

DAYTON
HISPANIC
CHAMBER

February 25, 2015

To whom it may concern,

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support for the Family and Youth Initiatives' application for a Community Connectors Grant. FYI has been part of the Tecumseh, Carlisle and Bethel Township communities for over 35 years, and it has continuously provided its youth with invaluable direction, encouragement, and assistance needed to become adults of character. FYI provides essential services to assist, in part, the many poor in these rural areas. In some cases it provides the only beacon of light and hope preventing youth from turning to trouble and crime. FYI provides the essential counseling and direction needed for youths to understand the rewards of making positive choices. Through strategy and planning activities the youths are then able to set long-term life goals, and then begin to see how they can achieve them.

Invigorated plans for mentoring and tutoring Tecumseh youths is a focus area for FYI. So many youths are ready to give up before they are able to understand how important they are as individuals, and the fact that with planning, guidance, and hard work they truly can make a better life for themselves. FYI seeks to help youths to see, many for the first time, that a better future is possible through education and/or new job skills. Working with the younger youth before they enter high school is especially important to give them and their parents an idea of where their path may lie. FYI has plans to invite outside business employees to mentor the youths one-on-one. Some companies plan sending more than one employee to mentor youths.

Hispanic youth participation in FYI programs is approximately 10%. I have talked with many Hispanic parents whose children have greatly benefited from FYI – many expressed gratitude, and a strong feeling of acceptance and trust with FYI counselors. As it turns out, FYI has been supporting the Hispanic community for many years now. As well as great programs for the Hispanic youth, FYI has provided building use for events, prayers groups, and anything else they've needed to help them assimilate into the local community. Of special note is FYI's afterschool program, which is great for families where both parents working, which is very much the norm today.

DAYTON
HISPANIC
CHAMBER

What's especially appealing about FYI is it's a faith based organization that is dedicated to supporting and nurturing children; it is focused on finding the worth of each child, ensuring the child understands and absorbs that worth, and harnessing the understanding to achieve a fulfilling life. I have seen this in action, really just a tip of the iceberg, because FYI has helped thousands of youth since its inception in 1978.

We hope that you look favorably on FYI's application. The Dayton Hispanic Chamber looks forward to working with FYI continue it's extremely valuable role of supporting and guiding it's community. Should you need further information, please feel free to contact me via e mail Director@DaytonHispanicChamber.com or by phone (937) 256.2975

Sincerely,



Claudia Cortez-Reinhardt
Executive Director
Dayton Hispanic Chamber
5100 Springfield St, Suite 100
Dayton, OH 45431
(937) 256.2975



Associate Vice President
for Latino Affairs
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.
Dayton, OH 45435-0001
(937) 775-3827
FAX (937) 775-2421

Monday, February 23, 2015

Family and Youth Initiatives (FYI)- Community Connectors Grant

Wright State University (WSU) Office of Latino Affairs is thrilled to partner and support your organization. Wright State University's mission, "to serve as a catalyst for transforming the lives of the students and communities we serve," is complemented by FYI mission to help our community's minority and underprivileged youth to pursue education, mentoring, and employment skills for the future jobs. Furthermore, FYI is an excellent gateway to Wright State University's many majors and career paths available.

WSU's partnership with FYI will include, but is not limited to, students and faculty to serve as academic tutors and providing in-kind services (for example: educating, tutoring, mentoring, academic special projects for students to develop/refine course of study plans and strategies, etc.) and access to educational materials and programs.

This partnership will have a huge impact on the New Carlisle region by providing opportunities to minorities and underprivileged youth that are not normally afforded to them. The partnership with FYI will also help strengthen both organizations diversity and inclusion program through its outreach to this group.

Wright State looks forward to working in partnership with FYI and being a part of its future success!

