

Dear ,

As you may have heard, the “homeless” situation throughout the nation and in our own backyard has reached crisis levels. In 2006, a diverse group of concerned citizens from throughout the region were charged with developing a plan to end homelessness by the year 2012. Communities across the nation responded to this same challenge to address the causes of homelessness, rather than continue to apply band aids to this growing issue.

This Task Force to Develop the Community Plan to End Homelessness spent over a year working on a road map to fulfill this charge. In early 2007, the group presented a plan to the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission that specifically addressed the region’s homeless situation. The heart and centerpiece of the plan was a lead agency on homelessness to implement identified strategies through coordination and partnerships with other agencies and organizations. After more than a year of little progress toward establishing this lead organization, the Thomas Jefferson Area Coalition for the Homeless (TJACH) has stepped forward to commit to formalizing their loose coalition into a formal organization to take on this key role. A full-time Executive Director would be the driving force of this new mission and direction for TJACH as it grows and matures into a non-profit organization with a leadership and coordinating role in ending the homeless crisis in our community.

This background information leads to the reason we are writing to you today. To succeed in our goals, we must first form a Board of Directors for TJACH. The initial board’s main tasks would be to fine tune TJACH’s goals in this new role, establish an initial budget, and, most importantly, hire our first Executive Director. These are no small tasks, and will probably take a solid year to accomplish.

Because the cause is so urgent and important, we are asking you to seriously consider becoming a member of this inaugural board. Your expertise, energy, and level of concern and care for the overall well-being of our community led us to write specifically to you. We know your time is valuable, but promise that this will be worthwhile work for a most worthy cause.

Before you file this letter away, we ask that you be a part of creating something that could have a lasting positive effect on the lives of those in need in our region. Someone will be calling you within a few days to discuss this exciting challenge. We hope your answer will be “yes!”

With warmest regards,

Mark Lorenzoni
Corner Merchants
Chair, 2012 Task Force

Howard Evergreen
Fluvanna/Louisa Housing Foundation

James Howard
Greene County DSS
Member, 2012 Task Force

Connie Brennan
TJPD Chair
Nelson County BOS

Sally Thomas
TJPD Commissioner
Albemarle County BOS