May 4, 2020

Letter of Support for RV Ministry

To Whom it Concerns:

The Club For boys has partnered with RV Ministry for last three years. That partnership included The Club allowing access to our building on Sundays so that RV ministry could serve a nutritious, hot breakfast to homeless people in a safe and warm environment. They typically served hundreds of people, in a well-organized, caring process that provided no disruption to our activities. They were always responsive and willing to cooperate to ensure we could carry out our different missions effectively.

It should be noted during our three years of partnership with RV Ministry, we never received any complaints from neighbors nor did we detect that their presence caused issues with others. The Club For Boys supports the RV Ministry conditional use permit to allow them to carry out their mission at 112 East North Street.

Sincerely,

Doug Herrmann
Executive Director
The Club For Boys & Thrift Store
May 12, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing at the request of the local Rapid City non-profit organization, RV Ministries. The Hope Center and RV Ministries serve individuals living in poverty and faced with the challenges of homelessness. Both organizations have similar goals, as we work towards filling gaps in services and building relationships with those in need.

Many of our Hope Center guests participate in services provided by RV Ministries, particularly their Sunday morning “Biscuits and Gravy” event. This service is valuable to those we serve, as it provides a safe place for folks to receive a hot meal and information about various other resources. In addition, it has become a place where individuals are able to come together in a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere to worship.

Before the purchase of the new location on East North Street, RV Ministries and the Hope Center collaborated and hosted many events together. One of the major events is the annual Point In Time homeless count in January. As you may be aware, the number of documented homeless individuals in Rapid City has increased and is currently over 350. Rapid City currently has the highest numbers of homeless in SD that were reported at this year’s PIT count as being unsheltered.

In response to the increased numbers, we believe it is critical that resources and services increase as well. With this in mind, we support and encourage RV Ministries’ efforts to continue to fill the gaps and build positive relationships with individuals and families who are living in poverty. We have seen how our partnership has contributed to greater success and positive outcomes among the individuals we serve.

RV Ministries has a passionate and dedicated Board of Directors and volunteers, who genuinely want to help and show God’s love to others. We are hopeful that as they continue to grow, the number of individuals becoming self sufficient and accomplishing their personal goals will also continue to grow. Thank you for your consideration of RV Ministries and their intentions to better serve those in need.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Melanie Timm
Executive Director
melanie@hopecenterrapidcity.org
May 12, 2020

City of Rapid City planning department

I would like to send this letter on behalf of Cathie Harris and Eileen Desmond regarding their vision for a piece of property in North Rapid City and their request being made to the City of Rapid City. I am in support of their efforts to bring services to the homeless on the property located at 112 E. North Street including providing meals, a warm place to be, training, communication and advocacy for the less fortunate in our city.

I was the agent representing them in finding a new location for their ministry, called RV Ministry, because their current location at the Boys Club was needed for an expansion. We talked about leasing space and I showed them space for lease, but they were unable to get something leased. One day I showed them a building I had coming up for sale and at that point the vision started. This was a location that they could have for themselves establishing continuity in the community with those whom serve. The building was large enough for current operations and has enough space for possible expanded services in the future. I remember Cathie going around the building in subsequent visits telling me her vision for how it would all layout and how she could help the homeless in Rapid City.

One outstanding thing about this building is the location. Other services for the homeless are located downtown, this building is located on North Street providing an additional resource for those outside of the downtown area.

Another thing that impressed me were the connections, help and support Cathie has. The first time I showed the inside of the building to her she invited about 20 other people including an electrician, financial advisor and others to help her make the best decision. Eileen Desmond is an excellent advisor as well, she is very thorough in taking notes and making sure everything is kept up to task. Cathie has the support to enable her to successfully operate this new venture.

I was also able to see the vision and heart Cathie has for the homeless in Rapid City. I have seen her interact with the people she serves, you can sense her caring heart and the appreciation in the people she helps. Please grant this request and allow Cathie Harris, RV Ministry and her many supporters to help make our City a better place by serving those in great need.

Thank You

Jon Brue
To Whom it May Concern:

As a Director of a non-profit in the Black Hills Region, I am acutely aware of the plight of the homeless and low-income population in our community. Organizations that work toward providing services to this population are a huge benefit to our local community.

Journey On supports RV Ministry’s mission of serving the homeless and low-income families, particularly Native American groups in Rapid City, SD. Journey On believes this program is important because of the real difference it can make in the lives of these at-risk populations of Rapid City, SD.

Journey On wishes to collaborate with RV Ministry to develop and facilitate programs which empower, educate, and afford people the opportunity to get ahead in life. Programs such as securing safe, sustainable housing/shelter, gainful employment, addiction recovery services, life coaching, and more.

As of January 2020, there are a documented 1058 homeless people inside the Rapid City limits and about a quarter of them are children under the age of 18. Due to the current Covid-19 Pandemic, this number is sure to rise. Having safe, sustainable shelter and support programs during this crisis is imperative. RV Ministry has the capacity to construct their existing building into a shelter, gathering place, soup kitchen, and support center. Journey On wishes to share this space to aid in the services provides and to develop and facilitate needs-based programs.

Please give RV Ministry your full consideration. If you have any questions I can answer, feel free to contact me at (605) 484-2330.

Thank you,

Tracy Sigdestad – Journey On CEO & Founder.

Tracy Sigdestad
April 20, 2020

Mary Corbine
24 Crestwood Dr
Rapid City SD 57701
605-786-7106

To Whom it may concern,

I have known Cathie Harris for three years. Cathy and I have had the opportunity to partner in our respective positions. I have seen Cathy’s passion and commitment to serving the less fortunate in our community.

Cathy is an asset to our community serving people who are often unseen or ignored. My interactions with Cathy have been positive. I believe RV Ministries having a fixed location will be a great benefit to Rapid City.

Sincerely,

Mary M. Corbine
To whom it may concern

RV Ministries has helped my husband and I throughout the years in countless ways. We are both very grateful for the volunteer experience we shared together. I was a great way to spend time in a positive way when we were building a foundation for our marriage. Our children have come to help and feel a part of something bigger than themselves. My daughter was able to earn volunteer credit for student council requirements. I watched my husband give free haircuts and free smiles! We have been able to give back and help in amazing ways. Our family is very grateful for RV Ministries. We are grateful for the support in building a new community by helping the community.

A building dedicated to the purpose of the ministry is beneficial to the community in so many ways. A stand alone building would allow for more space and storage. The food prep and serve area can have a separate area. Storage would allow for donations to be processed and distributed.

Both Dustin and his wife Nicole were trying to change their life around after being incarcerated. Both have said building a new community in a positive way with the help of programs like RV Ministries, has been essential to a life in a positive direction. They are now celebrating 2 years of marriage. They are both grateful for the support of the community and continue to look for ways to give back. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dustin and Nicole Johnson