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January 1, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Chileda, Inc. in support of Haven for Special People. We enthusiastically support this inclusionary project for people with disabilities. This service would add value for not only the residents of this project, but also the La Crosse community.

Chileda is a residential nonprofit that serves children and adolescents with severe and profound Autism. We have learned over the years that once children age out (at 18 years old), finding services, especially residential services, can be difficult. There is a crisis of placement shortages for adults with disabilities. I have talked with many parents who are desperate for their child to find a residential placement that will provide a safe and caring environment for their loved one.

Haven for Special People has an opportunity to meet the needs of families seeking this type of home for their adult child. An added feature of this project that will be of value is that it will serve both those with disabilities and those without. This creates a setting of integration that will benefit both populations.

We are excited about this project and hope that others will be as well. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Derek Cortez, PhD
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