

**Letter from Executive Director, *Community Residences, Inc.*,  
Operator of *Susan's Place*, a Safe Haven in Arlington, Virginia**

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Brigl, James J.](#)

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2006 4:02 PM

**Subject:** Safe Haven

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This letter is in support of the efforts by the Alexandria Community Services Board, and others to establish a Safe Haven program at the Patrick Street location.

Community Residences has been fortunate to own and operate a Safe Haven for Arlington County residents for approximately 8 years. A Safe Haven is unique among programs that partner with those who have disabilities associated with mental illness and/or substance use issues. Participants in a Safe Haven program are most often those for whom traditional approaches simply haven't worked. As a result, many of stayed on the streets of our communities just getting by and, unfortunately, engaging in inappropriate behaviors. A Safe Haven invites individuals off of the street and expects them to form a partnership with care givers to not only keep them from becoming homeless, but to recover.

It has been our repeated experience that a Safe Haven contributes greatly to the safety of the community by provided much needed supervision and support to a population that, without such support becomes involved in disability-driven behaviors that are inappropriate and upsetting to the community. Thus, a Safe Haven not only offers increased safety to the participants, but to the community as a whole.

Residents in the area in which our Safe Haven is located have found that we are good neighbors. Consumers are carefully assessed and those that present as a danger to others or to themselves receive appropriate services elsewhere. The home is staffed with professionals around the clock. We keep the property clean and in good condition. To my knowledge, there has never been a call to the police for anything disorderly. We are immediately responsive to any concerns of the neighbors. There have not been any serious incidents involving neighbors. I have every reason to believe that the Patrick Street Safe Haven would be a good neighbor in the same ways.

It is my sincere hope that the City of Alexandria will support this creative and valuable initiative.

I am very truly yours,

***Jim Brigl***  
***Executive Director***  
***Community Residences***  
***14160 Newbrook Drive***  
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