February 1, 2021

To whom it may concern,

I am pleased to write this letter of support to the Alliance for Period Supplies for the application being submitted by Just Food on behalf of LiveWell Douglas County. Our organization is dedicated to building communities that support the health and well-being of all. The work of our committed partners at Just Food is the cornerstone of all efforts to ameliorate hunger in communities across our county.

Their expert staff address food insecurity through their robust networks of community leaders, faith-based organizations, public schools, neighborhood organizations and smaller pantries. Through this network Just Food leads initiatives to tackle public health disparities and provide nutritious foods to low-income residents. As hunger and poverty have risen dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic, their services have been vital for more and more Douglas County families and individuals.

Just Food increases residents’ access to healthy foods with several innovative programs. Their staff, through LiveWell Douglas County, convenes collaborators on two of these: the Healthy Food Prescription Program to increase access to nutritious foods as healthcare access points, and the mobile food pantry which takes Just Food services into underserved communities - particularly in rural Douglas County. These are just two programs among many led by Just Food staff.

These programs also work to address equity issues challenging our community. Low-income residents in different zip codes have dramatically different life outcomes including an average life expectancy 10-years lower than residents in more affluent zip codes. Black and Latinx residents share similar outcomes and populations of low-income residents and residents of color are concentrated in our county’s food deserts.

Through its strong, county-wide network and programming, Just Food is connected with thousands of residents in our communities. Their reach, effectiveness, and focus on equity ensure that the Alliance for Period Supplies’ grant dollars will serve clients well. Thank you for considering this application for funding.

Sincerely,

Joey - William J. Hentzler

Chair of LiveWell Douglas County

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