

2025 Business Proposal

Solomons Porch, LLC

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Prepared For Wisconsin Community Safety Fund

City of Racine Purchasing Department

www.cityofracine.org/purchasing

The purpose of this proposal is to introduce the Wisconsin Community Safety Fund to the products and services housed at Solomon's Porch, LLC 622 High Street in Racine, WI. A primary goal of Solomons Porch is to provide therapeutic support for parents who have lost a child due to homicide, suicide, drug overdose, or accidental death. The goal of Solomon's Porch is to provide emotional, mental, and spiritual support to those grieving the death of a loved-one. People experiencing this type of loss need support to help them make good decisions about their future. In some communities grieving family members can be the catalyst for peace or the driving source of revenge. Encouraging family members to utilize positive coping skills is beneficial for the well-being of the individual, the community, and the city of Racine. Born and raised in Racine I have contact with mothers whose sons have been killed and to date no individuals have been held accountable. The mothers and family are angry; furious because the accountability piece is missing. Mothers are harboring hate and vengeance for those they believe are responsible for their pain. Regardless of the age of a deceased child or the cause of death, parents need support and healing. For some the symptoms of grief are so strong they need professional help. Our target customers want to live a life as close to pre-loss as possible. They are coping with grief and through Solomons Porch they will find supportive and compassionate care. The benefits of working with Solomons Porch include an owner and business manager who live in the served community, compassion for people dealing with any fatality, and support from genuine, non-judgmental, empathetic, and discrete professionals. So far word-of-mouth and social media such as Facebook have been used to introduce Racine to Solomons Porch. In addition to grief counseling Solomons Porch will also offer services for substance abuse. As such, Solomons Porch must meet all federal and state regulations concerning counseling. Specifically, DHS 35, 36, 75, 42 CFR Part 2 and HIPPA. Solomons Porch will use measurable,

attainable, evidence-based therapies to provide grief and substance use counseling services (Cognitive-Behavioral, Motivational Interviewing, Narrative, and Person-Centered therapies). Mental Health Counseling is a fast-paced evolving industry, and I believe there is a place for my high-quality and compassionate care. In addition to holding a credential in Grief counseling I am a Licensed Professional Counselor, Certified Substance Abuse Counselor and an Independent Clinical Supervisor with twenty plus years of experience in the substance use field. Solomons Porch is a part of the Behavioral Health Industry. Mental Health and Addictions counseling are both a sector of this industry. Currently the counseling industry is booming with telehealth services leading the way. Consumers are concerned about their mental health and due to increased crime and mass shootings the mental health of their neighbor. The counseling industry is projected to grow 22% from 2021 to 2031 much faster than the average for all occupations (<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/community-and-social-service/substance-abuse-behavioral-disorder-and-mental-health-counselors.htm>). Better Help, Talk Space, and Better Mynd offer counseling services that are completely virtual. In addition to face-to-face individual counseling, I would like to institute virtual counseling services to reach more grieving, victimized, and underserved participants. A second component to Solomons Porch is the hall for various gatherings available to the community for a fee. The hall has been used for birthday parties, baby showers, dinner parties, but most importantly end-of-life celebrations for the deceased family member. Solomons Porch is in the process of hosting "in memory parties," seminars, and other events to help grievers live this "new" normal. Solomons Porch will be a safe place to have gatherings for grievers and their families. Monies from WCSF will be used to increase advertising and exposure to Solomons Porch. As previously stated, word-of-mouth and Facebook are used to spread the word about Solomons Porch, however printed materials like flyers need to be

distributed at churches, funeral homes, liquor stores, community centers, neighborhood corner stores and restaurants. Billboards and signs can be created to get the word out about the good we would like to do. I am working with Rae McWhorter, a licensed realtor who will hold homebuying seminars for inner city inhabitants who want to purchase a home. Homeownership decreases crime in communities because homeowners take pride in their accomplishments and promote ownership by putting love and care into their properties. Solomons Porch works hand-in-hand with Everyman's Exclusive Fashion Boutique to provide clothing and a hot meal to those in need in the neighborhood. On March 30, 2025, Strength in Every Scar: A Healing Event for Women and Mothers will focus on domestic violence survivors and grieving mothers. In June 2025, Solomons Porch will host "Down these Mean Streets" an educational conference geared towards men and their sons. The purpose is to inspire young males to make better decisions. Men from the inner city with lived experience will share their stories to encourage and inspire hope. Our speakers will range from pastors to businessmen who once participated in criminal activities and maladaptive behaviors. They will share their reasons for and how they made positive changes. These are respected men from the inner city who sought a way up and out. Monetary donations for our speakers will be anticipated as well as meals, gifts, and safe-healthy activities. Decorations are required to enhance the atmosphere. I would like to reach and serve the greatest number of substance users, bereaved family members, abused children, people in domestic violence relationships, sexually abused people, and the corrections population as possible. There is certainly a need. I do have the skills, experience, qualifications, knowledge, and passion to do it, but without the financial assistance of WCSF it remains a desire. From May to September 2025 Solomons Porch will host events to instill hope in youth, adults, and families. There are many lost and confused amongst us and Solomons Porch is willing to step-up and lead.

However, it needs financial assistance from WCSF to make a greater impact in the lives of the disadvantaged living in Racine neighborhoods.