

DRAFT

TO: Governor George Wieman
FROM: Committee to Investigate KVH
SUBJECT: KIWANIS VOCATIONAL HOME FOR BOYS

In compliance with your March 19, 1990 request, our committee comprised of Gary McGlothlen, Russ Hobbs and Allan Wood, has completed an indepth evaluation of the Kiwanis Vocational Home for ^{Youth} Boys, Centralia, Washington. Our charge was to: "Save the (KVH) operation and protect the Kiwanis name." We were to use as a guide, Past Governor Gene O'Brien's letter of March 13, 1990, paragraph four, "Be a fact-finding, impartial, nonaligned committee."

To the optimum of our capability, we have endeavored to perform this arduous and challenging task with this specificity as our guide.

The committee has individually and collectively interviewed members of the KVH Staff, Board Members, Legal Council, Medical and Psychological Service Providers (both past and present), Washington State Department of Social and Health Services representatives, ^{and} persons who brought allegations of "illegal practices" against the Director of KVH. We gave opportunity to former employees who have registered ^{verbal} complaints of various indiscretions by staff members including sexual abuse of residents and improper manipulation of records among other allegations of administrative malfeasance.

Some of those who have been vocal in their complaints failed to ^{provide written documentation or to} meet with the committee at prescribed appointments. No explanation was given as to their reasons for not appearing before the committee. Their failure to present their complaints to the committee does, in the opinion of the committee, negate the validity of any future overt or covert criticism of KVH.

improper

Our investigation revealed a few areas of mismanagement.

One of major importance related to the director, Chuck McCarthy, *He* was the founder of the program and for more than 10 years was the primary decision maker. His leadership inspired the growth and development of KVH. It was his vision and energy that infused those who had contributed to the ultimate success of the Home for more than 70 dependent youth who would suffer great loss if denied access to KVH. Yet it was "Chuck's" habit of decision-making without appropriately involving the two corporate boards responsible for directing the operation of KVH. *> \$30K*

We recommend that the improper practice of the director making independent decisions pertaining to the management of KVH be corrected. The corporation boards should be comprised of members *of fac. club support KV* selected in accordance with the constitution and bylaws, know their *Each me* defined roles and assume the responsibility for determining the *we recommend* policy and practice of the administration. *^* This responsibility *should* include the hiring of and supervising the Director of KVH. *improper* We discovered the illegal use of KVH funds for building *Expand* an office at the home of the director, Charles McCarthy. The action of the board and note signed by Mr. McCarthy agreeing to repay KVH \$3,000 used for the home office in the event his home is sold or he leaves his position of director, is improper.

recommended - We advised the board to proceed immediately with processing a proper lien against the director's home in the amount of KVH funds allocated to the office construction.

Allegations of resident abuse including sexual deviancy between staff and residents was investigated. We were told of such improper activities occurring on occasion, but we were unable to identify any specific incidents of such activity *no written complain* and therefore conclude that there exists no basis for such allegations.

~~Other~~ Allegations of inappropriate disposition of articles purchased at Government auctions were apparently unfounded. We found no specific evidence of such activity.

The support of KVH as a quality home for dependent boys needing such an environment is most impressive.

Dr. D. C. Curnel, provides medical care for the Kiwanis Vocational Home for ^{youth} Boys. In a letter dated May 25, 1990, he states: "It has been a pleasure to be involved with the work that Chuck is doing in Centralia with the Kiwanis Boys Home." He continues by saying, "In my tenure as physician, I have seen no evidence of neglect or physical problems or over use of psychotropic medications."

Dr. Curnel is pleased to be a member of the team that provides care for KVH residents.

Further support was submitted by Dr. Rod Hoeltzel, psychologist, ^{who} states in a letter dated May 23, 1990, "During the four years I have been associated with the Kiwanis Vocational Home for Boys, I have directly observed and participated in the tremendous positive growth the facility has experienced." He further states, "Just as no family is perfect, or without problems, neither is KVH. It is unfortunate that harsh criticism of KVH can distort the picture of reality that I perceive.... We are not perfect. We're doing a fine job for the youth in our care..."

A letter written to Governor George Wieman by a representative of the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, dated March 28, 1990, was strong in its praise of KVH. With a long litany of commendation, the representative stated: "DSHS is proud of the success KVH has had with the boys in its care....~~the contract limit has been raised from 54 to 69 boys.~~"

Over the years KVH has demonstrated an ability and willingness to adapt its program to meet the changing needs of the population requiring group care..."

The committee has found no reason for requiring KVH to discontinue the use of Kiwanis in its name. We concur the Home is providing a quality program for a most needy group of boys desperately in need of the love and care they find at KVH. We urge the immediate implementation of administrative changes we have recommended.

We are particularly concerned by the apparent mistrust ^{animosity} some Kiwanians have in regard to the KVH program and its operation. We urge all of those of contrary minds to make a concerted effort to meet with leaders of KVH ^{with written complaints} and develop a meaningful dialogue with the intent to reach a mutual understanding which will result in healing of differences and the reuniting of all members of the Kiwanis family.

We refer to the second object of Kiwanis: "To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships."

We appreciate the ^{SP} privilege of responding to Governor George Wieman's request to investigate ^{allegations against} KVH to determine if the continued use of the name "Kiwanis" would in any way pose a threat to the integrity and credibility of this highly respected service organization. We are pleased to conclude that no such threat exists.

We commend KVH for the quality program it provides needy youth and recommend that an increased number of Kiwanis Clubs become aware of and support this worthy facility.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan Wood, Chairman
Gary McGlothlen
Russ Hobbs

KI 0134

PCVA 001125