

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Barry Walker and I currently serve as Executive Director of The River, a faith-based Recovery Community Organization located in Philadelphia, Mississippi. I am a licensed and ordained minister and I work closely with drug addicts, alcoholics, and people in recovery in Neshoba and surrounding counties. The purpose of this letter is to offer a general opinion on Someone's Child and the impact I believe the trailer, "Mandi's Room" will have on your local community.

As I am certain you are aware, the substance use disorder issue in our state and our nation has hit alarming levels. Last year more Mississippians died due to drug overdoses than ever before in the history of our state and over 72,000 Americans lost their lives because of overdose. These are both records.

I am very grateful there is an effort on both state and federal levels to battle the scourge of addiction. However, I believe it is the "lay person" who is willing to passionately engage in this life and death battle that will truly make the difference in the long run. This is exactly what Cheryl Laster Howell has done with Someone's Child and Mandi's Room.

Cheryl has experienced the horrors of the addiction problem our society faces when she lost her only daughter, Mandi, to a Heroin overdose in 2014. I have heard the story of Mandi's untimely passing and the severe pain a mother endures in losing a child in such a senseless way. Fortunately, the story does not end with Mandi's death.

Cheryl has taken the loss of her daughter and turned it into something beneficial to her community by starting Someone's Child, a ministry that focuses on educating her community of the serious nature of the abuse of drugs and alcohol. I have spent time in the Mandi's Room trailer, and I was astounded by the educational impact the facility offered. There were hiding places in that room that no one would've ever discovered or even thought to look in that can be used to conceal methamphetamines, pills, opiates, and every other substance imaginable. This trailer is an honorable labor of love on behalf of Mrs. Howell.

In summary, I would highly recommend your taking the time to observe this informative instrument that will surely be a force in curtailing the drug and

alcohol problem in your community. You will never regret investing a few minutes of personal time into something that will be so valuable to the local population.

Barry Walker

The River