



April 20, 2022

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for grant funds to help support our growing needs in the Peoria area. Peoria Friendship House services are growing as our community needs continue to expand. Our food pantry services increased by 200% and we expanded our outreach to include mobile services. We continue to provide additional assistance to families affected by unemployment and business shutdowns. We also identified that shelf stable foods are extremely affordable but lack most nutritional value. Last year, we were able to expand our nutritional offerings with the additional funding resources provided by Peoria Township. We included fresh produce, and protein (meat) in addition to our regular services. We also added healthy vitamin supplements and protein powders. The grant funds allowed us to offer healthier food choices for our youth and families participating in our programs throughout the community.

We also provide a holistic approach towards a path to overcome poverty through wrap-around services and short- and long-term mentoring. Individuals and families striving to improve their circumstances, work together with Parent Managers and create achievement plans towards overcoming specific issues and improving lives. Income support through resources such as clothing, food, housing/shelter, utilities, employment mentoring, and financial coaching, are provided to our families.

Again, we would like to thank you for considering a grant award to Peoria Friendship House. We truly appreciate all your support of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Marcellus S.", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Marcellus Sommerville
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