



August 29, 2017

Dear Member of the Utah State Legislature,

On behalf of the 32 homeless men and women we have provided with a dignified end of life experience, and the hundreds of homeless individuals who die annually in Utah, **we respectfully ask for your support of Senator Escamilla's appropriation of \$950,000** to begin initial site work and development of a new 36-bed medical housing facility for medically frail and terminally homeless individuals.

The INN Between is a unique 501(c)(3) nonprofit that relies primarily on private donations for our \$425,000 annual budget. We serve clients referred from through Utah, with 80% of new clients originating within Salt Lake County.

The INN Between, is Utah's only end of life solution for the homeless, and the first program to address medical respite and end of life for the homeless in the entire United States. Since inception two years ago, The INN Between has demonstrated a proven trackrecord as an amazing humanitarian program that showcases the compassionate nature of Utahns by providing a warm and caring home to individuals who have nowhere else to go as they face medical crisis and terminal illness.

The INN Between currently has a maximum capacity of 16 is is full most nights with a long wait list. The facility home is 63 years old old, is in disrepair and lacks an elevator and other modern conveniences, making life challenging for the staff, volunteers, medical team, and residents.

The need for a larger facility has been demonstrated, and this appropriation is critical to launch the project at this time, as the Stte and County restructure our homeless shelter services.

The **terminally ill homeless** are not only the most vulnerable segment of the homeless population, but also **the most costly to our community at well over \$1 million annually**. They burden limited police and fire resources by making **unnecessary 911 calls and emergency room visits** (each 911 call with medical transport costs \$2,000; each night in the hospital is at least \$3,000). They become **hospital "frequent fliers"** because they can't be turned away for service at the hospital. The **State pays for the cremation** through its Indigent Cremation Fund.

And, The INN Between doesn't just serve the chronically homeless. We see many average **middle-class Utahns who worked their entire lives**, only to lose their job and housing when a major illness strikes. We know that many Utahns are only one or two paychecks away from homelessness after job loss, even without medical issues and high medical bills.

The INN Between is not a homeless shelter. We are an independent living facility that serves as a "surrogate home" to our residents, who stay with us from a week to a year, depending on

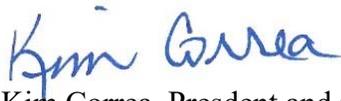
their diagnosis. We collaborate with area shelters and homeless service providers to ensure that homeless individuals with high medical needs are appropriately and cost-effectively placed at The INN Between.

As we embark on a major shift in homeless shelter services, it is important to look at the big picture to ensure high quality, cost effective outcomes and avoid duplication of services.

The INN Between is a **long-term solution** that will address the “med bed” needs of our community while ensuring that Utah’s most vulnerable individuals, whether recently homeless or chronically homeless, remain housed and receive professional hospice care at the end of life.

Please support this critical appropriation.

Sincerely,



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