



Lorain County Children Services

226 Middle Avenue, Elyria, Ohio 44035-5644 • (440) 329-5340 • FAX (440) 329-5378

Scott Ferris, MPA, Executive Director • Lorain (440) 244-6261 • www.childrenservices.org

Christine Horne, MNAL, LSW
Director, Lorain County Catholic Charities
628 Poplar Street
Elyria, OH 44035

Re: Letter of Support for Community Connectors Grant

Dear Community Connections Proposal Review Committee:

Lorain County Children Services is pleased to support Catholic Charities of Lorain County's Community Connectors grant application. As the county agency charged with provided social services to abused and neglected children, we strongly value Catholic Charities services and collaborate with them to wrap appropriate services around the children we serve.

Currently, Catholic Charities provides employment mentoring to youth aging out of foster care. Mentors focus on developing a career plan and employment portfolio, conducting a job search, networking and mock interviewing, volunteer opportunities in the community, college visits, and job coaching once employment is obtained. In addition, their Teen Mentoring Program and the longstanding Success for Youth (a partnership with the Lorain County Juvenile Court) demonstrates their ability to develop the partnerships and collaborations that make a true difference for our community's children.

Through the Community Connectors grant, we look forward to supporting Catholic Charities as they expand their mentoring models to include strengthening communities, encouraging mentoring opportunities, and creating new pathways for civic engagement resulting in higher educational achievement, higher levels of well-being and health, and workforce readiness for the state.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss our support of Catholic Charities Community Connectors grant application, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Scott H. Ferris, MPA, LSW
Executive Director

The information contained in this letter is confidential information intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or the agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this letter is strictly prohibited. If you have received this letter in error, please immediately notify us by telephone at (440) 329-5340 or return the letter via regular mail. Thank you. Lorain County Children Services.





Integrated Services Partnership

Lorain County
Children Services

February 10, 2015

Lorain County Board
of Mental Health

Alcohol & Drug
Addiction Services
Board of Lorain County

Lorain County Board
of Mental Retardation
& Developmental
Disabilities

Lorain County Court of
Domestic Relations,
Juvenile Division

Community Connections Proposal Review Committee:

The Integrated Services Partnership has contracted with Catholic Charities for over ten years to provide mentoring services to targeted Lorain County Youth. Our mentoring program focuses on older, acting-out, multi-need youth that programs such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters do not serve. Our goals for the program were simple. We wanted to teach the youth appropriate social skills, expose them to a variety of legal recreational opportunities and provide respite for both the youth and their caregivers.

Over the years I have had the opportunity to see some amazing things with our youth. At a mentoring sponsored swim camp I saw a youth with an extensive criminal record cheering on a youth with a significant developmental disability who was trying to swim across the pool for the first time; I saw one group go on the internet, find a recipe and attempt to can pickles from their vegetable garden; another group painted a mural as a community project. Catholic Charities has provided numerous youth with the training, modeling and opportunities to be the best version of themselves.

I believe additional Lorain County youth will benefit should Lorain County Catholic Charities be a successful applicant for mentoring funds. Additionally I believe Lorain County Catholic Charities will provide you with outcomes showing the funds were well invested. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have regarding our mentoring program as well as the Integrated Services Partnership's relationship with Lorain County Catholic Charities.

Respectfully,

Marianne Riley

Intersystem Program Director

1173 North Ridge Rd.
East, Suite 101
Lorain, Ohio 44055
440.233.2020
444.233.2030 (Fax)



United Way of
Greater Lorain County

02/26/2015

Community Connectors Proposal Review Committee
Ohio Department of Education
25 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4183

Dear Members of the Proposal Review Committee:

United Way of Greater Lorain County recognizes the need to support our community's youth as they prepare themselves to become active citizens. Mentoring programs have shown particular success in helping youth build resiliency and develop individualized pathways to achievement. That's why I am excited about the impact that a Community Connectors grant could have in Lorain County.

Catholic Charities has a long history of helping local youth reach their highest potential. Catholic Charities' ten-year-old mentoring program has assisted hundreds of at-risk youth to reconnect with the community through caring adult role models and enriching community experiences. For the past twelve years, Catholic Charities has partnered with our juvenile court to provide valuable self-sufficiency training, including employment skills, to youth whose lower cognitive functioning has left them behind their peers. And most recently, Catholic Charities has contracted with Lorain County Children Services to provide employment mentoring to youth aging out of foster care. Services don't stop with helping the participants prepare for employment in this program – they extend after employment is achieved, helping the new wage-earner navigate his or her changing challenges encountered every day through individual mentoring, community volunteer experiences, and many other avenues.

