

February 8, 2021

Susan Hoskins
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Greetings Ms. Hoskins:

Please accept this letter of intent as a vehicle to introduce you to One Roof Chicago (ORC), an organization of which I am founder and board co-chair. I am a member of Northside Friends Meeting (ILYM) and a former board member of Pacific YM's Friends Association of Services for the Elderly (FASE). Prior to transferring my membership from Strawberry Creek MM to Northside in 2016, I was a member of 15th St MM and Eastern Long Island Executive Meeting (NYYM). My wife Helen Haug and I were the first same-gender couple to be taken under the care of 15th St. in 1997, ending many years of bitter conflict and division within the meeting.

One could draw a line from the Spirit-led process of healing our meeting 25 years ago to the creation of One Roof Chicago, which turns the unifying and reconciling focus outward from a Quaker community to a city. One Roof Chicago's mission is to build Chicago's first intergenerational LGBTQ+-centered community for seniors, older adults living with HIV, and youth impacted by homelessness, combined with occupational training in culturally responsive eldercare.

One Roof Chicago arises from intersecting crises within our community:

- LGBTQ+ youth are at more than double the risk of homelessness compared to non-LGBTQ+ peers; as many as 40% of homeless youth at any given time identify as LGBTQ+. Nearly a quarter of LGBTQ black young adults experience homelessness.
- More than half of people living with HIV in the US are over 50 years old. They are at acute risk of "immune exhaustion," experiencing age-related conditions decades earlier than HIV-negative people.
- Three quarters of LGBTQ+ older adults entering long term care facilities express apprehension about neglect, abuse or being denied services.
- LGBTQ+ older adults with dementia/Alzheimer's face difficulty in securing unbiased support from health care and community service providers. This is a "stark" reality for transgender elders, who are especially vulnerable when seeking assistance with activities of daily living.
- As Baby Boomers enter old age, there is a looming shortage of healthcare workers. In 2030, this labor shortage is projected to reach over 150,000 workers, more than doubling again by 2040.

Although there is growing interest in integrating intergenerational elements into senior communities both in the US and abroad, these programs are rarely focused on high-need youth populations or trauma-informed models of care. To date, only one project combining housing for LGBTQ+ elders and youth has been built in the US, sponsored by the Los Angeles LGBT Center. Even taking that newly-opened project into account, One Roof Chicago is the first program of its kind anywhere in the world, with an integrated workforce training program incorporated into the design.

ORC is currently in pre-development; we anticipate identifying and securing a site in 2021, prioritizing neighborhoods on the South and West Sides of the city. Our development partner is Full Circle Communities, and we are receiving extensive ongoing technical assistance from SAGE's National LGBT Elder Housing Initiative. We encourage you to review our website at www.oneroofchicago.org for further details.

One Roof Chicago is at present an all-volunteer organization formed and governed entirely by individuals from the Chicago LGBTQ+ community, who are diverse in age, race, expertise, gender identity and expression, sexuality, and location. Our planning model is based in collaboration and direct stakeholder engagement. We hope to submit a proposal to FFA for a year-long partnership with two organizations that are deeply rooted in community and that will work with ORC in the long term to ensure we remain accountable, responsive, and grounded in best practices:

- Brave Space Alliance is the first Black-led, trans-led LGBTQ+ Center located on the South Side of Chicago, dedicated to creating and providing affirming, culturally competent, for-us by-us resources, programming, and services for LGBTQ+ individuals on the South and West sides of the city.
- Founded in 1982, H.O.M.E. improves the quality of life for Chicago's low-income elderly, helping seniors remain independent and part of their community through opportunities for intergenerational living in addition to citywide supportive services.

During a year's work together, we will complete the ORC community design, focusing on the needs of older adults and with particular emphasis on the needs of the trans/GNC community, based on the recognition that when marginalized people are placed at the center, the entire community benefits. The plan that arises from our collaboration will encompass a philosophy of care, program elements, facility design and operation, staffing considerations, case studies, and focus group feedback. The project will incorporate the direct engagement of elders, people living with HIV, and people with disabilities via focus groups, design charrettes, and intergenerational gatherings, testing our plan against their real lived experience. Our project budget is \$57,500; , in addition to FFA, we are seeking funding from the Chicago Foundation for Women and the RRF Foundation for Aging. Funding will support staff time from the partner organizations, a dedicated project manager, and direct costs related to community gatherings.

I hope I have provided you with enough (and not too much!) information here to make a decision on whether to invite a full grant request. Thank you for your consideration and discernment; I am happy to answer any questions, and would welcome a conversation by phone or Zoom. I look forward to hearing from you.

With warm regards,

Pamela Calvert
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