prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The strong collaboration between these residents, community organizations and Henry Ford Allegiance Health (HFAH) served as the catalyst to quickly identify emerging issues and operationalize effective action to meet urgent community needs during COVID-19.

Approach

The grassroots organizations and community members that came together to respond to the pandemic formed a new group called Residents in Action. During a series of weekly meetings, Residents in Action decided to support the work of Partial to Girls, which focuses on making sure that mothers and babies in Jackson have what they need. This support was coordinated by Tashia Carter, a member of Partial to Girls and a community

project coordinator at Henry Ford Allegiance Health. With a vision of expanding the availability of resources to meet this community need, Residents in Action approached Amy Schultz, M.D., executive director of population health at HFAH, who then worked with the HFAH procurement department to purchase large quantities of baby formula for distribution to the community at a lower cost. This alleviated families making multiple runs to the stores for baby formula that often was unavailable.



Partial to Girls developed a protocol to ensure safe and sanitary delivery of baby formula and other products, provide crucial information on COVID-19 symptoms, and promote and educate recipients on best practices for slowing the virus's spread. With resources from Henry Ford Allegiance Health and the Jackson COVID-19 Action Network (JCAN) — a recently activated community response team — Partial to Girls was able to make more than 1,200 deliveries of baby needs and household products to families.

"The women from Partial to Girls knew exactly what was needed and how to make it happen," said Schultz. "It has been an amazing opportunity for HFAH to address fundamental social determinants of health during a critical time for local families."

Impact

What started with stacks of formula cans and diaper packages — in the living room of Partial to Girls founder

Salena Taylor — grew exponentially, supported by the partnership with HFAH and JCAN participants such as United Way, Community Action Agency, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the city of Jackson and Save Our Youth. Through the existence of strong partnerships across the community, Taylor and Carter were able to put out a clarion call for resources, and the response met the needs of mothers and babies and also helped quell a panic.

Bringing advanced planning and logistics to a process that developed organically, Henry Ford Allegiance Health organized tools to capture data and directed resources to the exact community members who needed them. Residents in Action applied quality improvement practices through rapid-cycle tests of change that improved efficiency and resulted in better outcomes. Ann Batdorf-Barnes, D.O., consultant to the health system, was instrumental in the application of improvement science. She worked with Carter to organize the Residents in Action weekly meetings, amplify the voices of Partial to Girls and Taylor as community needs were expressed, and implement Plan-Do-Study-Act cycles of the baby formula procurement processes.

The procured resources were distributed by Partial to Girls, which had built trusted relationships across the community and also had the know-how and commitment to manage the work and get results. Within a week of the first deliveries, more than 500 babies had been fed. The number of deliveries topped 1,200 in mid-May 2020 and kept growing. Community residents saw that their needs would be met, which was instrumental in decreasing the sense of panic that had begun to pervade some neighborhoods.



Lessons Learned

Communities that leverage “boots on the ground” efforts can and will reach the disparate populations that tend to be the hardest hit and the hardest to reach during a public health crisis. Supporting local initiatives and organizations, like Partial to Girls and Residents in Action, and building on long-standing networks of collaboration can successfully meet community needs. Lessons to share include:

- **Listen attentively to what the community needs and support residents’ efforts to lead positive change.** When community members, partners and health systems operate on a foundation of trust and with a shared vision of community health, residents are more comfortable not only to communicate what they need but also to take the lead in addressing those needs.
- **As a health system, understand how you are seen in the community.** Some community members may perceive a power differential between health systems and themselves. Carter reinforced that the most important thing Henry Ford Allegiance Health did was act as a good partner by providing the needed resources to those that have natural connections to the community.
- **Recognize the wisdom and know-how that come from the community.** One of the biggest challenges for underresourced communities is not a lack of understanding about how to solve its problems but a lack of resources. By using its procurement and logistics infrastructure, Henry Ford Allegiance Health was able to help direct resources where they were most needed.

- **Use improvement science and process improvement to continuously modify and reassess.** Applying an improvement framework was a key ingredient to the positive community change in Jackson during COVID-19. Residents in Action applied skills and knowledge of improvement methodology, human-centered design, and systems thinking to take action and get quick results. The group set an aim, assessed the system issues, overcame system barriers, created feedback loops and developed the continuous learning processes to achieve the outcomes.

Future Goals

Having observed the community impact of this collaborative effort in Jackson, Carter said she sees potential for an important shift in mindsets. “My hope is longer term that mindsets are changed through this

process and the community leaders recognize that people can lead their own change,” she said. “There is power in the people that we serve.” She added, “To get the best outcomes, we need to provide the necessary resources and rely on the people to do what they know needs to be done to make impactful change.” Bolstered by strong partnerships, Henry Ford Health Allegiance and local organizations and groups in Jackson are better positioned to make progress toward the community’s overall health goals.

Contact

Tashia M. Carter

Community Project Coordinator, Henry Ford Health Allegiance Health



tcarte14@hfhs.org

Purchase proposal for TA Wilson school

Submitted by: Second Chance 4 All Shelter and TJ Sutliff

Phone: (517)745-8625

Email: Secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com



Second Chance 4 All's mission

At Second Chance 4 all, our mission is to provide a light of hope and support for individuals experiencing homelessness. We are dedicated to fostering a safe, compassionate, and inclusive environment where every person is valued and empowered to rebuild their lives.

