

November 4, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Crystal Engram and I am the Immediate Past President of the Rotary Club of Bridgeport (2019-2020).

During my tenure, I had the opportunity to hear a presentation about the non-profit organization, Off The Streets – Bridgeport. I learned how this 100% volunteer group works to get the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless, off the streets by providing much needed security deposits directly to landlords. All candidates are vetted through local social services agencies as having the means to make a monthly rental payment, but have not saved enough money to provide required security deposits. Without this deposit, they run the risk of living in a car, shelter, hotel or on the streets.

At the close of Presidency, we are given the opportunity to provide monetary support and partner with an agency of our choice who supports any of Rotary's six areas of focus:

- Peace and conflict prevention/resolution
- Disease prevention and treatment.
- Water and sanitation.
- Maternal and child health.
- Basic education and literacy.
- Economic and community development

After careful consideration, I chose to align myself with Off The Streets - Bridgeport. I was attracted to both the mission as well as the appeal of a grassroots organization that had produced real results in the Bridgeport area. Since the local chapter's inception in 2014, over 250 individuals have been placed in housing mostly in the Bridgeport area. I believe that Off the Streets, Bridgeport is aligned with maternal and child health as well as economic and community development.

The Rotary club of Bridgeport approved my selection and I have been an active volunteer of Off The Streets - Bridgeport ever since. The Bridgeport Rotary Club was also able to provide much needed financial support.

I am pleased to continue to volunteer and offer my services to this organization--the need for housing is now more important than ever as our country continues to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic and we struggle to help those in need.

Sincerely,

  
Crystal Engram

Immediate Past President (2019-2020)  
Rotary Club of Bridgeport