Tony Ortiz

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Ortiz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Associate Vice President of Latino Affairs

March 2, 2015

To the members of the Community Connectors Review Team

I am writing this letter to support Family and Youth Initiatives (FYI) in their application for the Community Connectors Grant. FYI has been a part of the Tecumseh community for over 35 years and has continuously worked with youth to give them the tools to become adults of character, with the ability to understand the rewards of positive choices and with the encouragement to look at their long term goals in life and begin to see how they can achieve them. New Carlisle and Bethel Township are poor rural areas with nothing for the youth to do and so many get into trouble. With the influx of the Hispanic children, the challenges are many, trying to assimilate them into the American culture.

The special programming to help Hispanic children was cut from the budget three years ago and at the present time there is no programming for children who do not speak fluent English. This grant will bring back the program and allow our children to have the same advantages as their English speaking peers.

FYI has also worked with the Hispanic community for many years—allowing them use of the building for events, prayer groups, and anything else they may need to assimilate into the community. Their after school program at Tecumseh now has 10% Hispanic participation in it and the families and youth know that FYI is an organization to be trusted.

FYI's plan for mentoring and tutoring is just what Tecumseh needs right now. So many youth here are ready to give up before they understand how important they are, that they can make a different life for themselves and in their lives. Many do see the future that education, especially job skills, can give them. Assessing the younger youth before they even get into high school will give them and their parents an idea of where their path may lie. FYI plans to integrate the business into the one-on-one mentoring with their employees. Some of the companies may send more than one employee and I applaud each of them for caring so much for their communities.

We hope that you will look favorably on FYI's application and we look forward to working with FYI to have a successful project.


**Jose "Rafi" Rodriguez, Colonel, (Retired), USAF
Past-President, Dayton Hispanic Chamber
(937) 304-7393**

Benefits of Adelante program:

I serve 2 elementary building in the Tecumseh Local School District: Park Layne Elementary (k/1) and New Carlisle Elementary (4/5).

A large portion of my time in each building is spent working with teachers and support staff to coordinate interventions for students to support their academic success and well-being.

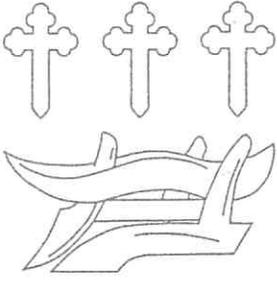
Students who are English Language Learners are referred quite often to the building Intervention Teams due lack of progress with mastery of academic skills and difficulties with completing work independently, especially at younger ages.

When Tecumseh had an Adelante program, it made a marked difference in the level of homework completion and acquisition of basic skills for students who participated. Since that program was discontinued in our district, the number of referrals of ELL students to the intervention team has increased, and a very common issue that we face is the barrier that parents have with assisting with homework due to their own limited English proficiency.

Having the additional time after school for support with work completion, opportunities to practice basic skills, and access to technology that also allows for additional practice and intervention are all HUGE benefits to this program.

Marianne Rinaldo, School Psychologist
Tecumseh Local Schools

Archdiocese of Cincinnati



February 11, 2015

Hispanic Catholic Ministry

310 Allen Street
Dayton, Ohio 45410

(937)258-1309
(937)258-1311 Fax

mstacy2725@
sbcglobal.net

samipadre@fuse.net

Dear Selection Committee:

I am writing to support the grant proposal of the Family and Youth Initiatives. Pat Banasek told me about their plan to extend the mentoring of youth and include some academic mentoring as well. I was so elated and told her that I had just been lamenting the lack of help for these youth. Family Youth Initiatives (FYI) has the experience and the knowledge of how to undertake this project.

For over twelve years, as director of Hispanic Catholic Ministry, I have coordinated English classes, principally for adults, in New Carlisle on Monday evenings. Recently we have seen parents come to the classes and ask for homework help for their children as well. This is a strain on us because I know the demand is large, larger than what I am actually seeing, and we do not have all the volunteers and expertise necessary. The FYI proposal answers this need and will promote peers helping peers. This has a secondary advantage of raising the self-esteem of the one helping. In addition, it is in collaboration with the New Carlisle Tecumseh school district. They can easily identify the most needy students and the teachers can direct the mentors. The proposal is also future-driven so that they will encourage and counsel youth on alternatives and careers for their future.