Through the provision of shelter, nourishment, and comprehensive resources, we strive to break the cycle of homelessness and inspire positive transformation. Our commitment extends beyond basic needs, as we work collaboratively with the community to address the root causes of homelessness and promote sustainable solutions.

At the heart of our mission is the belief in the inherent dignity and potential of every individual, driving us to create a pathway towards stability, self-sufficiency, and a brighter future for all.

Executive summary

Second Chance 4 All seeks to address homelessness in Jackson, Michigan, by acquiring and transforming a building into a permanent shelter and resource center. The proposed project entails purchasing the building at 302 W Morrell St for \$150,000, with an additional \$100,000 allocated for furnishings and upgrades. The objectives include providing a safe shelter, offering supportive services, facilitating pathways to permanent housing and employment, and fostering community among residents. The project's impact will significantly expand the organization's capacity to serve the homeless population, providing stability, continuity of care, and empowerment. Second Chance 4 All is committed to making a meaningful difference and welcomes support to realize their vision of a safe and welcoming shelter.

Purchase Proposal: Transforming T.A. Wilson academy into a Homeless Shelter to serve Jackson.

1. Introduction:

We are pleased to present this purchase proposal for the acquisition and transformation of the school building offered for sale by the city of Jackson into a homeless shelter. Our organization is committed to providing shelter, support, and resources to homeless individuals and families in our community. With your support, we aim to create a safe and welcoming environment where those experiencing homelessness can find not only stability and assistance on their journey toward independence but also resources to learn skills to transition to a place of self-sufficiency in housing.

2. Project Overview:

The project involves purchasing the school building located at 302 W. Morrell St, Jackson, MI 49203 for \$150,000. This building will be renovated and repurposed to serve as a comprehensive homeless shelter, equipped with sleeping quarters, dining facilities, counseling rooms, and other essential amenities. The shelter will provide temporary housing, meals, hygiene facilities, job training programs, and support services to help individuals transition out of homelessness.

Unlike traditional shelters, Second Chance 4 All will focus on programs that integrate residents into the community and help foster a sense of dignity and respect for all individuals, regardless of their circumstances. This approach to meeting people where they are and helping create a path to independence fosters a sense of self-worth and will have a long-lasting impact.

It is crucial that we find ways of meeting the needs of those experiencing homelessness and address their specific needs. As an example of how we plan to address this, we propose establishing a veteran annex within our shelter. This annex will offer tailored guidance and services, such as specialized counseling, assistance in accessing VA healthcare, and support in applying for VA benefits. Because our organization already collaborates with the Jackson County Military Coalition to provide resources to veterans in our area, we are keenly aware of just how personalized assistance may need to be.

The Second Chance 4 All Shelter will distinguish itself through a unique approach, fostering engagement and collaboration with corporations, foundations, and individual citizens. The program will ensure sustainability through these community partnerships. An example of this will be a distinctive funding model we plan to implement. We will present for purchase bricks in the school, which will be personalized with the name of the donor or the memory of a loved one or pet. This will include allowing residents to purchase bricks, allowing them to be personally vested in a building that will play a vital role in their lives. This innovative approach ensures that every donor, regardless of the contribution amount, becomes an integral part of the initiative.

Integration: Our primary objective, after the immediate need for temporary housing has been met, is to integrate shelter residents into the community, eliminating the stigma associated with homelessness. We aim to create an inclusive environment where individuals can access resources and services without standing out or feeling marginalized.

Incubator: As a part of the integration program, we will offer an “incubator” area where small businesses and solo practitioners can operate their businesses with the involvement of educating the residents. Corporations will pay a nominal monthly fee for the space, with opportunities for some space to be

available free to the public for limited periods on a sign-up basis, accommodating a maximum number of individuals based on our room availability.

So many aspiring entrepreneurs get so close to making their dreams come true, only to abandon them before finding success. It can be caused by obstacles such as finances, lack of mentorship, or even loneliness and idleness. This program would allow a preventative measure within the shelter.

An additional level of the program will offer additional incubator areas where corporations can pay a small monthly fee for their space and will have the growth potential to teach the residents skills that will allow them to become an integral part of their industry. This dual approach aims to facilitate the residents' integration back into society as respected and self-sufficient citizens.

3. Need for the Project:

The need for a growth-based homeless shelter in our community is urgent and critical. Jackson has seen a significant increase in the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness, exacerbated by economic challenges, housing shortages, and other social factors. Existing shelters are operating at maximum capacity, leaving many without access to essential services and support. By repurposing the school building into a multifaceted shelter, we can address this pressing need and provide a lifeline to those in crisis.

4. Project Goals and Objectives:

- Engagement and Partnership are a top priority for Second Chance 4 All
- Actively secure continuing collaborations with small businesses, corporations, foundations, and individual citizens to create a comprehensive support network within the community.
- Provide safe and secure temporary housing for homeless individuals and families.
- Offer nutritious meals and basic amenities to meet the immediate needs of shelter residents.
- Provide comprehensive support services, including counseling, skilled job and entrepreneur training, and access to healthcare resources.
- Foster a sense of community and belonging among shelter residents and area business resources.
- Assist individuals in securing permanent housing and achieving self-sufficiency.

