

Dear Friends,

I write to you, this week, from a place of personal grief. My younger brother Noah, who was one of my best friends, and my confidant to bounce crazy and zany ideas for a better world, passed from brain cancer earlier this month. He loved life, and he loved to join me in the work of making the world more beautiful for all. He has, now, joined the company of saints in my life who I will turn to as I contemplate ideas and insights and dreams and visions. I wish he was by my side. There is no other way to say it. But, through tears I also affirm that death does not have the last sting of connectivity and community with him.

Why am I telling you this in the cover letter for RCHP-AHC? I'm telling you because I feel close to you, and thankful for you—you who have chosen to walk with me, and with all the caring people who make up our organization, for a long time now. I'm telling you because I want you to know that one of the ways I'm going to continue to experience the beauty of life and the power of transforming love is in and through the relationships, the partnerships, the projects, the dreams and visions, the transformations that occur through you—the company of saints who walk beside me still on this side of the grave.



I am so thankful for you as I contemplate an Autumn with you sharing beautiful ideas and hearing my ideas. I am thankful for you as I anticipate celebrating new grants and opportunities and joining with you in bold actions for justice. I am thankful for you as I anticipate stepping into the deep end with risky new projects, and as I contemplate reaching out, with you, to ever-new partners. I am thankful for you as we listen for the voices of the past and as we consider new voices, as we join more fully in a communion that cuts across religions, ethnic groups, races, nationalities, languages, gender identities and ideologies.

RCHP-Affordable Housing Corporation is so connected to communities of faith and goodwill that I like to think of it is as an extension not only of the Reformed Church of Highland Park, but, rather, as an extension of every faith community and community of goodwill that has found its way into relationship with us. AHC is a mechanism, a conduit, for all of us, and all of our communities, to be more beautiful.

On the most personal level the loving connections formed through this non-profit has been essential to my life during a time of grief. I hope, in that way, that I have but joined the clients, the volunteers, the staff who have come here as they are, for the past 25 years, with their sorrows, frustrations and concerns and come away alive again. Resurrected, if you will.

Peace,

Seth