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Dear Foster Parents,

We are reaching out to provide you with some context on a recent article in The Gazette regarding allegations of discrimination and sexual harassment at Hope & Home. It is important to know the facts.

In 2019, Hope & Home completed an investigation that was prompted by the allegations of a former employee made against Hope & Home's Executive Director. The Board utilized a neutral third party to conduct interviews of the former and current employees, and the Board itself took statements directly from the Hope & Home Management Team. After evaluating the investigative report and subsequently receiving overwhelmingly positive statements from our current Management Team, made up entirely of women who continue to be passionately and totally behind Hope & Home's current Executive Director, Ross Wright, the Board of Directors made the decision to confirm our trust in our current Management Team and our Executive Director, Ross Wright.

Months later, the same former employee and two other former employees brought complaints to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, a government agency that administers and enforces civil rights laws against workplace discrimination. Two employees have since abandoned their complaints. The third complaint resulted in a lawsuit against Hope & Home, which was the subject of the article in The Gazette. Although still in the early stages, we are confident that the lawsuit will be handled fairly and appropriately by the justice system.

The Board of Directors remains deeply committed to ensuring the mission of Hope & Home continues without interruption. We, along with the Management Team, are dedicated to supporting people who want to make a difference in the lives of children.

Thank you for your patience as we address this matter. We will share pertinent updates as we have them. Please direct questions to Gina Milne, Hope & Home Chief of Staff by replying to this email. We appreciate your hard work, and we look forward to continued service together.

Board Chairman, Dick Schultz
on behalf of the Hope & Home Board of Directors

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