5. Budget and Funding:

The total cost of acquiring and renovating the school building is estimated at \$250,000. We are seeking grant funding to cover the entire project cost. These grants will be allocated exclusively for the purchase of the building, supplying its furnishings, and the renovation of necessary areas. This ensures that our resources are efficiently and effectively directed towards achieving our mission.

In the event donor funds do not cover the entire purchase price within the proposal's timeframe, the city will provide financing for the remaining balance for up to six months. Specific terms will be negotiated upon acceptance of the proposal.

Financial support for the ongoing maintenance of the facilities and program will be obtained from local businesses and nonprofit organizations dedicated to fostering program expansion. This support has been secured through formal support letters and verbal commitments.

Brick Sponsorship Program: Individuals and corporations will be encouraged to contribute in a meaningful and recognizable way by purchasing or sponsoring personalized bricks or tiles. This symbolizes their everlasting commitment to helping individuals find shelter. By ensuring their pivotal role in the Second Chance 4 All community, their names or stories will forever be ingrained in the physical structure, representing, and encouraging a lifetime commitment to our community and the dreams of many.

Equal Recognition: No tiered levels of recognition will be advertised. This is to ensure that every contribution, regardless of size, is valued equally, just as our residents are valued. We believe that an individual's worth is not measured by their financial situation or contribution. In all that we do, we will measure worth by heart and character. While financial support is fundamental to our success, securing the needed funds will follow the same inclusive approach that we extend to our residents. This approach recognizes that every donation, regardless of amount, plays a crucial role in building the foundation of the Second Chance 4 All.

6. Project Timeline:

- Acquisition of the school building: Spring 2024
- The gymnasium will be open immediately for communal meetings, dining, and gatherings.
- Renovation and repurposing of the building: Summer 2024
- Launch of the full-scale homeless shelter: Summer – Fall 2024

7. Conclusion:

In conclusion, the transformation of the school building into a homeless shelter represents a unique opportunity to address the growing need for emergency housing and support services in our community. With your support, we can make this vision a reality and provide a beacon of hope for those experiencing homelessness in Jackson. Thank you for considering our purchase proposal, and we look forward to the opportunity to work with you in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Tj Sutliff

Second Chance 4 All Shelter

February 13, 2024

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter to express my strong support for Second Chance of All, which has demonstrated exceptional commitment and dedication to Jackson's unhoused population. As lead case manager for Jackson County Adult Treatment Court, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the positive impact Ms. Sutliff's passion has had on our community.

In my professional capacity, I have seen Ms. Sutliff consistently assist individuals with housing barriers, in gaining the tools needed to achieve their goals. She does so with compassion, empathy and respect, regardless of an individual's past or current situation.

I am confident that Second Chance for all will continue to make a significant impact on Jackson's unhoused population and positively influence the lives of those they serve. The dedication, passion, and expertise of Tracy make her an invaluable asset to this community.

Please feel free to contact me a Skosmet@mijackson.org or at 517-528-0369 if you have any questions. I will assist any way I can.

Thank you for considering my support for Second Chance for All. I am confident that their ongoing efforts will yield remarkable results and create lasting change for the better.

Sincerely,

Shelly Kosmet, BSW

Jackson County Adult Treatment Court

February 14, 2024

Scarlet Shaffer

Henry Ford Jackson Hospital

205 N. East Avenue

Jackson, MI 49201

Dear City Council Members,

As manager of acute rehabilitation services at Henry Ford Jackson Hospital, I am writing to endorse *Second Chance for All's* proposal to develop the former T.A. Wilson Academy for use as a community-run shelter for the homeless.

Our rehabilitation department is committed to supporting the effort through fundraising and volunteer hours. As stated, the mission of *Second Chance for All* is, "to provide a light of hope and support for individuals experiencing homelessness" and "fostering a safe, compassionate, and inclusive environment where every person is valued and empowered to rebuild their lives." This mission is in direct alignment with our department's current community outreach goals for 2024.

Daily, we see firsthand the disparities within our homeless population at Jackson Hospital. Our rehabilitation team plays a vital role in patient discharge planning. All too often, we see delays in discharge, inability to place medically fragile patients who are homeless, and those with serious mental health diagnoses. Supporting an organization like *Second Chance for All* addresses a crucial need in our community for temporary housing and ancillary support.

Please contact me if you have any further question. Thank you for your consideration.

Scarlet Shaffer, MA, CCC-SLP

Manager of Acute Rehabilitation Services

Henry Ford Jackson Hospital


MA, CCC-SLP
2/14/24

February 14th, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I became homeless in my native State of Michigan on September 18, 2033 after driving here from Minnesota. I was hospitalized in a mental health facility then sent to stay at the Interfaith Shelter where I failed to thrive and my mental state continued to decline rapidly. I was not sheltered in an appropriate place for my mental health which was aggravated by their business model, staff and other clients. Subsequently, I was hospitalized once again in January of 2024. I had lost all hope and direction trying to comply with constant demands of the Interfaith schedule which I found nearly impossible to keep up with. I lived in constant fear of failure and punishment. I became suicidal again. I've been mentally and emotionally permanently disabled for the last 25 years and receive Social Security Disability (SSDI).

