

**Emails / Website Comments received by planning staff**

**from persons in support of the Prairie Pointe PUD after staff report was complete.**



**06 May 2020**

Dear Shakopee decision makers,

I am a Catholic Pastor and the ordained Catholic faith leader of the Shakopee Area. I write to join many other faith leaders in Scott and Carver Counties in voicing our support for Prairie Pointe. A trusted developer and good neighbor for more than 20 years in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Edina, Plymouth, and Hopkins, the vision of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative is that all people have a home, and as faith leaders, we are called to bring that vision to life.

Beacon's shelter program, Families Moving Forward, has helped dozens of families in this area who had been homeless find a stable home in a community they love, but it is observably not enough. Leaders from **the local CAP agency, Scott and Carver counties, LOVE Inc., FISH, the St Francis Regional Medical Carver, Scott County Sheriff's office** and others have confirmed the need for more affordable homes in Scott and Carver counties for parents with children. Beacon offers us a path forward for our communities with Prairie Pointe.

Beacon has a history of success in building stable homes for those who need them most, and partnering with Volunteers of America will allow Beacon to bring those expert resources to Shakopee.

Supportive housing like Prairie Pointe is a proven model for ending homelessness and housing instability. Beacon's track record in delivering housing stability, supporting health care access, and improving residents' income is testament to a best-practice response for families experiencing homelessness. Stable homes transform lives, thus, we stand in full support of the Prairie Point development

I invite you to take the next courageous step towards ending homelessness in our community. Let Shakopee be a "light for the world" by supporting the Prairie Pointe project this month and onwards. You have the opportunity to improve the lives of many, many families who have been waiting for the security and comfort a home provides. I am counting on you now to support our families with the lowest incomes and highest needs and invest in their future – a future where everyone will benefit when we all have a place to call home.

Sincerely at your service in prayer, a sus ordines humildemente en Cristo,

Reverend Erik Lundgren

Pastor [CEO]

The Parish of Saints Joachim and Anne Church\* & School\*\*

Board Member, Saints Foundation of St Francis & St Gertrude, Shakopee

\*Catholic Churches of SJA-St Mark, SJA-St Mary, SJA-St Mary of the Purification [Marystown]

\*\*Shakopee Area Catholic School

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We fully support the project! We are very happy to continue our financial support of Beacon. This is a unique way of helping people get back on their feet! Every community should have a great project like Beacon! Thanks for your consideration. Bert and Bonnie Notermann

Bert and Bonnie Notermann

812 East County Road 78

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Dear Council Members, Mayor, and city leaders,

My name is Trish Grose and I have lived for nearly 26 years at 1125 Jefferson St. in Shakopee. I am writing you today about Prairie Point, the family supportive housing development to be located off Fourth Avenue E and Sarazin Street.

I support this project for numerous reasons. We know that affordable housing is a major issue here in Shakopee and across the nation. There is not a single county in the United States where you can afford a two bedroom apartment on a minimum wage income! We also know that homelessness is growing in our state and is a real tragedy. One of the ways that the homeless population has changed in the last few years is that approximately half of those experiencing homelessness are now women and children. As a former teacher I cannot imagine that a child who is homeless can get the kind of education that prepares them to be successful in the future.

I have several years of experience with the Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative and support their endeavors financially each year although this is their first project here in Shakopee. They have identified the needs of several different constituencies and organized to address those needs over the years. The exciting part of their work is that this is not just low income housing but family supportive housing which makes a tremendous difference in the outcomes we would all hope to see.

I fervently hope you will support this important proposal. Our community will benefit in addition to the future occupants.

Hopefully,  
Trish Grose

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I support the Rezoning of the kc hall to support Beacon house.

Cathy Hennen

12590 meadow ct

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Homelessness is a crisis in our country, our state, and our city. Support for Prairie Pointe is an opportunity for the City of Shakopee to make a difference in the homelessness crisis in Shakopee. A home is a basic need. With that basic need fulfilled, individuals and families are able to move forward improving all aspects of their lives. As a former teacher, I know stability is vital for a child's academic growth. With this aspect in mind, Shakopee is making an investment in the future. I was impressed to learn Beacon's model goes beyond providing a home. On-site services are provided, which is another key layer of support. All needs of the individuals and families are addressed. As a resident of Shakopee, I am asking the Shakopee City Council to support Prairie Pointe. Shakopee will be a better community when all people have homes. We must be a part of the solution to homelessness!

