



June 28, 2012

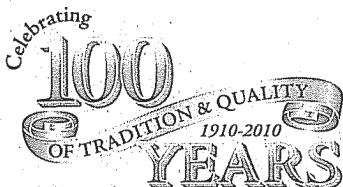
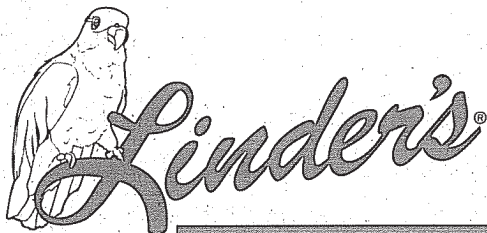
Dear Honorable Mayor Chris Coleman and St. Paul City Council Members,

My name is Rev. David Maghakian, I am the Pastor of North Como Presbyterian Church in Roseville. I am writing to express my support for Volunteers of America – Minnesota's request to successfully relocate the Resident Re-Entry Center, currently operating in Roseville, to 1394 Jackson Street in St. Paul. Over the past several years, I have been blessed to witness first-hand how VOA's mission to help people gain self-reliance, dignity and hope. These core values have truly been on display at the Residential Re-Entry Center. The VOA staff runs an extremely professional operation that not only provides those leaving federal incarceration a successful pathway back to the community, and has also integrated themselves into our community. VOA is an asset to all of us. Through VOA's community relations board activities, we've all received a greater sense of what it takes to build and maintain strong healthy communities, and how our blessings to each other can come in many different forms as well as unexpected places. All of my interactions with them have been positive, respectful, and very collaborative. I believe VOA's Residential Re-Entry Center will be a vibrant and strong addition to your community. I encourage you to welcome them to St. Paul.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. David Maghakian", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rev. David Maghakian



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To Whom It May Concern,

Over the past several years, I have had the pleasure of being acquainted with the staff, program and participants in Volunteers of America; which happens to be located just up the Larpenteur hill from Linder's Greenhouses. Through the monthly relations board meetings that I have attended, I have found VOA and the Re-Entry Center to be a positive part of our community. VOA's community relations board meets regularly to discuss any concerns that might arise. They are always welcoming of local businesses and residents as they invite us to take part in their meetings and ask questions or express concerns.

I have also found it to be educational in respect to the hard work both the staff and participants put in to make the program successful. They provide an opportunity to those in re-entry to be re-introduced to the community in a positive, holistic manner. It has been a very unique experience for me to take part in their meetings and learn about their facilities and programs. It would not be, without the obvious care of many people and their hard work and time investment, the successful venture that I have come to know it as. Over my time I have found it to be not just valuable to the participants, but invaluable; as it provides them with the training and connections necessary to become a positive member of our community.

It has been also been a positive experience for my business, Linder's Garden Center, located at 270 West Larpenteur. Linder's has employed re-entry center residents over the years and we've been impressed with their work ethic, dependability and willingness to learn. The residents who we've been fortunate enough to work with have all received job training through VOA and work closely with their assigned job placement staff. My experience with the VOA team and with those in re-entry has been rewarding for both parties. The VOA has been a positive resource in our community, and I'm sure they will make a positive impression operating within Saint Paul.

Sincerely,

David John Linder