

From: Cheryl Graves
To: Moore-Love, Karla
Subject: September City Council Meeting
Date: Friday, June 28, 2019 8:59:21 AM
Attachments: Homeless- foster children letter 2 Sept 6-page .docx

Good Morning Karla,

Again, thanks for all your help with the meeting schedules, I look forward in meeting you on August 28th.

I have enclosed the outline for the September meeting. The Wednesday mornings that I am free are:

September 4th, 18th and 25th, hoping for the sooner. I would also like to make this presentation when the full Council is present.

Many Thanks,
Cheryl Graves
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Dear Concerned Council Members and Neighbors,

Meeting September 2019

Homeless children, kids living on the streets and at-risk and unsupervised foster children. Unless we put a stop to this crisis, homeless and at-risk children will become the normal, an entire new culture.

My name is Cheryl Graves and I am here today to ask that you please open your hearts and let my message be your thought for this day and tomorrow.

I am offering a positive plan towards the solution to homelessness, helping children to find safety, nutrition, better education and love, this is not another band aid but a life changing solution, one to be proud of.

My goal is to elevate the States homeless and foster care system to become the best in the country not one of the worst.

I have included the 200-page detailed publication, YES! My Life Matters, The Homeless Cure.

This commonsense approach will bring positive change for everyone with the guidance of the YES! My Life Matters Program. It offers homeless and foster children safe and caring day-care, revised education (K-12), safe and appropriate housing, supervised environment, on the spot medical and dental care, on the job training (16 +), with training programs that are interesting, as well as personal and life skills training. This program will be very attractive to the unincorporated person, a lifestyle that even they will be at home with.

While waiting for just the right foster parents these children will be raised in wide open spaces surrounded with, farming, orchards, gardening, fishing, real life ecosystem, and the ranch that includes, chickens, pigs, goats, pony's and horses. These children will not be just learning about growing their own food and building their own bikes, but also nutrition, friendship, trust and laughter, they will be living it 24-7-365 days a year.

This plan will not cost the State of Oregon one more dollar then at present, we plan on supporting this program with far less then you pay now and successfully helping twice as many kids.

One of the best features of this plan is that families can now stay together. The Village is a lifestyle rehabilitation community that serves all ages, individuals, families and friends who can now grow in a positive environment with, specialized mentoring, engaging projects and when someone needs to be re-directed, there is someone there to help. Never judging, always caring, supporting their direction and safe.

Most of these children have nothing in common with these foster families. No matter how much someone tries to fit in or goals to become the best foster parent in the land, the facts are still the same, they are not your own children. When children are placed into foster care, they move from one extremely dysfunctional life to a new and improved dysfunctional life. These children need to be amongst other children that have been there, that have also had difficult beginnings, that can make new friends and understand their new life in a monitored, supervised group environment. It is crazy to think that a lost and forgotten child can blend into a "Quote" normal family.

When I had cancer for three years, the only eye contact I could muster was another cancer sufferer. When we are broken, we do not need to be around a normal group, we need to be with others who are hurting, frightened and displaced as not to cower but to support and make new LIKE friendships that gets it!

At risk children, inadequate supervision, high risk living conditions, no positive role models and there is no one protecting these children or teaching them healthy living practices.

We as a state have foster and homeless children scattered in 8000 different places. Although the plan sounded good at first, to place kids in private homes, with "Quote", normal families, the reality is, we as the caretakers can't be in 8000 different places every day to see to their safety. Had we have known that the foster care system would be charged with 8000 little lives I do not believe this plan would have been enacted.

So, knowing that 50% of foster kids are NOT getting their needs met and many times the stories are dreadful? We Need a different plan, this one is broken so badly it need to be dissolved, hit rock bottom so to speak, and begin again.

The Homeless Cure is the effort to clean up the city streets of Portland and helping with alternative living. The Goal is to build self-respect within the disrespected lives of the homeless and foster kids to better help to get back on track. Please read this thought-provoking recovery plan for homelessness, addiction and better care for people who suffer with mental health. Today is about the children, the most upsetting of this crisis, lost and forgotten kids raised to believe that medical care and education is optional, and no understanding of respect, or self-respect. What will happen when these homeless communities raise these children, children that are missing the very most important elements for them to thrive, it leads to even more homeless. We are now seeing the second generation of homeless individuals adding more and more each day to this lifestyle. Is this how we see Portland's future- and of Oregon, NO! and if NO is your answer then why is this still going on? Homelessness, at risk children, mental health suffers wandering the streets and our over abundant drug addicts.

