



Streams of Hope Community

Building a Place Where Children Heal in Community

Vision and Investment Case



Dear friends,

Thank you for taking a few moments to review the enclosed Vision & Investment Case for **Streams of Hope Community**, an intergenerational foster care village we are developing in **Northwest Indiana**. This vision has grown out of lived experience. My wife Amy and I have spent the past 15 years as foster and adoptive parents, leading multiple foster care support communities along the way. Our most recent group became a faith-based, intergenerational foster care “missional community” of more than 30 adults and children walking life together. As a transracial adoptive family with five children — three biological and two from the foster system — this work is deeply personal to us.

Through that journey, we saw something clearly: foster families thrive when they are not alone. Children from hard places heal when daily life is surrounded by stable, caring adults. Older adults long for meaningful purpose. And churches are uniquely positioned to create spaces where all of that can come together.

That is why Streams of Hope Community is prayerfully seeking a faithful partner who shares this vision and has available land or property that could become a home for this mission. With the right partnership, Streams of Hope Community can be established on a stable, community-rooted foundation from the very beginning — creating a place where worship, care, and daily life come together to serve children, families, and seniors.

We are currently in the foundation phase of this project — completing design readiness, partnership development, and site preparation so that construction and agency agreements can move forward responsibly. Early partners at this stage do more than fund planning; they help unlock the future of the community by strengthening readiness, reducing risk, and providing confidence to larger institutional funders.

The goal is a place where children are known and supported, families are strengthened, older adults rediscover purpose, and the Church remains deeply woven into the life of the community for generations to come.

I would be honored to share more, answer questions, and explore whether you might consider being one of the early partners who helps bring this vision into reality.

With gratitude,

Duane Sherman
Project Director
Streams of Hope Community



A Different Kind of Foster Care

Every day, children enter foster care carrying trauma, loss, and instability. Foster families step forward with courage, but too often they do it alone. Isolation leads to burnout. Burnout leads to disrupted placements. And children experience another move, another loss, another break in relationship.

At the same time, older adults in our communities long for meaningful purpose and connection. Churches across the country are discerning how to steward property in ways that reflect mission in a changing world. Streams of Hope Community brings these realities together into one transformative vision.

This is not a program.
It is a neighborhood designed for healing.

The Vision: Streams of Hope Community is an intergenerational foster care village envisioned for Northwest Indiana. As the organization prayerfully seeks the right land or property partnership, the vision remains clear: to create a stable, community-rooted place where children, foster families, seniors, and the local church can share life together through worship, care, and daily support.

Streams of Hope Community is being developed with guidance from legal, property, and fundraising advisors, and in coordination with local agencies and child services partners.

The Community Will Include



5 senior cottages (55+)



A Community Center Hub for meals, tutoring, gatherings, support services - serving the immediate community and the whole county







5 foster family homes



- ✓ Children grow up surrounded by consistent, caring adults.
- ✓ Foster parents gain daily support.
- ✓ Older adults rediscover purpose.
- ✓ Church property becomes living community infrastructure.

Why This Model Matters

The foster care system is under strain

 <p><i>Far fewer licensed foster homes than children needing placement (57 homes to 100 children).</i></p>	 <p><i>Sibling groups are broken up (50-80% of the time).</i></p>	 <p><i>Foster families leave due to lack of support (50% quit in the first year).</i></p>	 <p><i>Caseworker turnover remains incredibly high (30-40%).</i></p>
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Streams of Hope addresses the root issue: foster care is not meant to be done alone.

Because of the shortage of foster homes locally and nationally, many children are placed out of county or in residential care far from home, while others remain in county detention centers without a family placement. Remote placements and unnecessary institutional care compound instability. Streams of Hope exists to change that trajectory.

Intergenerational support has been shown to:

- Improve placement stability
- Increase foster family retention
- Strengthen child well-being
- Create lifelong relational safety nets

The Immediate Next Step

Before construction begins, the project must complete design readiness, partnerships, and site preparation.

2026 Pre-Development Goal		\$185,000	
<p>Personnel & Core Operations Leadership, coordination, readiness \$125,000</p>	<p>Land Due Diligence & Civil Design Soil testing, engineering, zoning prep \$40,000</p>	<p>Marketing & Grant Development Donor materials and outreach \$15,000</p>	<p>Architectural Concepts Site layouts and sketches \$5,000</p>



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