I had the opportunity to move to T.J.'s temporary homeless shelter Pallet program at T.A. Wilson in late January. I jumped at the chance. During the last few weeks I have gone through quite a remarkable metamorphosis of my mental state and stability. I can think more clearly, I have self esteem and most importantly I have hope.

Unfortunately, the program is temporary and I have nowhere else to go at the end of March deadline until I find housing suitable for my needs. I am 56 years of age and I know nobody in Michigan besides a few scattered estranged family members.

T.J. is dedicated to empower individuals of ALL walks of life, across the social spectrum. I was immediately met with love, support and understanding, despite my mental disorders. Most importantly, I was treated with dignity and respect. Additionally, I was given the most sincere and honest wake up call I'd ever received in my life. I truly believe I would not be alive right now if it had not been for T.J.'s Pallet project. My gratitude is immeasurable.

Please help those without a voice who have not found their place in this world yet or have lost it and desire to reclaim the seat pulled out from under them. I implore you to invest in the entire community of Jackson County, not just the homeless community, as this huge and growing societal problem effects EVERYONE. Don't throw lives in the rubbish. Invest in T.J. She is worth every penny.

Sincerely,
Claudia Weier
T. A. Wilson
Pallet #7
Jackson, Michigan 49201

Heather Dawson, Member
7060 Concord Rd
Jonesville, MI 49250
heather@sveinvestments.com
517-258-2394
February 14, 2024

Jonathan Greene, City Manager
City Manager's Office
14th floor of Jackson City Hall
161 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI 49203

Dear Mr. Greene,

I am writing to express my heartfelt support for the invaluable work being carried out by A Second Chance 4 All in our community of Jackson, MI. As a member of Silver Valley Investments, a business invested in the well-being and prosperity of Jackson, we wholeheartedly endorse the mission and efforts of this organization.

Silver Valley Investments owns rental property in Jackson, and we recognize the profound impact that homelessness and housing instability have on individuals and families within our community. We believe that A Second Chance 4 All plays a crucial role in addressing these challenges by providing essential support and resources to unhoused individuals, thereby offering them a pathway to stability and self-sufficiency.

The dedication and compassion demonstrated by A Second Chance 4 All is truly commendable. Through initiatives such as providing shelter, meals, counseling, and assistance in securing permanent housing, this organization is making a tangible difference in the lives of those who are most vulnerable in our community. By offering individuals a second chance, they not only restore a person's hope and dignity but also contribute to the overall well-being and cohesion of Jackson.

At Silver Valley Investments, we firmly believe that investing in organizations like A Second Chance 4 All is not only a moral imperative but also a sound business decision. We recognize the interconnectedness of our community and understand that when our neighbors thrive, we all benefit. By supporting A Second Chance 4 All, we are investing in a stronger, more resilient Jackson where everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

We commend A Second Chance 4 All for their unwavering commitment to serving the unhoused population of Jackson, and we pledge our continued support in any way we can. Together, we can create a community where everyone has access to the resources and support they will need to rebuild their lives and contribute meaningfully to society.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the proposal being submitted by A Second Chance 4 All and giving them the chance to expand the scope of the wonderful work they are doing. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any additional information.

Warm regards,

Heather Dawson
Member
Silver Valley Investments

To whom it may concern:

This is a letter of support for the TA Wilson Shelter. As a lifetime Jackson resident and person in recovery, I believe the Jackson community could benefit greatly from the services offered at the TA Wilson Shelter. With the substance use and mental health epidemic in our community, I think the most vulnerable and high-risk populations could be served greatly if the shelter was permanent. This could be a stepping stone for those who would like to overcome their homelessness, substance use, and mental health challenges. Jackson has always lacked resources for the homeless and for those struggling with substance use. It would be a great advantage for our community if a portion of the shelter could be utilized as a temporary transitional (recovery) house for those completing mental health or substance use treatment centers. This would be a great way for them to take their next steps without the worry of homelessness. Our community needs this.

Thank you for your time.

Brooke Cross, RCP-F, CPRC



Memorandum of Support

TA Wilson School for the Homeless

The Jackson County Military Coalition (JCMC) PO Box 1702, Jackson, MI 49204 acknowledges our utmost support for Second Chance 4 All Jackson operating the TA Wilson School for the Homeless.

JMCM understands the purpose of the proposed operation of the school is to help house our communities' veterans, children and most vulnerable.

JCMC commits to supporting operation of the TA Wilson School for the Homeless through in-kind services and community engagement.

Signatures of Authorized Representatives:

Douglas Brinker
Jackson County Military Coalition Co-Chair

Date

Damien Wetzel
Jackson County Military Coalition Co-Chair

Date

My husband and I had the privilege to attend Help Save Our Homeless Village, and to hear Tracie Jo Sutliff share her story, and provide support.

We came away with a conversation that lasted for most of our trip back home (approximately one hour, and thirty minutes).

Homelessness is a huge issue that impacts everyone county, this includes many our county of Ionia.

Unfortunately, or perhaps not unfortunate, as it leads us to talk about the difficult subject of homelessness and the impact it has on every single one of us.