If we do not stop this assault to our city, at what point do we become the place to go for handouts and enabling. Please help by getting involved, speak up and help to solve this life-threatening crisis.

How are we going to accomplish this grand task of homelessness while all others have failed? With the help of other non-profits, engaging only in solid common-sense projects and targeting the missing link in gaining a successful happy life, we are after self-respect. Every program, project and task offered by YES! MLM will be examined as to the effectiveness of self-esteem building qualities. Without this important element it would be simply, school or chores without reachable incentives. This plan is, engaging and mind provoking

Portland Tribune, June 2019

SALEM — Oregon ranks first in the nation for the rate of homeless children and youth and 10th in the percentage of foster care placements, according to a new report by WalletHub.

Overall, Oregon ranked 12th in the ratio of disadvantaged, or "underprivileged" children, compared with Washington, which ranked 26th, and California, which was 22nd.

The [report](#), "2018's States with the Most Underprivileged Children," compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 24 metrics using statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau and other sources to rank the states on child welfare.

Metrics included the percentage of children living in poverty, the rate of child food insecurity, the state's share of children who have been reported abused and other factors.

In Oregon, the rate of homeless children and foster care placements have some correlation.

The state's number of homeless students was at a record high in 2016-17 at 22,541, according to the most recent [state count](#). That was a 5.6 percent jump from 2015-16.

Meanwhile, inadequate housing is the third biggest driver of foster care placements, according to statistics from the Oregon Department of Human Services. The percentage of foster care placements due to inadequate housing has increased from 13 percent in 2015 to 17 percent in 2017.

Christine Stone, a spokeswoman for the Oregon Child Welfare Office, said she was unable to comment on the report Wednesday, Aug. 8, because she couldn't reach the office's experts on foster care placements. The office planned to issue a statement Thursday, Aug. 9.

Gov. Kate Brown's office stressed the importance of affordable, stable housing in addressing child welfare.

"Oregon's families need support to stay safely together, and the governor is working to bring more housing under development in the state pipeline as well as focusing on root causes that drive children into foster care, such as addiction treatment and recovery, access to comprehensive health care and domestic violence," said Kate Kondayen, a governor's spokeswoman. "The governor is also supporting the Department of Human Services Child Welfare division as they work on right-sizing the foster care system."

Some advocates believe mandatory relocation assistance for evicted tenants and rent control policies amid a boom in statewide population and the resulting demand for housing could help curb the trend.

"Without statewide tenant protections in Oregon, people are facing displacement, causing their families to either be ripped apart or live on the streets," said Alison McIntosh of the Oregon Housing Alliance. "**Protecting these children should be the first priority**" during the state legislative session in January, she said.

In association with children but inclusive of all homelessness

First, **mental health and addiction** has been and remains the main reason why homelessness has not been dealt with and must be dealt with separately, it's the humane thing to do. The plan is for hospitals and government to establish several mental health and addiction facilities, giving refuge for those who need help. Only by separating the group can we go forward with a revitalization plan. We must un-muck the water to pave a path for greater success. This element will help reduce the misunderstanding between mental health, poor luck and life choice.

Instead of reinventing the wheel we will join forces with other **non-profits** to fund the program, we will collaborate our efforts to gain financial and group strength.

The next step will be providing opportunities for people who have chosen to live off the grid, like, **on the job training**, better day care and schools, lifestyle skills and good choices. The **apprenticeship programs** can become the standard for job training by helping to elevate performance of new hire employees.

The success rate for revitalization will be greater with the establishment of the **My Life Matters model village**. We will be better equipped to ensure future education, personal life and job skills, and new ways to cope with life. This is an aggressive plan to produce a higher qualified job seeker and stronger American. A lifestyle boot camp so to speak.

