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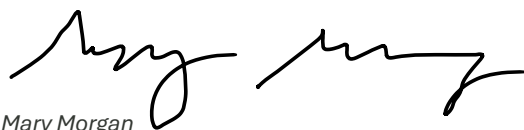
Heading Home of South Central Indiana was formed in 2021 in response to the region's crisis of homelessness and housing insecurity. This collaborative initiative was established to tackle long-term systemwide challenges to help residents of Monroe and five surrounding counties retain their housing and, if they become homeless, to be rehoused quickly and securely.

Soon after our launch, Heading Home led our region's effort to join Built for Zero, a national movement to end homelessness that has received significant funding from the MacArthur Foundation to support its member communities. Working closely with regional agencies, Heading Home established a public data dashboard to track progress, created a cross-agency training program, spearheaded landlord engagement efforts and formed a multi-pronged approach to ending veteran homelessness.

With these and other long-term efforts underway, we also recognize that homeless service providers lack sufficient resources to adequately address the immediate needs of our region's growing housing crisis. The need is overwhelming. It impacts both individuals and the broader community and calls for a new approach.

The innovative solution proposed by the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County (CFBMC) and its partners, as outlined in its Lilly Endowment Gift VIII concept paper, is a powerful, viable response to both short-term and long-term housing challenges. The proposal calls for a fundamental change in the way our region addresses housing insecurity and identifies intense, strategic interventions that promise a high degree of success. Importantly, it aligns with and strengthens Heading Home's existing work.

As an entity rooted in collaboration with a focus on system improvements, Heading Home is well positioned to manage this initiative. CFBMC played a leadership role in creating Heading Home, garnering strong buy-in from multiple sectors (government, philanthropy, business, nonprofits) and initial funding from the American Rescue Plan Act. The partnerships that Heading Home has developed and strengthened since then will serve as a foundation to successfully launch this transformative program, resulting in better lives for all of our neighbors.



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