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**Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission grants Project Neighbors \$7,128 for Respite House**

**VALPARAISO, Ind.** (July 19, 2018) –

On July 17<sup>th</sup>, The Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission (Commission) presented Project Neighbors with a \$7,128 reimbursement, granted to support the removal of asbestos and demolition of an abandoned home at 307 Union Street. The reimbursement will support Project Neighbors' goal of building a Respite House on the cleared site to serve men recovering from opioid addiction. This will be the second Respite House in Valparaiso, opening new beds for those in need. The current Respite House has 16 beds and a waiting list of 73.

“When organizations work together, amazing outcomes can happen. The collaboration of Respite House, Project Neighbors and the Redevelopment Commission will result in this vitally needed resource,” said Paul Schreiner, Executive Director of Project Neighbors. “It is comforting to know we are not alone in this effort.”

The latest Respite House is currently planned as a two-level facility housing up to 24 residents and three live-in staff. In the coming months, Project Neighbors will seek variances on this property and invite community input at public meetings. A board member of Project Neighbors will provide architectural design of the Respite House and volunteers will undertake the construction. The Respite House will be owned and operated by the Harold “Hal” Kelley Respite Foundation Inc.

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*Photo Credit: The Northwest Indiana Times*

*Left to Right: Redevelopment Commission Vice President, Rick Urschel; Redevelopment Commission President, Rob Thorgren, Project Neighbors Executive Director, Paul Schreiner, Hal Kelley Respite House Executive Director, Lita Peters*