Thank you for your interest in 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 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 of 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 tcerezo@merylssafehaven.com

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.

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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

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. Briefly describe why you are interested in serving on the Meryl’s Safe Haven board:
3. 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:
4. Do you have any restrictions to your schedule that could impact your commitment to Meryl’s Safe Haven?

1. Do you know anyone currently serving on MSH’s board?

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:

1. What issues of concern to the populations MSH serves do you perceive as especially important?
2. What are your expectations from the leadership of Meryl’s Safe Haven?
3. Anything else you would like us to know?

If you selected to join the board, you affirm that you do not have any conflict-of-interest in participating on the board, will sign-off, annually attesting to this statement and agree that you can provide, at least, eight hours a year in attendance to organizational meetings and events.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your interest in Meryl’s Safe Haven!