Dear Community Friend:

Thank you for agreeing to participate on the “Foundations for Success” steering committee and your commitment to making a difference in the lives of people in our community who are less fortunate. See the DRAFT Vision/Mission set out for the work of the committee. Also, see the statement outlining “The Need” and challenges before us, how we got to this place and what needs to be done/accomplished by our committee that will lead to agreed upon solutions.

Each one of you had been asked to be part of this effort because of your areas of expertise and your understanding of the need and its importance. We think this is a balanced group—thank you again for sharing your time and expertise on this effort.

Our work will begin by getting to know each other and determining the protocol we want to use for our work. We can then start the process of learning together. We are fortunate that experienced people from the City and County who work in the area of homelessness have been gathering needed information for over a year on the homeless situation in the greater Madison area. This Shelter Group has produced a document to share with up-to-date findings on the current homeless population including what types of services are currently available, what is missing and what the needs look like for the future, etc.

It also includes learned information (from their attendance at National and State conferences) about successes/trends other communities are experiencing in the area of homelessness. This document will be vital for our work as we begin. In addition, a group of City/County people took a road trip to “Higher Ground Shelter” in St. Paul, MN, April 8, 2019 and toured the facility that is operated by Catholic Charities. The group learned a great amount and is anxious to share it with all of us.

It is important that the efforts of the committee are organic, meaning that this is not a “top down” effort. The group will be self-governing in order to provide results that reflect the community as a whole.

See the draft agenda outline for our first meeting. Please feel free to comment prior to our first meeting and thank you again.

Respectfully,

Schmitz Consulting LLC

By: Susan Schmitz/Consultant of Grace Episcopal Church