October 29, 2026

Gratiot County Board of Commissioners
RE: The Need for Additional Housing in Gratiot County

Dear Members of the Board of Commissioners,

As President & CEO of United Way of Greater Central Michigan, I appreciate the opportunity to share our perspective on the importance of expanding housing opportunities throughout Gratiot County. Through our work across the Mid-Michigan region, we see how access to safe, stable, and affordable housing impacts family financial security and overall well-being. United Way's ALICE research highlights the challenges faced by working households who earn above the Federal Poverty Level but struggle to afford basic necessities. For many, housing costs leave little room for savings, unexpected expenses, or other essentials.

Addressing these challenges requires housing options for residents at different income levels and stages of life. While affordable and workforce housing remain essential, increasing the overall housing supply can create opportunities throughout the local market. When families move into newly constructed homes, they may make existing homes available to others at different price points.

Housing availability also affects community vitality. Attracting and retaining families can support local businesses, strengthen the workforce, and contribute to the vibrancy of our schools and community institutions. Stable housing provides families a stronger foundation to maintain employment, meet basic needs, and build a more secure future.

No single development will solve all our housing challenges, but continued investment in diverse housing options is important to building a resilient community. I encourage the Board to consider Gratiot County's broader housing needs and how thoughtful development can support families and strengthen our community for years to come.

Sincerely,

Annie Sanders

Annie Sanders
President & CEO

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