Deanna Strunk

1567 Jackson Court

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Homeless is here in Scott County. We do better as a community by helping people find stable ground. Our city can be a supportive place to all people. Let's make Shakopee a place we can be proud of. Please very seriously consider supporting the Beacon Interfaith Housing plan.

Maxine Hughes

1259 Maxine Cir E

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Dear Council Members, Mayor, and city leaders of Shakopee,

My name is Nancy Busch, and am a registered voter at the Police Department in Shakopee, and I am writing today about Prairie Pointe, the family supportive housing development located off 4th Ave E and Sarazin St.

I wanted to let you know that I am in support of this project, and excited about the benefits to our community! I support Prairie Pointe because I have seen enough homelessness in the past several years of people like you and I, that have lost their jobs due to cuts and layoffs, illness, the recession of 2008 and a number of other reasons. I believe these people could be given a chance to get back on their feet and this project could do it for them.

Family supportive housing is a smart investment into the future of Shakopee and our neighborhoods. That is why I support the development of Prairie Pointe and I hope that you will vote in favor of its land use on Tues, May 19th.

Sincerely,

Nancy Busch

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Please consider approving this application for the Beacon interfaith housing I believe it is critical and vital to Scott county and will set an example for other local and rural counties to follow. This is not a homeless shelter this is a step above to encourage and assist people that want to improve their lives. I see a real demand in Shakopee and in the Scott County and carver county areas for homeless people and people that are just really struggling they need a place to start again .

Charlotte Theis

16936 Grommesch crl

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Planning Commission Members

As a volunteer of Families Moving Forward (Beacon International) I am writing to ask for your support for the proposed Prairie Pointe Development on your agenda May 7, 2020.

Scott County has an acute shortage of housing for the Homeless and low income residents. Rental costs have increased so dramatically

that a person earning minimum wage cannot qualify for a basic one bedroom apartment. It's necessary for two wage earners to afford a two bedroom unit.

I'm asking you to consider this carefully when making your decision.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jane C. DuBois

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I fully support this project. This is a great idea and way to help the homeless families in our area. I also like the idea of someone following up with those families to help them find jobs and the thing they need to become self sufficient, this in turn could lead to a better life for them and them becoming better community members.

Michelle Petersen

2490 Cambridge Way N

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Dear Mayor Mars, Council Members and other City Leaders:

It is unconscionable for me to consider what it would be like any time to be without adequate housing!

Prairie Pointe housing would definitely help alleviate the housing needs In our enlightened community. A family of \$30,000 annual income or less would be eligible for a comprehensive service arrangement and housing under the Prairie Pointe housing proposal.

Our county properly falls within the 13% marker for homelessness. We can do so much better!

I personally support the plan and location for the Prairie Pointe housing project. Consider what that stability and hope will mean for those economically challenged residents.

I have continued to support financially this kind of collaborative housing effort for many years!

Stand up with me and for those potential family members.

Charles W. Grose, PhD

1125 Jefferson Street  
Shakopee

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I have been a financial contributor of beacon for quite some time. I fully support this housing project in Shakopee. We do have homelessness in our city, and I feel this would be a great facility for them to get back on their feet. It would provide a safe environment for them.

Rachel Welch

2470 Paha circle

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What a beautiful opportunity for so many good folks in our community to live what we believe and practice what we preach! Brother Knights, thank you for staying true to the first principle of your august brotherhood, namely, Charity. The fourth and final principal of the KCs is Patriotism. Thus, let us continue to build and to be "one nation under God" as we help others enjoy the fruits of liberty. Let us not forget the great admonition at Lady Liberty's feet on Staten Island: "...A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name Mother of Exiles. From her BEACON-hand Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command The air-bridged harbor that TWIN CITIES frame. 'Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!' cries she With silent lips. 'Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!'" Rise up O men of God. ALLELUIA! Gloria in excelsis DEO, alleluia. Fr Erik

Rev Erik Lundgren

2700 17th Av E

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SHAKOPEE needs to address the homeless situation in our community. Every community must take care of their own. It's not the responsibility of a far off government. It's OUR responsibility.

That's the only way it can really be accomplished. The need is NOW - not sometime in the future. The responsibility is OURS, no one else's.

