December 31, 2003

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D.C. BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
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Mr. Geoffrey Griffis
Chairman
Board of Zoning Adjustment
Suits 210S
441 Fourth St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Application No. 17055 filed by Army Distaff Foundation (Knollwood)

Dear Mr. Griffis:

We are writing in opposition to Knollwood's proposal to substantially expand its facilities.

The neighborhood surrounding the Knollwood facility (or more accurately, the neighborhood into which Knollwood moved several years ago) is a peaceful and delightful area. We have lived here since 1997 and hope to remain here for quite some time. Today we own two houses on 29th Street N.W., living in one and renting out the other. Both of those houses are one block from the proposed expansion along Stephenson Place, N.W.

The proposed construction of a multi-story apartment facility closely abutting Stephenson Place, N.W., threatens the quiet, *residential* character that drew us here. Knollwood's proposal represents no small undertaking, but instead will entail construction of a very large new building that will impose itself on the neighborhood in a way that the existing, well-integrated, facility does not.

Knollwood presented its full-blown plan to us as *fait accompli*. This was distressing for several reasons. First, despite the obvious concerns that this massive new building would raise among Knollwood's immediate neighbors (during both the construction phase and after the building was in place), Knollwood made no effort whatsoever to ascertain those concerns and take them into account. Second, and more importantly, Knollwood has proceeded with its plan despite its promise, made at the time of its last expansion, not to undertake further construction for 25 years. We understand that circumstances change, and that decisions – even promises – sometimes need to be revisited; but when that happens, the matter must be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties to the original promise, not simply breached unilaterally. If Knollwood is permitted simply to walk away from its

BZA
Case No. 17055
Exhibit No. 66

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17055
EXHIBIT NO. 66

earlier commitment because it now finds that promise inconvenient, it would render such promises meaningless.

Please understand that we have no axe to grind with Knollwood. The facility has been a good neighbor – we enjoy chatting with residents who stroll through the neighborhood, and of course the grounds are tranquil and lovely. But Knollwood's proposal is inappropriate in scope and in size, and there are many less intrusive options available to Knollwood. We urge the BZA to reject the Knollwood proposal in its current form.

Sincerely,

John Dorsey Kirsten Williams

John Dorsey & Kirsten Williams
6128 29th St. N.W.

cc: Chevy Chase Advisory Commission
Knollwood Neighbors