Learn Through **Caring Program**

When caring for others you learn to understand, not just your life matters. Having something or someone depend on you is a learned responsibility. The skills needed for successful human and animal care are,

patience, forgiveness, responsibility, making choices and leadership. Here are just a few of our caring programs.

Safe housing with neighborhood watch

Reading and language skills, math and science

Nutritional education, cooking, gardening, and meal budgeting

Clean and sustainable living through solar and wind, eco systems and reusable products

Revised education for pre-school and higher, establishing early learning and behavioral skills

Learn through apprenticeships and hands on life skills, thanks to local and start-up businesses

Specialty Care for children, senior, medical and handicap care, facilities within the village

Animal care; service dogs, pet training, dog breeding and obedient training, disciplinary skills

Learn and Grow Parks; safe, learn while you play, for children and their families, interactive skills

Farm animals including, mustang horses. There are presently successful programs using horses for physical therapy and disciplined skills therapy. The farm that resides within the My Life Matters village could be the perfect place to offer this incredible platform.

Residents of the village

We must truly understand the laws and work within them. To gather the lost and forgotten is a touchy situation. Following evaluation, the persons diagnosed with conditions will be admitted into hospitals care. The persons whom are not suffering from mental health and addiction are brought to MLM campus. When they arrive to the village, they will be introduced to the group and asked to tag along. Once they have acclimated themselves to the village, they can become involved in the daily events. As the new arrivals come and go, they will quickly discover that the incentives to stay are far better than the alternative, the village will be attractive for the wanderer's taste in lifestyle. Each new and returning person will start at the beginning of the program and work their way up, each time getting a bit farther.

My Life Matters Village and plan can succeed!

1. The My Life Matters is a new lifestyle village of housing, jobs, education and safe surroundings for the unincorporated person
2. Involves all productive non-profits for supportive efforts
3. It is attractive to the masses because it speaks to all sides. The citizens who wants to support MLM efforts can get involved with non-profit fund-raising groups and or donate to the cause. The persons who are presently unhappy with their tax dollars going to homeless will now see their dollars support mental health, addiction and higher education
4. It shifts the tax dollars from homeless to mental health care
5. It can become the templet for rehabilitation is many situations, returning vets, welfare, foster care, noncriminal offence rehabilitation, drug and alcohol rehab, abuse and many others
6. It can become the standard for job skills training
7. It reduces the tax burden from welfare by rehabilitating back into a thriving lifestyle
8. School Programs to focus on early development, learning and behavioral skills
9. It creates an opportunity for individuals to stand strong while building self-respect
10. It provides much needed safe housing and a place to call home
11. Reduces the misunderstandings between mental health, poor luck and life choices
12. Offers much needed trade education and apprenticeship work programs

13. Language skills and English speech classes of all ages
14. Available medical, dental and mental health care
15. Reward for steppingstone success is a new-found self-esteem
16. Eventually ownership of their own home, built with their own hands and the skills they have learned through our on the job and apprenticeship training programs.
17. Over the first 10 years this plan can save millions if not billions of County, State, City and Federal funds.

My Life Matters plans to secure a **300-400-acre area of land**. We would initially build a city of tents and eventually buildings to provide a safe place to live for transitional individuals looking toward a conventional lifestyle. Basic amenities such as food and clothing would be provided upon each person's arrival followed by an evaluation to determine their desire to go a step further. The village will provide a safe and nurturing community where any resident can receive education and hands-on training. This enables participating members to progress from one level to the next, whereby they would ultimately be qualified to seek employment and go on to procure their own housing, choosing to live within or away from the village. This village community will be built by the residents through on the job training programs and business partnerships. The residents would be responsible to help sustain the community.

Now that the city of Portland has declared the public golf courses to be too costly, maybe they will allow us to take them over, all 5, and build our community surrounding these beautiful grounds. These courses could provide the five much needed grounds that would contain our village, marketplace, schools, apprenticeship programs, child, senior and foster care. Our plan includes gardens, agriculture, farming, eco systems and self-sustaining food sources. The educational play parks and learning platforms will be like Portland's own Green Parks and Gardens. They are strategically planned to draw tourist from around the world as well as a local attraction. You must read this book; it is a solid plan to help people who need our help.

