

November 7, 2013

Mark Berdan  
Northern Transformation  
2389 S. M-76  
West Branch, MI 48661

Dear Mr. Berdan,

The Crisis Center, Inc. d.b.a. Listening Ear Crisis Center support the efforts of Northern Transformation - the lead applicant seeking Promise Zone Initiative designation on behalf of a Consortium of Partners serving Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Iosco, Ogemaw and Roscommon counties. This letter serves to include Listening Ear as a Participating Partner.

Listening Ear is a private, non-profit, multiservice agency, founded in 1969 whose mission is to provide the rural mid and northern lower peninsula of Michigan with human services and shelter that satisfy, support, and promote the dignity and well-being of those in need. The agency is accredited by the Council on Accreditation[1] and licensed by the Michigan Department of Human Services[2] as a Child Placing Agency along with a Supervised Independent Living program. There are three divisions:

Child and Family Services includes: Runaway & Homeless Youth Program (RHYP) serving youth ages 12-17 and their families; Child Foster Care serving children ages 0 to 17 (especially those with developmental disabilities and/or behavioral challenges); Child Sexual Abuse Treatment (CSATP) serving children ages 3 -17 and a therapeutic group for adult women abused as children; and, the Transitional Living Program (TLP) serving homeless youth 16-21.

Residential Services includes licensed adult foster care and supported independent living for 139 adults with disabilities to live as independently as they choose. Staff provide support and guidance for budgeting, shopping, household care, transportation to jobs, assistance with microenterprise self-employment efforts or volunteer work, health appointments, and community activities. The agency also owns and manages 71 Rental units for persons with low and moderate incomes in scattered sites. A Housing Counseling service offers foreclosure prevention services.

The Crisis Center – the anchor service providing crisis intervention, information and referral 24-hours a day everyday including a 24 hours every day 2-1-1 information and referral call center.

Listening Ear recognizes the value that the Promise Zone Initiative designation can bring to help the people we serve with better health, education, employment, transportation and other opportunities.

Sincerely,

Donald Schuster

Executive Director  
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