



## COBB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Samuel S. Olens  
*Chairman*

April 16, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

The Extension has a long history of service to our community. Starting out as an emergency winter shelter over 20 years ago, it didn't take them long to understand that homelessness was not a problem—rather it was the symptom of a problem. For the vast majority of those seeking help from the organization, that problem was addiction and its causes.

Today The Extension operates the largest residential recovery program for homeless, addicted men in the north Metro area, with comprehensive services unparalleled in the entire state. Their proven track record of success makes them uniquely qualified to fill a glaring gap in services within our community.

Addicted women in Cobb who become homeless and untethered to family members and traditional social networks have nowhere to turn in our community for the help they so desperately need. The Extension is committed to developing a long-term, residential program designed to facilitate the change necessary for these women to become accountable to their families and the community.

I see the difference The Extension is making in our community, and I see the tremendous need for a women's recovery program modeled after their successful men's program. Understand that The Extension does not exist because there is a problem—they exist because there is a solution. In large part that solution is based on our community's willingness to make a difference.

The Extension represents the best of our community: a place where businesses, faith groups and individuals share of themselves to help build a caring and vibrant community that benefits us all. I commend The Extension for their dedication and their commitment to expand their services to women, and I applaud the efforts of all those in the community who have supported this organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel S. Olens".

Samuel S. Olens  
Chairman