The decline in education and the increase of homeless families is staggering. I would like to hear about your ideas and determine how the My Life Matters could become a part of your vision. I would like to meet and share the many ideas for a recovery plan. During our meeting there is available preliminary sketches, strategies, contacts, funding groups and goals.

While preparing the My Life Matters outline, the biggest question has been, who would be the best person to get this plan into action, and several names came to mind. The reason I am contacting you, besides money is that you have a heart for the people and a care for this country. Due to your strong connections and experience, I ask that you consider the My Life Matters as your project. Your generous involvement to help people in need will be well invested.

This new plan offers nothing for free. We offer re-vised education, on the job training, apprenticeship programs, working education programs, and personal skills growth. By building a strong and loved family we can begin to love ourselves, be a good neighbor and excel at our jobs. In a way we are returning to the days when life itself was our boot camp.

A bit about myself. Have I mentioned that I love my city! As you will read after downloading the eBook, is a more in-depth resume and detailed plan for this project.

With forty years' experience, eight years of college, six of these years in private academy including business management, specifically in the health and beauty industry, along with writing, developing and managing apprenticeship programs. During the most productive years of these programs I was awarded a Federal Grant with the condition I shared the program to others outside of my own business and converted my 400-page team building book to include Spanish. The goal was to train graduates out of beauty school earning minimum wage by developing technical and language skills. This plan would continue until they increased their income 400% wage, and in 2 years or less. With a graduating rate of 92% the program proved to be very successful. By offering specific training in personal presentation, language and technical skills most students completed the program in less than two years. Besides the employees enjoying this newly found self-esteem and elevated compensation they also became proud taxpayers.

During the late 70's I gave birth to two children while being treated for uterine cancer. My husband left for a life of parties and drugs and I lost my job due to pregnancy. At that time, I held the position of Fashion Liaisons between Europe and the United States and delivered these new trends to the west coast. This incredible job included many professional elements and required maintaining a perfect figure and fashion forward appearance. In that time being pregnant was far from cool. Now I am pregnant, have cancer, husband moved on, and I am too proud to accept handouts, although they were offered. Alone, scared, unemployed, sick, and pregnant. I landed another job and on with my new life I went. My daughters started in day care at 3 weeks old and continued until they entered junior high school. My desire to raise strong children without feeling the void of a father led me to the Montessori school in our area. I felt that the extra structure would help to balance the missing parent and a second job would cover the cost. My daughters have never met their father.

As I grew within the health and beauty world, I bought a little farm and we three girls each had a horse, dog, cat and potbellied pig, and the rest is history.

Detailed information begins here:

Listed below are a few more areas I would like to offer a clearer description of this project, My Life Matters.

Role of Non-Profits

My life Matters will be supported by donations and sales from farmer market goods and on location startup businesses. We are here by choice, and choice is how we will pay for our new life. We are presently contacting all non-profit organizations that service groups falling into like categories and invite them to informational gatherings, asking each interested group or individuals to contact 100 persons and invite along to our next gathering. This is a strategy used often when building businesses of any sort, groups building strength.

1. The YES! MLM teams will become supporters of all functional non-profits supporting mental health, education and homelessness, that in turn will support the MLM and its mission

Role of Oregonians

1. Get involved with your favorite non-profits and SUPPORT! Help yourself by helping others
2. Shop in the village stores and markets providing education, homes, food, and job skills
3. Stop homelessness by funding the MLM in place of dollars on the streets.
4. Vote

What does the startup look like?

In the beginning we build a campground and offer tent style living, offices, dorms, cafeteria and day care along with the inception of our small businesses. Once the campgrounds are established, it will be time to offer our skill building trades and jobs, performed inside and outdoor spaces. The groundwork for farming, agriculture, open air shops and eateries will be next inline. The Village residents will participate in skills training practices throughout the week and work the open markets each weekend. We plan to become the year around marketplace for local fair, products, entertainment and positive social surroundings.

5-year plan

To cover the plan in its fifth through tenth year will require you to read the book, it covers most everything.

