Leelanau Township
community foundation℠
For good. For ever.®

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*Established in 1945 to improve the quality of life for the people of Leelanau Township.*

February 6, 2024

Jim Dyer, Village Manager
Village of Northport
PO Box 336
Northport, MI 49670

Dear Jim, Council Members & Staff,

The Leelanau Township Community Foundation (LTCF) has been pursuing solutions in regard to the ongoing issue of lack of workforce/attainable housing in Leelanau Township. This topic has been established as a top priority by the Foundation as a result of two community surveys LTCF has conducted within the last five years: Designing & Achieving Our Potential, and a Housing specific survey conducted in 2023. We are pleased to learn that both the Village Manager and Township Supervisor have recently visited Josh Mills in Frankfort and hope this is the first step for our local governments to move toward alleviating this housing crisis by making properties under their possession available for potential workforce/attainable housing development.

The Village is currently discussing future use of the 7th street property and the Township also has unused property. Donating land for potential housing provides a unique opportunity to make a tangible difference for Northport residents. While this may not solve all of the challenges before us, it would certainly be a significant step in the right direction.

As stated above, the Foundation's most recent survey unequivocally demonstrates the overwhelming support and urgent need for workforce/attainable housing within our community. The results of this survey clearly indicate that the people of Leelanau Township are in favor of taking decisive action to address this crisis. We encourage and support local leaders seizing this opportunity to implement the will of the community into action.

We firmly believe that this is not just a Village or Township problem, but a challenge that can be effectively solved when we all work together. The support for workforce/attainable housing is widespread, and it is now time for our local governments to demonstrate their commitment by making their properties available for this purpose. By doing so, we can show our community that we are committed to finding solutions.

We have been told that Homestretch, Peninsula Housing and Habitat for Humanity have expressed interest in providing housing options for workforce/attainable housing in Northport. By donating land for a housing development for this purpose, you will not only be addressing a critical need but also fulfilling the desires of the community you serve. Your leadership in this matter will inspire others and set an example for neighboring communities facing similar challenges.

We know your boards are aware of the importance of workforce/attainable housing and the positive impact it can have on our community. We look forward to seeing progress in this area and offer our support; working together will create a brighter future for Leelanau Township.

Please feel free to reach out if there are ways in which LTCF can be of assistance with these efforts.

Sincerely,

Joan Moore

Joan Moore, Executive Director
Kristi Fischer, Board Chair
Barbara McCann, Board Vice Chair
Ty Wessell, Secretary
Kim Armbruster, Treasurer