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Village of Mount Prospect Human Services

50 S. Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, Illinois 60056

April 8, 2024

To Whom it May Concern,

I am providing this letter in support of Northwest Compass and their application for the Crisis Care: Somewhere to Go- Youth and Family- Moving from Emergency Department to Living Rooms, In Home Stabilization and Crisis Stabilization Units grant.

Northwest Compass is located in the Village of Mount Prospect. As the Director of Human Services for the Village of Mount Prospect, I am keenly aware of the increase in need for services that support youth experiencing behavioral health crisis. The proposed addition of a "living room" space for youth would provide a needed resource for youth facing homelessness in Mount Prospect. Northwest Compass serves as the Coordinated Entry point for persons facing homelessness and offers services to address the various challenges facing this population. A "living room" space would provide an additional community resource and safe space for homeless youth to address needs and to receive support and linkage to additional services.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Julie Kane, LCSW
Director of Human Services



VILLAGE OF MOUNT PROSPECT
**HUMAN SERVICES
DEPARTMENT**

Because the Health and Wellbeing of our Community Matters



Village of Arlington Heights

33 South Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005-1499
(847) 368-5000
Website: www.vah.com

April 11, 2024

Office of Behavioral Health
Cook County Health

Re: Cook County Stronger Together Grant Application Support

To Whom it May Concern:

The Village of Arlington Heights would like to express support for Northwest Compass in their pursuit of Stronger Together grant funding for their expansion of essential services to youth struggling with a safe space to receive support. Northwest Compass has a proven track record of providing effective interventions on behalf of the most vulnerable in our region. They consistently find ways to assist individuals in crisis and have shown to be valuable partners to the surrounding suburban communities in northern Cook County.

Our Village's Social Services Division and first responders routinely interface with youth in crisis and those in need of accessing systems that are often not designed to serve their particular needs. Having a safe, accessible, and welcoming "living room" where these youth can go and get mental health support and guidance on how to navigate challenges is vital at this time. More than ever before, youth are isolated from the larger community, and the effects are already showing – increased rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide – and oftentimes these youth are not comfortable, or able, to get support from family and those around them. Studies have shown that these types of drop-in centers are a vital path for youth that need to access services; and that this is a crucial opportunity to get them help when they might not take the step to reach out again.

Arlington Heights is proud to support Northwest Compass programs, both financially and programmatically, and maintain a good working relationship with the organization. They are well-known to our community for their support of those in need and are a reliable resource for those experiencing an often-overwhelming crisis. Hopefully, with this grant opportunity, they can continue to expand on this legacy with our community's youth.

Sincerely,

Darren N. Brown
Social Services Coordinator
Health & Human Services
Village of Arlington Heights



SPECIALIZED SCHOOLS
2121 South Goebbert Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
847-718-7775
www.d214.org/specializedschools

Dr. Scott Rowe
Superintendent
Valerie Norris
Principal

April 8, 2024

I am writing to express my support for Northwest Compass and the invaluable services they provide to our community. As the Principal of the Specialized Schools in Arlington Heights, and with over two decades of working in this community, I have seen firsthand the remarkable impact Northwest Compass has had on the lives of our students and families.

Northwest Compass has consistently demonstrated a commitment to serving those in need with dignity, respect, and unwavering compassion. Their dedication to providing essential social services, including housing, utilities, and food assistance, has been instrumental in supporting countless individuals and families facing adversity.

One aspect of Northwest Compass's outreach that particularly stands out to me is their proactive approach in meeting the needs of our community. Not only do they offer vital resources at their local office, but they also extend their services directly to our schools, ensuring accessibility for all. Their willingness to collaborate and provide assistance tailored to the unique circumstances of our students, including our Newcomer population, exemplifies their dedication to inclusivity and support for the entire community.

I firmly believe that Northwest Compass is a cornerstone of our community, offering a lifeline to those experiencing crisis and working tirelessly to prevent future hardships. Without their steadfast commitment, many families would be left vulnerable to homelessness, hunger, and utility insecurities. Their comprehensive programs not only address immediate needs but also empower individuals to build sustainable pathways toward stability and resilience.

As an advocate for education and social equity, I wholeheartedly endorse Northwest Compass and the vital role they play in our community. Their impact extends far beyond the services they provide, fostering a culture of compassion, support, and hope for all who seek their assistance.

Sincerely,

Valerie Norris

Principal, Specialized Schools

val.norris@d214.org

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



MICHELLE MUSSMAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 56TH DISTRICT

09/30/22

To Whom it May Concern,

We have been so fortunate to have Northwest Compass as one of our service providers serving the entire northwest suburbs.

When a Veteran or resident presents with a need, we know we can safely refer them to Northwest Compass. Their case workers successfully do an intake process that looks at the entire person. A complete wrap around service approach to wellness.

So, if it's mental health needs, they'll address that with their many partnerships. They'll continue to address the rest of the needs, so if it's housing, they're part of the NW suburbs continuum of housing, if it's food, they run a food pantry and if it's benefits and healthcare, they connect with IDHS or their governmental partners.

I've always found their staff to be receptive and welcoming. I hear back from clients because They thank me for referring them to Northwest Compass.

Northwest Compass is our first go to for constituent issue resolutions. We are grateful for their years of help and their commitment to change and improve lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Mussman".

State Representative Michelle Mussman
Serving Illinois 56th District
staterepmussman@gmail.com