Ann Mulcrone 2384 Pinewood Drive

I am writing in support of the Prairie Pointe project. My deputies, 911 dispatchers and jail staff have daily interactions with community members who are struggling with housing. There is definitely a need in our community for this housing. I have also witnessed firsthand Beacon's work in our local churches through their Families Moving Forward program. Thank you, Luke Hennen, Scott County Sheriff

Luke Hennen

301 S Fuller St

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Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative is a very organized and successful organization that I'm proud to support. They have a successful facility in Edina which initially faced great opposition from the community but now serves homeless teens and is a great fit for their Edina community. Homelessness in Shakopee and in Scott County is getting worse. The great thing about Beacon is that they provide so much more than a home. They also provide the services residents need to be able to stay in their homes and be an asset to society. Services like addiction recovery, job training, child care, medical services, etc. I hope and pray that the residents of Shakopee can join communities like Edina and others to become a solution to the problem instead of being fearful and uninformed. I would hope that they would see this project as an asset to their community. Statistics show that when people have a home, other areas in their lives are more stable. Children stay and do better in school, parents get and keep jobs, addictions diminish because the homelessness was the root of their addiction. <https://endhomelessness.org/homelessness-in-america/homelessness-statistics/> Beacon has another project in the works in my community and I very much welcome it and hope to support and be a part of it and its success. So many of us take our homes for granted. Imagine what YOUR life would be like if you were homeless. Everyone deserves a place to call home.

Christine Johnson

14260 Parkview Lane NW

Prior Lake 55372

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Dear Shakopee Leaders;

My name is Jerry Ince and I am a lifelong Shakopee Resident. I am writing to show my support for the proposed Beacon plan of Park Pointe on 4th and Sarazin. In my volunteer work with "Loaves and Fishes" and "Shakopee Community Assistance" and "Project Community Connect" I have seen the need for affordable housing in our area. I think our Knights of Columbus

property is a good location for Beacon because of the cemetery on the east and the industry on the north with a partial berm on the south. It also helps that there are job opportunities close by especially Amazon and MyPillow.

Thank You,

Jerry Ince

610 Menke Ave.

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Dear Council Members, Mayor, and city leaders of Shakopee,

My name is Edsel Faunillan, and I am sending this letter on behalf of the Shakopee Knights of Columbus regarding Prairie Pointe, the family supportive housing development located off 4th Ave E and Sarazin

I wanted to let you know that I am in support of this project, and excited about the benefits to our community! I support Prairie Pointe because,

- We need more affordable housing in Shakopee
- Our future depends on our citizen that could live and thrive in this limited housing
- Immediate workers will be available in our developing manufacturing area
- To support the growing population that needs affordable housing

Family supportive housing is a smart investment into the future of Shakopee and our neighborhoods. That is why I support the development of Prairie Pointe and I hope that you will vote in favor of its land use on Tuesday May 19th.

Sincerely,

Edsel Faunillan  
KofC Council 1685

Thank You,

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James Pufahl

545 Tyrol Lane

Shakopee, Mn 55379

Dear Council Members, Mayor, and city leaders of Shakopee,

My name is Jim Pufahl, I am a registered voter in Scott County, and I am writing today about Prairie Pointe, the family supportive housing development located off 4th Ave E and Sarazin St.

I wanted to let you know that I am in support of this project, and excited about the benefits to our community! I support Prairie Pointe because, this will help the rising need for homes here in Shakopee, for those that are helping us during this Coronavirus 19 they are the workers, stocking the shelves at Cub, Target, HyVee our neighboring gas stations to name just a few.

The need for housing for those looking for their first jobs such as nurses, teachers and public safety workers and our veterans, just for starters, many of which have to work multiple jobs to meet there needs and provide for themselves and families.

I've been involved with the Loaves and fishes and the Shakopee Community Agency (SCA) along with our CAP agency, local food shelves and helping at the Project Community Connect since its start for both Carver and Scott counties. The need for housing is here, for those workers at Amazon, Canterbury, My Pillow, Valley Fair, Mystic Lake, Target and local business just to name a few, they are workers coming in from surrounding communities, because we just don't have enough housing here.

Family supportive housing is a smart investment into the future of Shakopee and our neighborhoods. That is why I support the development of Prairie Pointe and I hope that you will vote in favor of its land use on Tuesday May 19th.

Sincerely,

Deacon Jim Pufahl.

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Robert R. Blake  
14981 Summit Circle NW  
Prior Lake, MN 55372

May 5, 2010

Dear Council Members, Mayor, and city leaders of Shakopee,

My name is Bob Blake and I am sending this letter on behalf of the Shakopee Knights of Columbus regarding Prairie Pointe, the family supportive housing development located off 4th Ave E and Sarazin

I wanted to let you know that we are in support of this project, and excited about the benefits to our community! As an organization of Catholic men, we invest our time and money to assist the poor, the disadvantaged and the disenfranchised people of our community. Our city has little affordable housing for the hard-working folks that work in our area.



