



October 8, 2020

Barry Community Foundation
231 S. Broadway
Hastings, MI 49058

Dear friends,

Please accept this letter as a thank you for selecting Green Gables Haven as a potential benefactor in celebration of the Barry Community Foundation's 25 years of improving lives by bridging resources. We are honored to have been chosen for consideration.

Since our inception in April 2004, Green Gables Haven has provided sanctuary, food, clothing, personal needs items, legal, medical and social advocacy, emergency transportation, direct services, case management and referrals to over 2,105 individuals with 820 of those being children in crisis. Thankfully, during the Covid-19 shut down we remained open, serving our county and those in need of finding a safe and secure place to live while putting their lives back together.

We, like everyone seriously feel the pandemic and the restrictions that it carries with the loss of our fundraisers. Our 3rd Annual Nibbles, Novelists and New Beginnings which was scheduled for May 13, 2020 (in 2019 we raised \$13,000) had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. While we are most grateful that we were selected to participate in the annual Bill Porter Memorial Golf Outing (Historically, we have benefited between \$12,000 and \$15,000) that directly supports our counseling program, it was certainly not the same as in other years and finally, our 19th Annual Charity Auction and Dinner schedule for February 13, 2021 (we raised \$49,000 in February 2020) is in question as none of us know where our country will be by then. The auction takes months of planning, asking for sponsorships, requesting donations and selling individual tickets to the event. We have sent our letter to our historical sponsors in hopes we can in fact hold the event, but we are truly unsure how our donation requests will be received from our local businesses that have been hit so hard during these past seven (7) months. These funds go directly to operation costs of the shelter, including but not limited to water, heat, security, food, supplies and staff salaries.

We are very fortunate to be in our fourth (4th) year as a recipient of a federal grant supporting staff salaries for twelve (12) months. We are thrilled that we continue to be selected to receive this grant. While it is exclusive to pay for only a percentage of staff salaries, it also includes a small budget to allow staff to receive the most up to date training on domestic violence allowing us to better serve those who come to us in crisis. Unfortunately, while this grant is amazing, it very much limits what it allows us to do for our clients. One example is we can purchase a new couch for them to sit on, but we can't buy them food. There are many expenses that this grant simply won't cover; therefore, fundraisers, gifts and partnerships like the ones we share with those in our community are still necessary.

Green Gables Haven is staffed twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, three-hundred and sixty-five (365) days a year.

It continues to be very difficult for our clients to find employment to support a household and, even more difficult here in Barry County, is finding affordable, safe, and secure housing. While we are considered a thirty (30) day shelter, our reality over the past several years has been clients stay much longer than our thirty (30) day policy. More often than not, they stay between sixty (60) and ninety (90) days.

We are most grateful for the support that the Barry Community Foundation has lent us over the years. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of those afflicted by domestic violence and crisis situations. Thank you for your support!

I am happy to answer any additional questions you may have. I can be reached at 269-804-6021 or via email at Janie@greengableshaven.org.

Sincerely,

Janie Bergeron

Janie C. Bergeron
Executive Director
Green Gables Haven