



Formerly known as Manitowoc County Domestic Violence Center
SUPPORTING VICTIMS of DOMESTIC ABUSE and SEXUAL ASSAULT

August 10, 2022

Manitowoc City Plan Commission;

I am writing in support of the Manitowoc Warming Shelter's request for a Conditional Use Permit. I am grateful that Pastor Matt Sauer and his team have stepped up to fill a need in our community. They have researched other warming shelters, reached out to InCourage and other local shelters for information about relevant training opportunities, best practices, policies, preparedness, and the like. I work with Pastor Matt Sauer on the Board of Directors for Prevent Suicide Manitowoc County and he was on InCourage's Board of Directors for 9 years. He excels at planning and executing that plan. He has pulled together people with a passion for helping those in our community who are experiencing homelessness. This group has done its homework, established a vision and mission statement, developed guidelines, discussed solutions to potential issues, and they know the resources in the community.

There is most definitely a need for a warming shelter in Manitowoc County. With rents increasing and low housing stock, it is likely more people in our community will experience homelessness. InCourage receives phone calls on a regular basis from individuals who are homeless (and not victims of domestic abuse). Other shelters in Manitowoc are frequently full and have waiting lists for shelter space. No one should be sleeping in their car or behind a dumpster, especially during Wisconsin winters.

Please grant the Manitowoc Warming Shelter's request for a Conditional Use Permit.

Sincerely,

Sara A Meier
Executive Director