



January 4, 2023

Dear Midland Planning Department and City Council members,

Home To Stay serves as the Housing Assessment and Resource Agency (HARA) for Midland County to assist households experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless. We rely heavily on Midland's Open Door to provide shelter for individuals and families who have no place to stay. Housing Resource Specialists from Home To Stay regularly meet with individuals who are staying at Midland's Open Door to assist them in locating and obtaining housing. Home To Stay staff work alongside shelter staff to help folks transition from emergency sheltering into their own home. Midland's Open Door provides an invaluable service to our community.

The current shelter for women and children is far too small to meet the sheltering needs in our community. The shelter is consistently full and unable to take in the number of women and children needing emergency shelter at any given time. The location of the shelter is also problematic due to the distance from the City of Midland and all of its amenities. Transportation barriers often pose problems for those staying at the shelter to get to work or get their kids to school. The distance between the men's shelter and the women's shelter also places a strain on the organization as staff are too far apart to provide support and assistance to each other as needed. Relocating the shelter to a location within the City of Midland is essential to the success of those who utilize its services.

It is no secret that Midland's Open Door runs a tight ship. They handle situations and implement guidelines that promote a positive environment for those staying in the shelter as well as the community around the facility. They have demonstrated their ability to maintain a pristine facility and hold participants to a high standard of living while on the premises. They exemplify what it is to be a good neighbor.

Home To Stay supports Midland's Open Door in moving the women and children's shelter to 1610 W. Carpenter Street and would like to see their Conditional Use Permit granted. It makes sense for the residents, the staff and the community. As an added bonus, it would decrease travel time for Home To Stay staff to visit shelter guests.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at (989) 496-9550 or send an e-mail to dst.john@myhometostay.org

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donna St. John".

Donna St. John, Executive Director