



FOSTER VILLAGE INC.  
AUSTIN, TX  
WWW.FOSTERVILLAGEAUSTIN.ORG

AUGUST 30, 2024

DEAR

*Neighbors,*

On behalf of Foster Village Inc., our Board of Directors, and the children and families whom we serve, I wanted to introduce myself and our organization as we are working with Austin City Council for rezoning of the property at 10545 Dessau Rd.

My husband and I launched Foster Village as a grassroots non-profit in 2016 based on our family's personal experience as a foster home. While caring for local children in crisis, we noticed a lack of opportunities for community engagement and a high need for more support services. Since launching our first resource center in Dripping Springs, we have had the opportunity to bridge those gaps and continue to serve thousands of local children intersecting with child welfare. Our unique model that was built by the community, for the community, utilizes home-like resource centers where children and their caregivers can come and receive brand new essential items such as clothing, beds, and car seats (free of charge). Additionally, these resource centers serve as a hub of support for ongoing therapeutic services and connection.

We currently have two resource centers in Austin, one in Dripping Springs and one near Parmer and Mopac. As demand for our services continues to grow, especially in North Austin, we have been searching for a larger home-like space that will serve as our permanent resource center serving North Austin and the surrounding area. We were presented with the opportunity to purchase the property at 10545 Dessau Rd and have entered a purchase agreement with the current owner while also pursuing the appropriate rezoning that will allow us to operate out of the existing houses on the property.

In an effort to be neighborly, we wanted to share what our plans for this property will and will not include:

Our plans will include a resource center that is open during traditional business hours with very minimal traffic coming in and out throughout the day. It *does not* include providing overnight residence for any children or families.

It includes utilizing the existing houses on the property with some moderate upgrades on the existing houses. It *does not* include plans to add any additional buildings at 10545 Dessau Rd., especially given that this property has environmental protections that do not allow for further development.



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It includes preserving the existing natural features and incorporating the beauty of the property into our therapeutic programs for children who will benefit from the healing powers of nature. It *does not* include any major changes or development to the majority of the property.

It includes adding a trusted and well-established resource to our community in an area that will be easily accessible for those who need it most. It *does not* include disruption to nearby homeowners or the environment.

We asked one of our current residential neighbors who has lived next door to our resource center for seven years to share what their experience has been:

***"We have been neighbors to Foster Village for several years. It has been a very positive and non-disruptive experience. They are a huge asset to our neighborhood it would be a blessing for anyone to have them as neighbors."***

Finally, we welcome you to reach out to us with any questions and/or to set up a time to visit. We look forward to being a nearby community resource where you and your family can also be part of this mission for our city's children.

You can reach me directly at: [chrystal@fostervillageaustin.org](mailto:chrystal@fostervillageaustin.org)

Thank you in advance for your warm welcome of this vital community resource!

GRATEFULLY,

*Chrystal Smith*

FOUNDER & CEO