I think we can all agree that our veterans and homeless deserve warmth, love, and resources.

I can attest that each person that shared their story one name was repeated multiple times, Tracie Jo or better known to them as TJ.

Let's stop for a moment and not talk about dreams, as Tracie Jo will share with you her dreams of owning her own shelter, but rather let's talk about reality.

I know of no one other than Tracie Jo that has, or would dedicated her life to the care of our veterans and homeless.

She will freely share that she has minimal book smarts, but that doesn't take away from what she can, and will bring to the many that need love, support, respect, and love.

I was overtaken by the love and respect that she is surrounded by.

In her personal life she shared her struggles, her short comings, and her love for our veterans and homeless. She is truly a hands on personality. She's not afraid of hard work, organization, determination, and "loving you where you're at"

These are all assets to anyone who is wanting to do better for their veterans and homeless.

From what I heard from all the shared stories, and conversations the City/County of Jackson can take this opportunity to become the model for other Counties.

Be better.

Respectfully,
Mary Izzard
Ionia, MI

Fwd: New Shelter

 TS Tracie Sutliff <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>
To: heather@stonerealtygrp.com

   ...
Thu 2/15/2024 7:53 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lynn Garrow** <lgarrow66@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 15, 2024, 11:07 AM
Subject: New Shelter
To: secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>

Tracie Jo Sutliff works tirelessly to help the homeless in our community, and you would be missing out on a great opportunity if you refuse this. Please consider giving her unlimited access to the school. She would be able to help so many people.

Fwd: Tracie Jo Sutliff

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Molly Oldenburg** <molly.oldenburg@1800waterdamage.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 15, 2024, 10:53 AM
Subject: Fwd: Tracie Jo Sutliff
To: <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>

I have known TJ for a few years.

She has the heart of gold.
Always willing to help and at no cost.
She is an amazing person.
I only wish for the best for her.

--
Thank you
Molly Oldenburg

Fwd:

 TS Tracie Sutliff <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>
To: heather@stonerealtygrp.com

   ...
Thu 2/15/2024 7:40 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jennifer McCann** <jennifer.mccann72@icloud.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 15, 2024, 6:04 PM
Subject:
To: <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>

I am in favor and support for this

Fwd: I support what u do

TS Tracie Sutliff <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>
To: heather@stonerealtygrp.com

Thu 2/15/2024 7:41 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tamela Hoffman** <tamela_hoffman@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 15, 2024, 5:49 PM
Subject: I support what u do
To: <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>

Thank you for doing what you're doing, it really take someone special to do this. I hope you get the support you need! Never stop being you.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Fwd: Tracie Jo

TS Tracie Sutliff <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>
To: heather@stonerealtygrp.com

Thu 2/15/2024 7:50 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Markat42 Baldwin** <marycooperbaldwin@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 15, 2024, 5:20 PM
Subject: Tracie Jo
To: <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>

We really need the programming that Tracie is trying to implement in Jackson. I admire everything she is trying to do for the less fortunate in our area. The first step for people to be productive is a place to sleep and keep clean. What follows are amazing opportunities and more productive people who are our neighbors. Thanks- Mary Baldwin

Fwd: Support

TS Tracie Sutliff <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>
To: heather@stonerealtygrp.com

Thu 2/15/2024 7:50 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Linda Cossel** <rachelsgarden13@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 15, 2024, 5:08 PM
Subject: Support
To: [secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com](#) <[secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com](#)>

To whom it may concern,

I met Tracie several years ago and have watched how she found her cause and has inspired so many peoples lives. She is a great, hard working individual and deserves all our support.

Linda cossel

Fwd: My Support

To whom it may concern,

This is my email to say that I support the mission that Tracie Jo is on!

I think we needed this years ago. We should be supporting her efforts to help our city and residents that need a little help so that we can keep our city from becoming worse.

cid:image001.png@01D5330F.C36A0950

cid:image001.png@01D5330F.C36A0950

Alissha King

Sr. Professional Recruiter

Mobile (763) 343-9557

Web kellyservices.com

Fwd: Support



Tracie Sutliff <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>
To: heather@stonerealtygrp.com

← ↶ ↷ ...
Thu 2/15/2024 7:50 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lisa Adkins** <ladkins@live.com>

Date: Thu, Feb 15, 2024, 4:59 PM

Subject: Support

To: secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>

I am writing in support of this amazing project to help the people of Jackson! Please continue to fund and allow this project to continue. Jackson needs these housing solutions for the homeless. I work with the homeless myself at Home of New Vision and this such a need! It's still cold outside and will be for months! Please don't let anyone be turned out!
Lisa Adkins

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Fwd: I SUPPORT YOU



Tracie Sutliff <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>
To: heather@stonerealtygrp.com

Thu 2/15/2024 7:51 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **kasie bennett** <kasiebennett@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 15, 2024, 2:35 PM
Subject: I SUPPORT YOU
To: secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>

YOU ARE CHANGING LIVES. KEEP DOING WHAT YOU CAN. GOD BLESS 🙏

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Fwd: TA Wilson Shelter Tracie Jo

To: heather@stonerealtygrp.com

Thu 2/15/2024 7:51 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Taryn Hammond** <taryndms@aol.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 15, 2024, 1:03 PM
Subject: TA Wilson Shelter Tracie Jo
To: Secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com <Secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>

I'm in full support of Tracie Jo's initiative in using TA Wilson as a new shelter and housing for the homeless.

