



*Strengthening lives for those
with or affected by HIV/AIDS*

June 1, 2016

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for the chance to speak on behalf of the 600-plus families House of Ruth serves each year. We are an HIV/AIDS services agency focused on housing and substance abuse recovery for those with HIV.

Our main office is in 40203, Councilman Tandy's district. We also own homes occupied by our clients in the districts of members Shanklin, Hamilton, James, Johnson, and Mullvihill. Plus we serve clients who live in all of the remaining districts.

Our **Housing and Family Stability program** was completely defunded in the Mayor's Proposed Budget. That is a **\$50,000 cut**.

This cut comes in the same month that HUD cut **\$155,000** from our budget. We simply cannot absorb this additional \$50,000 cut and keep doing what we do.

This \$50,000 pays for the equivalent of a full-time staff person who helps keep heroin-addicted clients in recovery. Many House of Ruth clients are addicted to heroin. Injecting drugs with used needles is how they got HIV. Many won't go to other places for help staying clean. It's because they don't want other people to know they have HIV. For many, they would not be physically safe on the streets and in their neighborhoods if word got out about their HIV status.

That's why House of Ruth's work with addicts is so important. **Without the \$50,000 the Mayor has cut from our budget, we will lose a critical staff person** who works with heroin-addicted clients to make sure they have their housing and basic needs met to stay clean. We know that heroin and crime are tightly connected. **Without this key staff position, House of Ruth will be unable to serve about 60 heroin users with HIV.**

Without support staying clean, addicts will keep using, which fuels the increasing crime rate in our community. **You can make sure 60 people keep the critical addiction recovery support they need by restoring the \$50,000 to House of Ruth's budget.**

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katrina Hutchins".

Katrina Hutchins
Director of Development

607 E. St. Catherine Street
Louisville, KY 40203
502.587.5080 (p)
502.587.5009 (f)
www.houseofruth.net



ACCREDITED
BUSINESS



Metro United Way

