

In 2018, Inter-Faith Ministries was at an inflection point and began to work on a comprehensive 25-year strategic plan. Through a collaborative effort, we thoroughly examined all facets of our organization by bringing in national experts, conducting assessments of our programs, facilities, and campus, and engaging with current stakeholders and community leaders. This allowed us to gain a comprehensive understanding of the strengths and opportunities for improvement within our organization and the broader community we serve. By identifying gaps in our services and the unmet needs of our constituents, we were able to develop strategies and implement necessary changes to better serve our community. We are six years into our strategic plan and are extremely proud of all of the progress that we have made so far and we are looking forward to achieving even more success at HumanKind. Our aim is to serve our community and provide compassionate and dignified support to the most vulnerable residents in our region.

After announcing our plans for an additional campus expansion last December as part of our comprehensive 25-year strategic plan, we received encouraging news from the City shortly thereafter. This information sparked hope that the City could potentially collaborate to create a Multi-Agency Center (MAC), which includes a congregate shelter. In a joint letter to Gov. Kelly, signed by over 20 municipalities, healthcare providers, non-profits, and Sen. Jerry Moran, Sen. Roger Marshall, and Rep. Ron Estes, the City of Wichita and others requested a one-time \$50 million in funding through a State grant match program. This initiative aims to empower the city, county, and state to address homelessness, demonstrating our collective commitment to this cause.

We are happy that the City has pursued this request for state funding, as it could make the MAC a reality in just a few years. The City has already identified over \$28 million in matching federal and grant funds to support the MAC's design and build. These dollars – matched to \$22 million request from the State budget -- would be enough to make the MAC a reality. We are pleased by the progress this could mean for Wichita's homeless population and applaud their efforts to obtain this final piece of funding from the Kansas Legislature. We will support this request as it goes through the State's budget approval process.

In February, the city made its plans public at a town hall meeting, which outlined this building's programming and potential funding sources. While the City drives its MAC project toward fruition, the HK Board of Directors has decided to move along a complementary path. Rather than launching phase two of our campus expansion, we are shifting to phase four to focus on creating even more affordable housing on our campus. Once the City's MAC becomes operational, two—and three-bedroom apartment units built on the HK campus will allow clients to move seamlessly off the streets and from shelters into safe, accessible, and affordable housing with wraparound support service to help them gain independence, life skills, gainful employment, and more.

Access to affordable housing is the number one cause of homelessness, both nationally and locally. Some estimates show a deficiency of more than 19,000 affordable housing units in our community. We are excited to continue our work in providing affordable, accessible housing for individuals and families specifically experiencing homelessness, providing case management and community spaces for partner agencies on-site. This housing will be designed to meet the unique needs of our homeless neighbors and will address the continued need for affordable housing accessible for the populations we serve.

For the past six years, HK has been raising unrestricted funds to support all phases of our programs and services -- from short-term shelter, health, and counseling support -- to long-term solutions for housing. With affordable and accessible housing, we ultimately eliminate the need for more shelter beds and give our most vulnerable residents a sense of home and hope on their road to self-sufficiency, which is anchored in long-term solutions. Fortunately, we worked on phase two while simultaneously working on phase four. Our donors have been extremely supportive in directing their contributions to our housing programs.

Thank you for your support of our mission. Together, we are making real progress, changing lives, and moving people from homelessness into housing. As we work towards helping our most vulnerable neighbors, we are making progress towards achieving functional zero in our community.

If you have any questions about our current capital project or any of the work being done by HumanKind, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,
LaTasha