Signed
Taryn Hammond
Jackson Resident

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

Fwd: Support

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Stacey Richardson** <srrichardson80@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 15, 2024, 1:33 PM
Subject: Support
To: Krazie Jo <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>

I have worked with TJ on this homeless mission and I must say, if any one can save the people without homes, it is her. I helped her run the motel a couple winters ago, and her love and care is unmeasurable. She has been a sister to me for a long time, but I never realized how much this cause means to her until I saw it in action. Now being a part of the board, I see the emails and pleas for help from so many people in our town. It is overwhelming. It would be a great disservice for the city and the people of the city, if TJ was not afforded the opportunity to provide shelter and resources to those that need it most, at TA Wilson school. Not only would it help those without homes, veterans, mothers, children... but it would also help everyone in this town by getting them people off the streets, out of harms way, keep them from hiding in buildings, etc., that they aren't suppose to be in. It'd make a huge difference, all the way around. Please consider Second Chance 4 All a viable candidate for TA Wilson!

Thank you,
Stacey Richardson

Fwd: LoS

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Katie Anderson** <katieae7380@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 15, 2024, 1:23 PM
Subject: LoS
To: <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>

To whom it may concern,

It is a sincere privilege to support the significant work Second Chance 4 All does. Through my volunteerism and professional experience I recognize and appreciate how this organization fills the gaps for our neighbors experiencing homelessness. This organization promotes the mindset of truly meeting people where they're at. This is crucial to our community.

I am in full support of pursuing the growth opportunity through purchasing the TA Wilson building. This would provide additional opportunities to provide expansive services by partnering with existing agencies and organizations.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Katie Anderson

Fwd: Homeless

 Tracie Sutliff <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>
To: heather@stonerealtygrp.com

   ...
Thu 2/15/2024 7:52 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Marlin Winchell** <marlin1946@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 15, 2024, 11:58 AM
Subject: Homeless
To: secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>

The millions of illegal immigrants get more help than our homeless American's and veterans. Something must be done now to help them. Give anyone that want's to support this cause a chance and support them and their dedicated tributes.

 Tracie Sutliff <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>
To: heather@stonerealtygrp.com

   ...
Fri 2/16/2024 10:14 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bette Reynolds** <elobette@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 16, 2024, 9:41 AM
Subject:
To: <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>

I recently met T.J. Sutliff at her workplace. I was totally impressed by her enthusiasm and dedication. The work she is doing has helped countless of homeless with shelter, food and clothing.

I was unaware of the extent of homelessness in Jackson. This city needs people like Tracy and her organization. I wholeheartedly offer my support in any way I can to help further this project.

TS Tracie Sutliff <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>
To: heather@stonerealtygrp.com

⏮ ⏪ ⏩ ⏭ ...
Fri 2/16/2024 9:23 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Liv Enbody** <enbodyalivia@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 15, 2024, 8:50 PM
Subject: ❤️
To: secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>

Tracie, You've done so many wonderful things for our community.
Thank you for being someone people can lean on. You're truly an angel. ❤️

TS Tracie Sutliff <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>
To: heather@stonerealtygrp.com

⏮ ⏪ ⏩ ⏭ ...
Fri 2/16/2024 9:23 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jenny Smith** <msjen89@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 15, 2024, 8:41 PM
Subject: Letter of support
To: secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>

I'm sending this email in support of Tracie Jo and SecondChance 4 All. We desperately need affordable housing in our area, and there is an absolute critical need for transitional housing for those facing or currently dealing with homelessness. Tracie has an amazing vision that would provide so many of the missing services and help to close the gap to gaining a home place. Please support this proposal and help to make this dream come true.
Jenny Smith

TS Tracie Sutliff <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>
To: heather@stonerealtygrp.com

⏮ ⏪ ⏩ ⏭ ...
Fri 2/16/2024 9:23 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kylee Mathis** <kylee.eagleson.edu@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 15, 2024, 9:11 PM
Subject: Shelter
To: <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>

Hello, I'm a mail carrier here in Jackson Michigan and I'm writing to say I strongly support the Second Chance shelter staying and running strong!!!! I've noticed a huge change in the amount of homelessness over these past few months of the shelter being open. It's a positive thing for our town, it gives these people a second chance of a better life. What they can call a home. It's a beautiful thing and I'd love to see it keep growing! Thank you for taking the time to read my opinion.
-Kylee Mathis
Sent from my iPhone

TS Tracie Sutliff <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>
To: heather@stonerealtygrp.com

⏮ ⏪ ⏩ ⏭ ...
Fri 2/16/2024 9:22 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <ashleyshakoor@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 15, 2024, 10:00 PM
Subject: Homeless
To: <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>

Tracie Jo is a blessing to Jackson community and it's less fortunate people who have found themselves in unfortunate circumstances regardless of the reasoning. Her passion is awesome 🍷 it's something that's very much needed.. I support her and all that she does. Our community should as well !!
Ashley shakoor
Sent from my iPhone

TS Tracie Sutliff <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>
To: heather@stonerealtygrp.com

⏮ ⏪ ⏩ ⏭ ...
Fri 2/16/2024 9:22 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jesse Albrecht** <jesse2003jp@icloud.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 16, 2024, 12:03 AM
Subject: TA Wilson School
To: <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>

Dear city council,

I have been apart of this community for many years, I have seen the amount of homeless in Jackson County. I believe in Tracie Jo and her willingness to help the homeless and unfortunate community. I have seen awesome things, and awesome stories come from Tracie Jo's emergency shelter at TA Wilson School. I have my own non profit and would be willing to sponsor a room for her non profit. I believe in the force of change. I believe huge things could happen with the full TA Wilson School.

