



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

McPherson Governmental Campus

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District 1 - Craig Curry, Commissioner
District 2 - Kathy Bryant, Chairman
District 3 - Matt McClain, Commissioner
District 4 - Carl Zalak III, Vice Chair
District 5 - Michelle Stone, Commissioner

February 4, 2025

The Honorable Ben Albritton
Florida Senate President
409 The Capitol

The Honorable Ed Hooper
Florida Senate Appropriations Chairman
201 Senate Office Building

The Honorable Danny Burgess
Florida Senate Appropriations Committee on PreK-12 Education
201 The Capitol

RE: Hands of Mercy Everywhere Appropriations Request

President Albritton, Chairman Hooper, and Chairman Burgess:

It is with pleasure that I provide this letter of support for Hands of Mercy Everywhere (H.O.M.E.) on behalf of the Marion County Board of County Commissioners. We strongly support the work that H.O.M.E. is doing for at-risk girls and teen moms in Marion County.

The county has proudly provided H.O.M.E. \$403,000 through CBDG funding for the construction of this project- Teen Moms and At-Risk Youth Transitional Education (Lakeside Center). H.O.M.E. gives these teens that otherwise wouldn't have any options, the opportunity to succeed in life and to be able to take care of their babies through education. Education is vital for these teen moms and at-risk youth to make a change. This appropriations request will provide funding that H.O.M.E. needs to bring in experts in fields such as culinary arts, hospitality, and childcare to encourage and educate these girls on joining the workforce. We greatly appreciate your consideration. We welcome any follow-up questions you may have regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Kathy Bryant
Chair
Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Empowering Marion for Success

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