Catholic Charities currently partners with United Way of Greater Lorain County through Community Collaboratives that seek to prepare youth from 5th – 8th grade for success in high school and beyond. The staff have proven to be valuable collaborative partners, willing to work together with many agencies to achieve common goals. As these collaboratives continue to develop and achieve meaningful impact, Catholic Charities will have the opportunity to grow programming that strengthens communities, encourages mentoring opportunities, and creates new pathways for civic engagement that will result in higher educational achievement, higher levels of well-being and health, and workforce readiness. We can all agree on such meaningful goals!

Thank you for strongly considering the proposal submitted by Catholic Charities for funding from the Community Connectors RFP process. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason as you prepare to move the Community Connectors program forward.

Regards,

Christine Matusik-Plas
Community Impact Director
United Way of Greater Lorain County
Christine.matusikplas@uwloraincounty.org

**Lorain County Court of Common Pleas
Domestic Relations Division**

Juvenile Branch

Judge Lisa I. Swenski

Judge Frank J. Janik

Judge Debra L. Boros

JODY L. BARILLA, COURT ADMINISTRATOR

Lorain County Justice Center
225 Court Street, 4th Floor
Elyria, Ohio 44035
jody.barilla@lcfcct.org /E-mail

440-329-5360/Elyria
440-244-6261/Lorain
440-329-5232/Fax

February 25, 2015

Community Connectors Proposal Review Committee

Dear Sir/Madam:

As a community stakeholder, I would like to endorse Catholic Charities application for funds to support youth mentoring in our local community of Lorain County. Catholic Charities is a proven service provider who has been instrumental in assisting youth involved with the court prepare for employment as well as giving them needed skills. This mentoring would target a segment of our youth population who would greatly benefit from assistance with employment readiness.

Lorain County currently offers many services and programs that are threatened with the loss of funding in these current difficult economic times. Our youth need support as they face family disintegration, substance abuse, economic stress, educational failure, and potential incarceration.

Thank you for taking this opportunity to assist the children and families of Lorain County, Ohio. I am confident that receiving this award will make a difference in the lives of many and positively impact our local community.

Please do not hesitate to call me should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Jody L. Barilla

Jody L. Barilla, JD, Court Administrator
Lorain County Domestic Relations Court

cc: Correspondence File



Barberton City Schools

...Working to be the school district of choice in this region

Administration Building
479 Norton Avenue
Barberton, Ohio 44203
Ph: 330.753.1025
Fax: 330.848.0884

Barberton High School
555 Barber Road
Barberton, Ohio 44203
Ph: 330.753.1084
Fax: 330.848.5517

Barberton Middle School
477 Fourth Street NW
Barberton, Ohio 44203
Ph: 330.745.9950
Fax: 330.745.9962

Barberton Elementary
School East
292 E Robinson Avenue
Barberton, Ohio 44203
Ph: 330.745.5492
Fax: 330.745.8378

Barberton Elementary
School West
1151 Shannon Avenue
Barberton, Ohio 44203
Ph: 330.825.2183
Fax: 330.825.2195

Visit our Website:
www.barbertonschools.org

March 5, 2015

Ohio Department of Education
c/o Review Committee
25 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Committee Members:

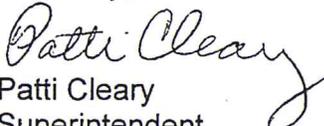
The Barberton City Schools are proud to partner with, and fully support, the request for funding from Catholic Charities. We strongly value the Mentoring services provided by Catholic Charities and look forward to collaborating with them, as well as all of our business partners, in support of young people in Summit County.

This funding and these partnerships will create new opportunities and open new doors for students in the areas of volunteerism, developing career goals and the expansion of their personal and professional skills. In return, communities become better places to live and work.

Catholic Charities has a long history of providing quality Mentoring programming and the Barberton City Schools look forward to working side by side. The need for this programming is growing and we look forward to making a significant impact.

Thank you for making our students a priority through Community Connectors and for strongly considering this application for funding. Should you have any questions about this application or our partnership with Catholic Charities, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Patti Cleary
Superintendent