Thank you,
Jesse

TS Tracie Sutliff <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>
To: heather@stonerealtygrp.com

⏮ ⏪ ⏩ ⏭ ...
Fri 2/16/2024 9:21 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Juan Bowling** <juanbwling@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 16, 2024, 8:24 AM
Subject: Second chance
To: secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>

Hello my name is Juan Mario bowling and I like to take this time to let you know what second chance means to me. Me and TJ has been known each other for about 6 years I met her at the interface shelter I made a few mistakes I was asked to leave so I was homeless again. So first and years now I've been here there for a little bit everywhere apparently. About 6 months ago I got hit by a train. I spent the month up in Detroit between the hospital and nursing home. When I got back here it was still a little warm but then it started getting cold and speaking with my mother it was worried about me wanted me to get off the streets and go to the interface shelter and I told her at this time I would not like to do that. Then I heard that they have the emergency shelter and when I walked in there's TJ. I was worried she wouldn't give me but she did. First thing that second chance did for me was make my mother very happy that I was off the streets and she personally said thank you to TJ for that. The other things that gave me was the ability to feel safe and secure my property. which gave me the time to think so I can organize my days to get my plans done because I'm getting a good night's rest. Now after getting that second chance I have my own apartment and I am moving forward so I have to see the TJ thank you for that second chance I hope I made you proud

TS Tracie Sutliff <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>
To: heather@stonerealtygrp.com

⏮ ⏪ ⏩ ⏭ ...
Fri 2/16/2024 9:21 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Luree Gean** <luree.gean@yahoo.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 16, 2024, 8:32 AM
Subject: Support for Tracy Sutliff
To: <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>

I 100% support Tracy Sutliff's taking over TA Wilson for the purpose of providing much needed help for the community. She has the energy and passion to get things done!

Luree Gean

Sent from my iPhone



Tracie Sutliff <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>
To: heather@stonerealtygrp.com

...
Fri 2/16/2024 9:20 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kara Summers** <karamsummers@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Feb 16, 2024, 8:36 AM
Subject: Character Reference Letter, Tracy Jo Sutliff
To: <secondchance4alljackson@gmail.com>

To whom It may concern, Tj, Tracy Jo, is the most passionately driven, wholehearted caring human I have ever met regarding our ever growing community of Jackson Michigan's Unhoused/Drug Recovering/Abused women/Parolees etc, the list goes on. These people have no where else to turn and there is NO HELP out there but HER. She will give her shirt and go without for those in need and not ask nor expect a single thing in return. All I can hope is that my letter of recommendation for her genuine outstanding character is that she gets the funding, support and approval she deserves. Those people are lost without this opportunity. While she asks for nothing gainful financially from her non-profit, unlike the others in this county, approval of full T.a. Wilson school access would significantly reduce crime, hunger and homelessness. Her upstart programs alone are nothing shy of invaluable. Myself, small business owner in Jackson, stand behind her and the business plan 100%. I do hope my words can make an impact to help make her dream a reality. Thank you for your time.
Best regards, KARA MARIE SUMMERS

To whom it may concern:

We are writing to express our support of Secondchance4all in Jackson in their want to further their ability to help the homeless population in Jackson. In the 13 years we have resided in Jackson, we have seen the homeless population increase, and the need for more support and housing for the citizens affected by it. The work that TJ and Secondchance4all is doing in the community is changing and saving lives.

There are other shelters in town, they are often at capacity, leaving many without options. The other issue is that not every person in need meets the criteria for these shelters, often leaving those with addiction or mental health issues without the resources, support and help that they need. This shelter has offered a warm place to spend their time and sleep, a meal in their stomachs, a place to shower or do laundry, and resources to help them rebuild and change their lives. While these things will not fix the reason people become homeless, nor will it help everyone, it can help make huge strides to lower it, and offer them real help and more than just a place to sleep at night. I truly believe this shelter has made a huge difference and changed many lives. TJ has her own story and has struggled in her past, and I believe this gives her an unrivaled passion for this project and desire to help people the rest of the world appears to have thrown away.

We have very much enjoyed getting to know TJ and are impressed by her passion, and the work they are doing at the shelter. We have enjoyed spending time there, allowing us to hear some amazing stories about what they have been through and where they are going, a true testament to what they have made happen in such a short time. We plan to continue helping through donations and volunteering our time in any way they need to help make the shelter successful.

