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August 11, 2022

To City of Manitowoc Planning Commission:

On behalf of Hope House Board of Directors and staff, we enthusiastically support the development of the Manitowoc Warming Shelter under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Matthew Sauer and the Manitowoc Cooperative Ministry.

Hope House is the only shelter available to homeless families in Manitowoc County. We have seven rooms and we prioritize providing shelter to homeless families with minor children in Manitowoc County. As a small shelter, we are limited in the number of families we can house and provide services. Since 2020, we have not had the capacity to meet the need of the homeless population in Manitowoc County and have been forced to operate from a waiting list of people who contact us and are in need of shelter. We currently have a waiting list of 14 families with children in Manitowoc County as well as 72 adults without children who have requested shelter and services from Hope House. The 72 adults without children include 14 couples and 44 single females.

We are looking forward to having the ability to provide an additional resource to these individuals during the winter months. The need for shelter for homeless individuals and families in Manitowoc County far exceeds the available resources.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Abby Abbet, Director