OUR CENTER

Paving the Road to Self Sufficiency

August 24, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the OUR Center, I am writing to express our strong support for First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Longmont and its proposed remodeling project.

For the past 16 years, the OUR Center and First Evangelical Lutheran Church have maintained a meaningful and highly effective partnership. A cornerstone of this collaboration has been the church's generous provision of a small apartment-style living unit located in the former pastor's house. The OUR Center places eligible families in this unit for a period of up to six months while our team works intensively with them to regain stability and prepare for long-term self-reliance.

This arrangement exemplifies a true housing-first approach. By removing the immediate stress and uncertainty of housing, our staff can more effectively engage families in setting and achieving the goals that lead to lasting housing stability and greater self-sufficiency. The impact of this partnership on the families we serve has been consistently positive and significant.

The need for temporary housing units of this kind is currently at record levels in our community, and our waitlists remain very long. When church leadership approached us about remodeling the ground-level floor to create an additional separate living unit, we were thrilled. This expansion would allow us to support an additional two to five families each year—families who would otherwise continue to wait for a safe place to stabilize.

We also strongly support the plan to expand the existing unit from two bedrooms to three. This change will provide greater flexibility in the types of families we are able to serve through the partnership and will further enhance the program's effectiveness.

In short, the proposed remodeling represents a meaningful and impactful step forward. It will strengthen an already successful partnership, expand critical temporary housing capacity in Longmont, and help more families move toward lasting stability and self-reliance.

The OUR Center is proud to stand in full support of First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Longmont and this important project. We are grateful for the church's continued commitment to serving vulnerable families in our community and look forward to the positive difference this expansion will make.

Sincerely,

Marc Cowell
Executive Director, OUR Center

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