

# David R. Rigell

West Palm Beach, FL 33411

May 9, 2026

To Whom it May Concern,

I have known John Eddings for over 55 years. Our parents were friends and attended the same church. I came to know John from our association at high school as well as church related activities. In addition, because I played the guitar and John played harmonica, we played some music together as well "back in the day".

For the past eleven years I have served as a founding Board member and volunteer at a men's residential transition facility located in Lake Worth Beach, Florida, known as the Anchor House. A little over 7 years ago the Board made the decision to close the Anchor House due to our inability to maintain a consistent, successful program for men seeking to transition from prison back into society. I mentioned to John during one of our frequent calls that we had decided to close the Anchor House. This piqued John's interest, and he asked if he could come up and visit the Anchor House on one of our regularly scheduled food and fellowship events which took place every Thursday night. John did so, and then asked me if he could submit a proposal to the Board of Directors of the Anchor House.

Within 3 days I had a detailed, multi-page proposal from John outlining a revised program for the Anchor House, and which included him moving to the Anchor House to serve as the full-time Residential Director (up to that point we had only a part-time Director, who could spend, at most 10 hours per week on-site with the men). John asked the Board to give him a year to see if the program could be revived. The Board met with John, and we were immediately impressed with his knowledge, passion, and commitment to men (like himself) who were struggling to become productive members of society following incarceration. We agreed to take a chance on John. With God's help and John's passionate commitment, the Anchor House was saved from

closure, and continues as a vibrant re-entry program to this day.

John created a new program, revised and created new forms, significantly improved the appearance of the Anchor House property, developed relationships with Wardens and Classification Officers all around the state, actively campaigned for people to pro-actively engage with the Anchor House residents so as to give the men an opportunity to be mentored by people who are successful in life and business. Not only that, but John also developed relationships with private and governmental agencies which assisted in funding many of the men who wanted to come to the Anchor House. He worked tirelessly to meet every need the men had, from transportation to probation, securing their ID, driver's license, jobs, food stamps, bus pass, and the list goes on and on.

I can say with 100% certainty that it was only because of John Eddings' commitment to the men who lived at Anchor House that the program remains open to this day.

In addition, while he was serving in his 24/7 job as the Residential Director of the Anchor House, John maintained his volunteer commitment to the Dr. Regina B. Shearn Corrections Transition Program (CTP) at Everglades Correctional Institution in Miami, Florida where he serves along with his wife Helen as Board Members, Assistant Directors, and the Coordinators of the Pre-CTP. It should be noted, too, that the CTP is widely recognized as the premier transition program throughout the Florida Department of Corrections.

And as if this commitment to Anchor House and the CTP program were not enough, John and Helen also co-founded a program at Homestead Correctional Institution that is known as Women with Dignity. Through this program, women serving lengthy and life sentences have been able to find hope, dignity, and joy in ways never before possible.

John and Helen leave home early on Tuesday mornings for the long and frustrating drive from Palm Beach County to Everglades Correctional Institution to lead the Pre-CTP, then from there they drive further South to lead Women with Dignity, and then they leave there to return to

Everglades to lead the CTP...and they are rarely able to return home before 10:30 at night. In his capacity as Residential Director of the Anchor House, John was solely responsible for handling the administrative, financial, relational, legal, property, and community needs of the program, and for the residents. Helen also provided substantial assistance to the men at the Anchor House.

Having worked closely alongside John at the Anchor House where he was fully in charge of all bank accounts, credit card transactions, receipt and accounting for all monies collected and paid, I can tell you there was never any question whatsoever that John Eddings is a man of unwavering integrity. He is a man of his word. He is eminently trustworthy. John held his position at Anchor House for nearly six years, from April 2, 2019-December 24, 2024.

I have tried to be as clear and informative as I can in writing this letter of reference on behalf of John Eddings. However, should you have any further questions about John, please do not hesitate to call me on my cell 561-373-7077, or reach out to me at [davidrigell@gmail.com](mailto:davidrigell@gmail.com).



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