

September 17, 2025

The Honorable Rodney W. Sippel
111 South 10th Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63102

Re: Victim Impact Statement

Dear Judge Sippel:

I am writing as an 18 year board member and former board chair of Promise Community Homes ("PCH"), f/k/a Rainbow Village. I am also the step-mother of a 41 year old with Down Syndrome who resides with my husband, Clark Cole, and me.

My heart is broken as I write this. What is the appropriate punishment for a 10 year daily choice by the defendant to rob a community of developmentally disabled adults of the dream of having their own home? That is the dream that PCH tries to make come true, relying on the generosity and charity of others.

Some of my most poignant memories of my time at Promise Community Homes have been with the residents when they have grabbed my hand to show me their newly decorated room; their renovated kitchen where they dine with friends; or their new accessible bathroom which allows them to roll into a shower instead of risking a fall by trying to unsafely navigate access to a bathtub. The pride and joy in the eyes of a special resident who gets to experience what we take for granted on a daily basis is humbling.

In contrast, the brazen theft by Ms. Fousse over the course of years is gut wrenching to think about. I have spent countless hours with Ms. Fouse, and have heard her describe her faith and devotion to God and the mission. Hers was truly an abuse of trust at the deepest levels. My feelings are irrelevant in comparison to her impact on our mission.

We currently have 92 residences, 84 being single family homes. Without Ms. Fouse's unspeakable, evil embezzlement, we might have served another 60 residents and their families. Our residents rely on Medicaid for their support needs. Without Promise Community Homes, these vulnerable individuals are prone to exploitation by predatory landlords providing unsafe, substandard housing. These landlords can ignore the call of an intellectually or developmentally disabled individual with a clogged toilet, or a leak causing mold and impacting the health of the tenants. There are 60 individuals now languishing in homes with elderly parents who cannot provide adequate care. They could be thriving in a forever home with peers living an independent and socially active life. There are countless

family members wondering what will happen to their loved one when they are gone, and the dream of a forever home has been lost forever for multiple would-be residents of our homes.

We rely heavily on the generosity of donors. I have asked friends to open their wallets and give “until it hurts a little” to help our cause. It has been a real struggle to face these friends and ask again, after the despicable, decade-long theft they have read about in the papers. I understand their lost faith.

The calculated “how” and “why” of this criminal scheme is even more sickening. Ms. Fouse was deceptive at every turn, blaming others, obfuscating and intentionally building deceptive diversions to hide her crimes. All the while, she was manipulating coworkers, donors, service partners, and ultimately our residents with her evil acts. The “why” is the most disturbing of all. Vulnerable disabled residents dreaming of a home were robbed of the gift of home because of an insatiable, selfish and shallow pursuit of material goods and luxury experiences.

When I think of my own family, my bonus son Rusty Cole has a safe, stable, and happy home life. But I, like all families with a disabled child, must wonder what the future holds. I pray that Promise Community Homes can rise above the atrocities inflicted by the acts of Ms. Fouse, and I respectfully request that the Court impose a sentence which provides a chilling deterrent to others who want to rob the vulnerable of their dreams.

Thank you, Your Honor, for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

Eileen M. Cole