Besides being the right thing to do, family supportive housing is a smart investment into the future of Shakopee and our neighborhoods. That is why we strongly support the development of Prairie Pointe and we hope that you will vote in favor of its land use on Tuesday May 19th.

Sincerely,

Bob Blake  
Deputy Grand Knight  
KofC Council 1685

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Dear Council Members, Mayor, and city leaders of Shakopee:

My name is Gerry Mareck and I live at 916 Scott Street in Shakopee. The purpose of my e-mail is tell you of my support of Prairie Pointe family supportive housing development located at the KC property at 4th Ave E and Sarazin St.

This project goes way beyond any dollars and cents, and bricks and mortar. This is about making a difference in someone's life who is looking for help in improving their own life, to someday maybe make a difference for someone else! Not everyone can start at the top, possess all natural talents, or be superior in anything they touch or do!

I grew up on a small farm in rural Albany MN. While growing up I can recall many times how people were treated differently because of their social status. Never could really figure out why. After my farm days, I always committed myself to helping those who need that helping hand. That's exactly what this housing development does! What it does not do is differentiate people because of what background they possess or any other personal features.

Don't judge others, and you will not be judged. It does not matter what faith we possess, or any other characteristic, what matters most is making a difference for someone, when it is most needed. Please support the project by voting in favor of this request! Those in need may not know how to ask for help, that is where you and myself can make a difference!!

Thank you for reading my message!

Gerry Mareck

916 Scott Street

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Dear Council Members, Mayor, and City Leaders of Shakopee.

My name is Lori Peterson. I am a registered voter at 1127 Van Buren St.

I want to let you know that I support the Prairie Pointe housing development located off 4th Ave E and Sarazin St.

My church, Resonate Community Church, has volunteered several times with Families Moving Forward. Prior to volunteering with Families Moving Forward I was unaware of the homelessness in the Shakopee area. It is heart breaking to see the number of homeless families and it may only get worse with Covid 19. I hope you that you will vote in favor of its land use on Tuesday May 19th.

Serve God by serving others.

Sincerely,

Lori Peterson

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Dear Council Members, Mayor, and city leaders of Shakopee,

My name is Scott Mellema. My family and I have lived in Shakopee the last ten plus years. We love the city and appreciate all that it offers.

My wife Heather and I are registered voters at in Shakopee and we are writing today about the family supportive housing development, Prairie Pointe, located at 4th Ave E and Sarazin St.

I wanted to let you know that we are excited about the opportunities that this housing development would provide for the individuals and families that would be served by it. We have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to listen to individuals who have benefited from other Beacon projects throughout the Twin Cities through the church that we attend, Calvary Christian Reformed. Having lived in the area for several years, we know there are many in the neighborhood that would greatly benefit from living in this type of environment.

We believe that family supportive housing is a smart investment into the future of Shakopee and our neighborhood. That is why I support the development of Prairie Pointe and I hope that you will vote in favor of its land use on Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

Scott and Heather Mellema

2253 Wildwood Drive, Shakopee

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Dear Council Members, Mayor, and city leaders of Shakopee,

Our names are Mike and Becky Sexton, we live at 931 Holmes St. S, we are registered voters at precinct one and we are writing today about Prairie Pointe, the family supportive housing development located off 4th Ave E and Sarazin St.

We wanted to let you know that we are in support of this project, and are excited about the benefits to our community. We support Prairie Pointe because we understand that there is a great need for affordable

interim housing in Shakopee. We moved to Shakopee at the end of November of 1976 from New Hope because we were able to rent one side of a double bungalow for \$200 dollars a month. In October of 1980 we were able to purchase an older home for \$47,000. It took a couple of years to purchase a home due to low availability and increasing housing demands. At that time the inflation rate was 22% which translated to interest rates as high as 22% and home prices were increasing at a rate of \$2,000 a week. We have seen a lot of changes in Shakopee like the mini bypass, the closing of the Holmes Street bridge, the 169 bypass and the change from a farming community to thriving city. We learned about Prairie Pointe through meetings at our church, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church at 119 W 8th Ave. We would not be able to point out a homeless person or family because those people look like you and me. There are a variety of reasons for homelessness and we believe that the services on the main level of Prairie Pointe will help to address those reasons. We believe that it is our obligation to help our neighbors and Prairie Pointe is one way to do that. We will be laid to rest in the Valley Cemetery and what a comfort to know that we were a part of the Prairie Pointe when that happens. It is our hope that you would vote for the land use of Prairie Pointe.

