

## **PETITION: Support for the Margarita Inn**

We support the purchase of the Margarita Inn by Connections for the Homeless to operate their Bridge Housing program. The Margarita Inn was established as a rooming house in 1927 and will continue to be used as such for people experiencing homelessness while they receive the services and support needed to move into stable housing elsewhere.

We also support municipal action to make this use of the Margarita Inn possible through zoning and other support as quickly as possible.

Throughout the pandemic, Connections for the Homeless heroically stepped up to provide shelter for more than 300 people experiencing homelessness. They changed from being a small congregate transitional shelter at Hilda's place, which housed 18 men, to providing COVID shelter in multiple hotels to running an innovative housing program with individual rooms at the Margarita Inn.

Since 2020, 184 homeless individuals have been served at the Margarita Inn, including men, women, and children. Currently, 86% are Evanston residents. The current waitlist is 50 to 80 people.

Every resident at the Margarita Inn has a case manager who guides the process for exiting into stable housing. Other wrap-around services include on-site physical and mental health care via licensed health care practitioners, medical referrals, support groups, three daily meals, laundry services, linkages to educational services, legal support, substance abuse treatment, and childcare.

**We believe all our neighbors deserve a safe, stable place to call home. The services provided by Connections for the Homeless at the Margarita Inn create the path to stable housing and a brighter future.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip Code**

