January 23, 2023

To whom it may concern:

I am delighted to write in support of the application by the Sacred Heart Center (SHC) for a special use permit through the City of Richmond to continue operating a food bank at 1400 Perry Street, Richmond VA 23224. If granted, SHC will continue serving families in need, through culturally responsive food access.

I have served as Executive for Saint Francis Manchester for seven years. I have seen firsthand that SHC has an extraordinary track record of providing high-quality services for marginalized families in Richmond, VA. SHC focuses on connecting Latino families with the tools to thrive and flourish. Guided by their values of compassion, inclusion, collaboration, and commitment to a compassionate approach, SHC serves vulnerable people in various ways and co-creates empowered communities. Their reputation should leave no doubt that SHC has contributed and continues to contribute to the overall well-being of the Southside Richmond community. They have been operating the food bank since 1999. From my experience, this is an organized process, by appointment, that does not have any undue impacts on the Manchester neighborhood, nor is detrimental to the safety of the community.

Here at Saint Francis Manchester, we provide an affordable and loving home and quality assisted care for older adults who have limited financial means. We are passionate about the wellbeing of the community, and always eager to enhance it. We are excited to count SHC, who shares this vision and priority among our most immediate neighbors and partners. The food bank will continue to be a positive addition to the community and will contribute to the community well into the future, once the permit is granted.

Saint Francis Manchester is proud to partner with SHC in its mission to provide quality and compassionate services for members of our community, and we are requesting your approval of their special use permit.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Bruce Slough
Executive Director