Sincerely, Mike and Becky Sexton

931 Holmes St

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April 22,

Dear Council Members, Mayor and city leaders of Shakopee,

My name is Molly Nefstead. I am a registered voter living at 1800 Penstemon Lane and am writing today about Prairie Pointe, the family supportive housing development located off 4th Ave E and Sarazin Street.

I wanted to let you know that I am in support of this project and excited about the benefits it will bring to our community. As a school social worker I see first hand the struggle families face to find affordable housing. During this time of "distance learning" we have students who are opting out of attending classroom Zoom meetings because they are living in a hotel room or shelter and don't want their classmates to know. Within Scott County there are families that bounce from one school district to the next based on where they can find housing. Often this housing is unsafe and involves multiple families living in a dwelling designed for a single family. On a regular basis I work with families who need to move with very little notice because a landlord discovers there are too many people living in a rental unit. Children are unable to put forth their

best academic effort and struggle to develop social skills when they aren't sure where they will be sleeping or with whom they will be living.

Family supportive housing would help children thrive socially and academically, improve overall health outcomes and allow parents to gain financial literacy and maintain employment. Prairie Pointe could mitigate many of the adverse childhood experiences of local families allowing them to prosper rather than fall through the cracks of a broken system. Shakopee has the opportunity to be a leader for suburban communities across the state and nation. Prairie Pointe will serve as a physical representation that we hear and see all of our community members, not just those with privilege. This is a smart investment in the future of Shakopee. I hope you will vote in favor of its land use on Tuesday, May 19, 2020.

Sincerely,

**MOLLY NEFSTEAD, MSW, LICSW, RYT 200** | Elementary Social Worker

Jordan Public Schools | [mnefstead@isd717.org](mailto:mnefstead@isd717.org)

815 Sunset Drive | Jordan, MN | 55352

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April 8, 2020

Dear Mayor Mars, Shakopee City Council Members, City Administrator Reynolds and City Planning Director Kerski,

My name is Julie Welch and I am a resident of Shakopee. I am proud to have been born and raised here! I am also a member of St. Joachim and Anne parish.

I have been a supporter of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative as both a volunteer and financially for over 5 years because Beacon is amazing at what they do and they do it right. When I realized there was homelessness in Shakopee, I tried to do something on my own to help. It was a bandaid because I do not have the experience and resources that Beacon does, so I decided to partner with them. I have prayed for a project like Prairie Pointe within my community for a number of years.

Shakopee prides itself on being a community of families and I will be there to welcome new families to Prairie Pointe when it opens. Coming from a family of builders, I understand the need for affordable homes where families can feel safe. With the price of land and materials continually on the rise, it is not profitable to build affordable housing. I am thankful that organizations like Beacon have taken up this challenging work!

Thank you for your time and consideration. When it comes time to vote on Prairie Pointe, I hope you will vote with your values so that families in Scott and Carver county have a home where they can afford to get back on their feet.

Sincerely,

Julie Welch

Dear neighbor,

I hope you'll join me in supporting the fabulous new homes at Prairie Pointe. I believe these high-quality apartment homes being proposed by Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative will be a great addition to our neighborhood. As Prairie Pointe moves forward, you'll have the opportunity to see so, too.

Beacon has an excellent track record of providing well-managed apartments and being great neighbors. Prairie Pointe would provide about 50 families in our community with a stable home and support services they're seeking to increase income, advance their education, nurture their children, and invest back in Shakopee. All the things we hope to do and be as parents and neighbors!

I've attached the flyer Beacon is sharing with their congregations, city staff, and others in our community which reviews what Prairie Pointe is and why it's so important. As you read through, keep in mind that the city is only being asked to approve land use. They aren't asking for funding.

There will be more information about Prairie Pointe on the city of Shakopee's website, including an invitation for your comments. I hope you'll take a look, chat with myself or someone at Beacon with any questions and join me in telling the city that we support Prairie Pointe as a great investment for our future.

I want these new neighbors because we have an opportunity, so close to home, for a work of our faith values according to Mathew 25 31-46 that would support about 50 families and benefit our entire neighborhood. I'd love to hear why YOU support Prairie Pointe as well.

To learn more about Beacon and Prairie Pointe, visit:  
[www.beaconinterfaith.org/blog/organizing/overview-prairie-pointe/](http://www.beaconinterfaith.org/blog/organizing/overview-prairie-pointe/)

For any questions, you can email Beacon at [prairiepointe@beaconinterfaith.org](mailto:prairiepointe@beaconinterfaith.org) or reach out to me at [maimulc@gmail.com](mailto:maimulc@gmail.com)

Your neighbor,

Ann Mulcrone  
[maimulc@gmail.com](mailto:maimulc@gmail.com)