



Ensuring that all of Henry County lives with Dignity

August 11, 2014

To: Mayor Greg York, Mayor of New Castle, Indiana
From: Dr. Cathy Hamilton, Co-Director, HOPE Initiative

Mayor York,

I write this letter to support your efforts to acquire financial assistance in battling the area's blighted housing situation. As you know, HOPE Initiative is a civic organization that began as a task force, created by a previous city mayor, to combat the power of poverty. We are proud of the efforts we have made to afford dignity to every citizen and to offer a "hand up" as people work to have a healthier, safer life. In keeping with that mission, it is with enthusiasm that we endorse the attempt to deal with our unsafe housing by applying for the Blight Elimination Program. Not only is our blighted housing esthetically depressing to our citizens, it is unsafe.

We believe the blighted housing is also a deterrent to the city's economic growth.

We have partnered with your office, with other civic groups, and with private individuals to do area clean ups and to actually take down some dangerous housing, but the task is simply too big for us alone. We need assistance to make a real difference. We will continue to partner to make our city more live-able, more safe, more attractive, of course, and, to that end, we are willing to sponsor six such properties to ensure they are care-taken as prescribed by the BEP.

Let us hope that our cause will also be taken up by others.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy Hamilton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cathy" and last name "Hamilton" clearly legible.

Cathy Hamilton