

Community Organizations Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Explore Long-Term Solutions to Serve the Unhoused in the Greater Grand Traverse Region

Traverse City, Michigan – May 15, 2025 – In a significant step toward improving services for individuals experiencing homelessness, Community Cares Coalition (CCC), Jubilee House, and Safe Harbor have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to explore long-term solutions to serve the unhoused, including a day shelter and overnight shelter with ancillary services.

The MOU, signed in March 2025, formalizes the parties' intent to collaborate on the evaluation of a possible combined space that could support both day and overnight services for unhoused individuals. Jubilee House and CCC have long worked in partnership, and this effort brings Safe Harbor into the conversation in an advisory role to lend insight and expertise to the process.

In addition to this collaborative effort, all three organizations—CCC, Jubilee House, and Safe Harbor—are actively participating in the newly launched regional Housing and Homelessness Task Force, convened by the Northwest Michigan Coalition to End Homelessness, Grand Traverse County, the City of Traverse City, and Rotary Charities. Through Advisory Council and workgroup roles, these partners are contributing their expertise, on-the-ground experience, and shared commitment to developing coordinated, long-term solutions that enhance safety and stability for the entire community.

“This MOU represents a milestone in our shared mission to better serve our most vulnerable neighbors,” said Megan Wick, President of Community Cares Coalition. “By coming together in partnership, we can explore more comprehensive, coordinated solutions.”

The first phase of this initiative focuses on needs assessment, land use feasibility, and the potential configuration of services. While the MOU is non-binding, it outlines a 120-day timeline from the date of signing to determine whether to proceed with the project.

“This is about imagining what could be possible for our community,” said Father Jim Perra of Jubilee House. “Our goal is to work collaboratively to envision a space that is welcoming, accessible, and produces better outcomes for the unhoused and our community.”

Safe Harbor, which currently operates a seasonal overnight shelter, has joined the effort in an advisory capacity and is not committing to relocating or expanding services as part of this process. “We are always open to conversations on how to better serve people experiencing homelessness in our region,” said Patrick Livingston, Board Chair of Safe Harbor.

The MOU reflects the shared desire of all three organizations to ensure transparency, mutual respect, and open dialogue throughout this process.

About Community Cares Coalition

Community Cares Coalition is a Traverse City-based group of residents, businesses, and service providers advocating for holistic and strategic solutions to address pressing community needs, particularly homelessness. The coalition emphasizes collaboration among diverse stakeholders to develop inclusive, data-driven, and sustainable approaches, such as their proposal for a cooperative year-round, day and night, emergency shelter. By fostering open dialogue and community engagement, Community Cares Coalition aims to drive transformative change that benefits all citizens.

About Jubilee House

Jubilee House, an outreach ministry of Grace Episcopal Church in Traverse City, has provided a safe and supportive environment for individuals experiencing homelessness since 2005. As the region's only day shelter, it offers showers, laundry, personal storage, computer access, and a welcoming place to rest and recharge.

About Safe Harbor

Safe Harbor is a nonprofit, volunteer-run organization dedicated to supporting adults experiencing homelessness by providing emergency shelter, food, and compassionate care. Guided by values of compassion, faith, and respect, Safe Harbor offers not just safety and shelter—but also hope and dignity.

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