



Thank you for your interest in serving as a member of the Board of Directors of Meryl's Safe Haven. As a board member, you will be part of a group of decision-makers who influence the current direction and future of MSH. Completing this form will help you understand the skills and time/resource commitments of this position and give us the opportunity to learn more about your skills and interest in becoming a board member of MSH. You may find it helpful to read through the entire application and "Board Member Responsibilities" before you begin filling it out.

Please return the completed application to Meryl's Safe Haven through mail or email

ATTN: Tasia Cerezo, CEO
P.O. Box 20363
Worcester, MA 01602

or by email to tasia@merylssafehaven.org

Applications will be kept confidential and on file at the Meryl's Safe Haven Administrative office. Applications are used by the Board to identify and evaluate potential board candidates. All new directors are elected by a majority vote of current board members.



Our Vision: To see a world that recognizes the humanity in shelter for all as a right, not a privilege one can live without.

Our Mission: Meryl's Safe Haven (MSH) is dedicated to providing and connecting families and young people who have aged out of the care of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) system shelter and resources in our community and beyond. We focus on the whole person for holistic support to address the underlying issues. MSH aims to be an impetus for change that recognizes humanity and the importance of community.

As an organization, we place value on equity, diversity, and the equal inclusion of individuals from all backgrounds. Through support in providing financial budgeting and management, identifying childcare and mental health resources, education, and workforce development opportunities, while meeting the basic needs of food, safety, and shelter. Our mission is to level the field of opportunity for those who enter our doors.

BOARD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Direct, and inspire the organization through the careful deliberation and establishment of policies, and development and implementation of a strategic plan
- Serve as a trusted advisor to the CEO and COO as they develop and implement Meryl's Safe Haven's strategic plan for a term of two years
- Attend and engage in board meetings. In preparation of meetings, review agenda and supporting materials
- Engage in budget creation process and approve Meryl's Safe Haven's annual budget, audit reports, and material business decisions
- Meet fiduciary responsibilities
- Contribute to an annual performance evaluation of the CEO
- Assist in identifying and recruiting other Board Members that reflect the community Meryl's Safe Haven serves
- Ensure that board resolutions are carried out
- Serve on committees or task forces and take on special assignments, as needed
- Account to the public for competent, conscientious, and effective accomplishment of its obligations as a body

BOARD GOVERNANCE & COMPLIANCE COMMITMENTS

- Adhere to MSH's Conflict of Interest Policy and complete annual disclosure
- Maintain confidentiality of all board and organizational matters
- Act in accordance with fiduciary duties: duty of care, loyalty, and obedience
- Participate in board orientation and ongoing training
- Support organizational fundraising, advocacy, and community engagement efforts
- Uphold MSH's commitment to equity, accountability, and participant-centered decision-making
- Maintain active participation, including meeting attendance, preparation, and committee service



CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _() _____

Email: _____

Company & Position Title (if employed) _____

Number of years with Present Employer _____

For the following questions, use additional pages if necessary. Please also attach and/or submit your Resume/CV to this statement, if available.

1. How did you become aware of Meryl's Safe Haven and its mission?
2. What does equity and accountability mean to you in board service?
3. Briefly describe why you are interested in serving on the Meryl's Safe Haven board:
4. How would you help strengthen MSH's reputation, partnerships, and community trust?
5. Please list any board service, volunteer work, special training, skills, professional membership, community activities, hobbies, special interests that may be useful to your board placement:
6. Do you have any restrictions to your schedule that could impact your commitment to Meryl's Safe Haven?
7. Do you know anyone currently serving on MSH's board?



PROFESSIONAL / COMMUNITY REFERENCES

Please provide two references who can speak to your professional experience, leadership, or community involvement.

Reference 1
Name: _____
Organization/Relationship: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Reference 2
Name: _____
Organization/Relationship: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

References will only be contacted with your permission during the final stages of the selection process.



BOARD CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. If selected, how do you feel you would contribute to the success of Meryl's Safe Haven?

2. What professional or personal resources can you bring to MSH? Check those that apply. If "other" please indicate:
 Board development Strategic planning Fundraising Special Events
 Financial management Community networking Marketing Real Estate
 Other:

3. Are you willing to participate in fundraising, advocacy, or public-facing events?

4. What issues of concern to the populations MSH serves do you perceive as especially important?

5. What are your expectations from the leadership of Meryl's Safe Haven?

6. Anything else you would like us to know?

BOARD SELECTION PROCESS

Submission of this application does not guarantee appointment to the Board of Directors. All applications are reviewed by board leadership and/or a designated committee. Selected candidates may be invited to participate in an interview and further discussion with members of the board. Final selection is determined by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

If selected to join the Board, you affirm that you do not have any conflict of interest, agree to complete annual disclosures, and commit to active participation in board meetings, committees, and organizational activities.

I have read and understand the Board Governance & Compliance Commitments and the Board Selection Process.

Signature _____

Date _____

Thank you for your interest in Meryl's Safe Haven, Inc.!

Board of Director's Application Form