

To the City of Waukesha and concerned parties.

I wish I was there in person to support Lutheran Social Services and their plans to expand the Genesis House. I am out of town and trust this written message will be accepted in the spirit of support in which it is intended.

My name is David Hamm and nearly 39 years ago I found myself in need of some major help in changing my life. I was drinking and using drugs at a rate that was surely going to kill me within one to two years. After getting in trouble with the law (beyond typical traffic and nuisance offenses) I went into drug and alcohol treatment at Kettle Moraine Hospital. This was in 1979 and I was going on 26 years old. After treatment I lived at the Genesis House for six months.

Given my age and condition at the time, I needed the additional support Genesis provided. I moved out of Genesis with two others from the house and I still see one of my roommates to this day. My success story is ... I stayed sober, I went to college (which I began while at Genesis) raised a family of four sons, and am now retired from a 33 year career as an IT Director from one of Milwaukee's premier companies. I am clean and sober today and will have 39 years of clean time next May. I continue to be involved with sober service including going to meetings at the Waukesha County Jail, Genesis House, and other detox facilities. Simply put, the sober life is integrated into my entire life today.

Not everybody sticks with the program and makes it, but everybody deserves a chance. We had some late night conversations, along with plenty of coffee and cigarettes, but my experience was that people that stayed at the house wanted to get better. And if they decided to go back to drinking, they had no interest in hanging around those that did. As a result, the impact to the surrounding neighborhood was neutral to positive. Those that go back to the old ways leave very quickly, and those that want to change are interested in service and fellowship.

Lutheran Social Services has been providing this service for at least 40 years that I know of, and doing it with a passion for helping those in need. I encourage you to support their efforts in expanding the Genesis House in your area, including any necessary zoning changes. It will be well run, and the service will be invaluable to others, as it was to me.

Sincerely,

Dave Hamm

1105 Belmont Dr Waukesha WI 53186