I'm thankful this shelter is available, but I know that it is slated to close in March, as it is deemed an emergency shelter to help keep people safe during the winter months. I do understand why it was started this way, but the repercussions from closing it would be detrimental to the community. It would redeposit so many people back onto the streets with no help and no options, defeating all the work done by both shelter personnel and the residents themselves.

While the part of the school that is available to them is a great start, there are still long wait lists and countless people contacting her and needing help. There is so much space on that property, sitting vacant and wasted, that could be so beneficial to these people in need of help. The ability to expand will not only help house more people in need, but it will also allow them to offer more resources to help give these people the second chance they all truly deserve.

Thank you for your time,

Zackary and Torri Bice

I met Tracie Jo Sutliff about a month ago and without question, she has, without a doubt, the biggest heart and the best of intentions for all of the citizens in and around the City of Jackson.

She has a great plan to help homeless that have gone unnoticed by others and not only offering them a place to live but knowledge to better themselves and their families. More importantly, she has the backing from hundreds of people, if not more, including myself and the Sandstone Congregational church. Modeling Christs Love is our church motto and I can't think of a bigger impact that could be made in our home town than what Tracie has in mind for the property at Wilson school.

A big thank you to the city and others who may have helped with the Pallet homes. I have been to that location many time in the last month to offer whatever help I could.

Please, please, give Tracie and her huge following a chance to grow and make this something that we can look back on in years to come and be proud of what brought our community together.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sandy Hamel

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing today in support of Tracie Jo Sutliff and her proposal for TA Wilson school.

She has tirelessly worked to keep people off the streets of Jackson while most people just look away. Yes, we have a shelter, but that shelter is merely a place to sleep. It also allows for deplorable conditions while the employees sit comfortably in their offices. Bottom line, we need another shelter! The difference the TA Wilson and Tracie Jo will make is that they are actually about meeting people where they are, being all inclusive, and offering ways to improve their situations by offering NA, AA, anger management, and ways to feel better about themselves, which in turn, gives them hope and the ability to become productive citizens again.

Anyone that knows Tracie Jo knows about her mission to help the less fortunate. Most of them just need that one person to care enough and show them the way.

She has an entire community behind her bringing food, clothing, shoes, and anything else she may need to help her help the less fortunate. She has success story after success story of people she has already helped get on their feet. Veterans that Jackson allows to sleep on the streets, young children and their mothers, men leaving prison with no where to go, all walks of life. Her vision for TA Wilson will, in turn, help Jackson as a whole. Utilizing the gym initially and then rooms possibly. The possibilities are endless. It would curb the need to beg on the street corners, curb the stealing, less people under the bridges, etc. and seems like a chance to make Jackson that much better, to say the least.

All this is to say, I support Tracie Jo and TA Wilson.
Together they can make a difference!

Sincerely,
Sara Rose
Jackson County Resident

We have partnered with TJ for many years now at Reed Manor and with the unhoused in Jackson Michigan. Her heart is unwavering in her desire to make sure no one sleeps without a roof over their head in our community. She has gone to great lengths to attend to their needs, the obvious one being a place to sleep that is warm and safe, but also their need to be seen and know they have worth.

Several of us did a walkthrough at TA Wilson on Tuesday, with TJ explaining the vision for what these rooms could eventually hold and the help they would bring to the entire community. The Beacon Church is excited to partner with her as we meet needs, develop relationships with one another, and create community on this side of town.

Please consider the proposal that Second Chance for All has submitted. If you need more information, please call/text/email, I would love to answer any questions you may have.

Peace,

Wendy

Pastor Wendy Valentine

The Beacon Church

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Jackson MI 49201

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To whom it may concern;

This is a letter of recommendation for Tracie Sutliff. This is the true meaning of a person with compassion, selflessness and genuine care for others. Tracie has had a mission for years and that's to help those in need. Need comes in many forms but she is there to assist or direct any individual to get whatever assistance they may need. Tracie has sacrificed for others to make sure that they were comfortable, safe and warm.

I've had the privilege of working with Tracie through my current position as General Manager at Americas Best Value Inn & Suites. Tracie and I also graduated from Western High School together. Tracie brought her mission during Covid to the hotel. Placing those in warm beds through the brutal winter. Helping our citizens of Jackson through COVID. Just to mention a few things I witnessed were tirelessly prepping meals, assisted getting people connected with CAA, helping get clothes washed, making sure people attend recovery classes, collecting cans throughout the city and most importantly holding people accountable. I've never seen someone give so much of themselves as I have Tracie. Tracie deserves to continue her mission through helping those in need. If anyone can handle the magnitude of this position, it's for sure Tracie Sutliff. Tracie understands PEOPLE and she understands without prejudice.

In closing, I am asking that you allow Tracie to continue her mission in serving the citizens of Jackson and Jackson County.

Respectfully

Kellie Jean Louis

February 15, 2024

To whom it may concern:

I feel that what Tracie Sutliff is trying to do by opening the school to use as a homeless shelter is greatly needed in the Jackson Community. Homelessness can affect anyone sometimes thru no fault of their own and once you are homeless it is almost impossible to get off the streets. I support the use of the old school as a homeless shelter and feel that there is no one who will advocate and help the homeless more than Tracie. She has given her unwavering support to people in need. She has helped others overcome addiction and homelessness and has a rare passion for helping others.

Thank you

Michele Weigand

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