But I can give you a peek;

Final build out to the second and third greenhouses

Complete the ranch, second and third barns and guest bunk houses

Complete planting the deciduous and evergreen plots

Eco system to be in full production delivering, fertilizers, fresh fish, fowl and recycled water

Complete ranch stock, goats, cows, chickens, pigs and horses

Final build out to the Main House, offices, dorms, classrooms, Ballroom one and two, catering kitchen,

The Brunch Restaurant, Hotel, Hall of Heroes, courtyard including; courts, pool and pool house, Bar-B-

Que and picnic areas, court landscape, perimeter landscape (exotics), pavers, fences and gates

Available one thousand prime landscape trees and shrubs for market.

Complete the fifty-acre Global Garden Touring with physical fitness courses, educational tour of the world, pools and playgrounds

Begin the outdoor and indoor events including fund raising

Role of other businesses:

1. Extend their present business into the MLM village, adding job training with promotional opportunities. We will bring outside business into our community and later our businesses can reach outside of the village to allow for re connecting with new friends.

Village plan includes:

1. Tents, gravel roads, markets, buildings, eateries, stores, events and social gathering space
No machinery, cars, trucks, people powered travel

Role of Government-land use-mental health-law enforcement

1. Supporting hospital with mental health facilities
(engage all hospitals; prioritize their next foundation goals to include a new mental health wing)
2. Ask State, City, County and Federal agencies to provide 1 plot of land 300 to 400 acres to develop our village, eco-system, utilities fields, agriculture plots, ranch and farm. At the same time, we will be investigating the long-term use and conversion of the city owned golf courses in place of the acreage. These five courses will include all the details for this entire program in the book YES! My Life Matters, The Homeless Cure

3. We ask the government to discontinue spending their tax dollars on homelessness and redirect this money to mental health
4. Accessible, alternative, new and improved learning centers
5. Locate and deliver Oregon's wild mustangs to the plot that surrounds the village, called the ranch

As a customer of local businesses, medical centers and social outings I am often out in the city, in all corners. Everytime I venture out either by car, train or plane I am aghast of the number of homeless individuals and camps that have taken over our city streets. One of the most tragic scenarios are the children. Many are being raised to believe that the streets are a way of life. School and medical attention is optional and seeking knowledge is unnecessary. My husband Tom and I walk our dogs throughout the city daily and I am ashamed of the camps and begging on street corners that has become the normal. We must believe that many of these displaced people suffer with mental health, and others might be there by choice. Either way, it is a disturbing sight for the entire city, its residents and travelers. There must be change, and soon!

My Life Matters Mantra: I take responsibility for my life. No matter how we arrived here we are all going forward together. We are here to grow as a person, family, and neighborhood where all life matters. The training and apprenticeship programs are created to include subjects that could be of interest to the unincorporated citizen. The invited businesses and learning platforms will allow for personal and professional growth while helping to increase self-esteem. Only when we have self-worth can we have success!

This 200-page detailed publication, YES! My Life Matters, The Homeless Cure is a plan, a program to serve the unfortunate people who have lost their way. For the people in this room we personally don't understand the entire reality of how people have ended up on the streets and have lost their way. Poor role models if any at all, missing or otherwise unconscious parents, abuse, or simply bad luck, in some cases by choice. They need help to find their way towards a better life, a life that gives them cause to lift their heads and be thankful for this second chance, they need us.

This book was written to benefit Portland and its caring citizens. It has taken three years of endless research, planning and all my free time to bring this book to you. Please take this plan, this effort, and make it a part of our near future because yesterday was even too late to take a stand towards rebuilding these lives.

My name is Cheryl DuBois Graves and as a native Oregonian I have a longtime investment and protective love for my city, Portland. My vision is to shift the energy from nonfunctioning individuals and lifestyles into productive thriving families and communities by way of a group called My Life Matters.

The vision is to elevate the education platform, personal esteem, and community spirit of our fellow Portlanders.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

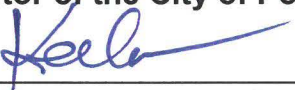
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Request of Cheryl Graves to address Council regarding homeless children, kids living on the streets and at-risk and unsupervised foster children (Communication)

SEP 11 2019

PLACED ON FILE

Filed SEP 03 2019
MARY HULL CABALLERO
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 
Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Hardesty		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		