To the Funders,

My name is Chelsea. I'm a mother, a former peer support specialist, and someone who has personally been helped by Storyline Community Collective in ways that literally kept my family from being on the street.

Spring of 2025, my two youngest children and I were facing imminent homelessness for the third time in their lives. As someone who was working in peer support serving the exact same population, it was humiliating and heartbreaking to find myself in that position, AGAIN. Storyline stepped in immediately. They advocated fiercely with HACC both alongside me and on my behalf, helped us secure a temporary safe place in a church basement, connected us with McKinney-Vento services through my children's school, and eventually to Northwest Family Services Annie Ross House Family Shelter program. They even prepared to escalate our story all the way to the governor's office if need be, because our situation was that urgent. I even became estranged with one of my kids, lost my job while moving into the church basement and had my vehicle stolen all because of the stress this housing issue caused myself and my children.

Storyline didn't just offer resources — they offered real community. They showed up with friendship, emotional support, and practical help during one of the most terrifying times in my life. Even now, as we remain at risk of losing our housing again, Storyline continues to embrace us without judgment. They are truly the hands and feet of love in action.

What makes Storyline so powerful is how they fill the massive gaps left by county bureaucracy. When systems are slow, rigid, and overwhelmed, Storyline moves quickly with flexible, compassionate mutual aid. They help families like mine — and many who are even more vulnerable — before things reach crisis levels. And they stand in the gap with us even if/when they do. They don't waiver. In a county where prevention and rapid support are desperately lacking, Storyline's work is saving lives, keeping people housed whenever possible and most importantly giving us community and HOPE.

I am deeply grateful for everything they have done and continue to do for my family and our community. I wholeheartedly recommend Storyline Community Collective for this mutual aid grant. The funds would allow them to keep showing up for people who have nowhere else to turn.

Thank you for considering them.

Sincerely,
Chelsea
Milwaukie, OR