As a faith-based leader, I have much contact with the Hispanic community. I laud this project as very worthwhile and would be very willing to help identify children with needs and give any feedback from the community. They can count on me to help in any way I can.

Sincerely,


Sister Maria Stacy

CLARK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
JOB & FAMILY SERVICES



February 26, 2015

Ms. Pat Banaszak
468 N. Dayton-Lakeview Road
New Carlisle, Ohio 45344

Dear Ms. Banaszak:

On behalf of the Clark County Department of Job and Family Services (CCDJFS), I am writing to express our support for the Family Youth Initiatives (FYI) Community Connector's Grant application.

CCDJFS has a strong history of collaborating and supporting community agencies in order to increase educational attainment, preparedness and employability. The CCDJFS also recognizes the success of the Family Youth Initiatives model "Educating Families/Strengthening Communities." These programs enable youth to make positive choices in their lives, build their self-esteem and self-respect and most importantly, learn the basic life-skills so they can become productive members of the community.

Through discussions, it is understood that FYI is focusing on two areas outlined in the Community Connector's competitive grant: Academic/Career Readiness Preparation and Mentoring. The CCDJFS is pleased to pledge our in-kind support by facilitating 22 Career Readiness workshops for high school and middle school youth. A total of 45 hours of combined instruction will be offered through the duration of the grant.

In conclusion, the CCDJFS strongly supports this project and is committed to working with FYI to expand and enhance the career-ready programs that will benefit the youth living in Western Clark County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David S. Dombrosky". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

David S. Dombrosky, Director

Vanguardia

Hispanic Newspaper

To the members of the Community Connectors Review Team

La Vanguardia Hoy, the regional Spanish Language Newspaper of Southwest Ohio, is writing this letter to support Family and Youth Initiatives (FYI) in their application for the Community Connectors Grant. FYI has been a part of the Tecumseh community for over 35 years and has continuously worked with youth to give them the tools to become adults of character, with the ability to understand the rewards of positive choices.

We understand that New Carlisle and Bethel Township are poor rural areas with limited resources for the youth in the community. With the influx of the Hispanic children, the challenges continue and are magnified as they assimilate them into American culture.

We have been informed that the special programming to help Hispanic children was cut from the budget three years ago and at the present time there is no programming for children who do not speak fluent English. This grant will bring back the program and allow these children to have the one less obstacle during their formative years.

FYI has worked with the Hispanic community for many years—allowing them use of the building for events, prayer groups, and anything else they may need to assimilate into the community. WE are also informed that the after school program at Tecumseh now has 10% Hispanic participation in it identifying an even greater need at this time. The families and youth know that FYI is an organization to be trusted and they value the help they are getting from them.

FYI's plan for mentoring and tutoring is just what Tecumseh needs right now. Youth here need to understand how important they are, that they can make a different life for themselves. Many do see the future that education, especially job skills, can give them. Assessing the younger youth before they even get into high school will give them and their parents an idea of where their path may lie.

We have been told that FYI has begun the process of integrating the local businesses into providing one-on-one mentoring with their employees and an FYI youth. Some of the companies may send more than one employee.

This continued success of the Youth And Family Services program is vital to this regions minority and impoverished families.

We hope that you will look favorably on FYI's application, as we continue to support and promote their outstanding work with our Youth and their families.

Sincerely



Yvonne Wathen

La Vanguardia Hoy

Business Development Director

937 477-9852



S A C R E D
H E A R T
P A R I S H

February 21, 2015

To: The members of the Community Connectors Review Team

**From: Father Kenneth Hummel,
Sacred Heart Church
476 N. Scott St. New Carlisle, OH 45355**

Dear Team;

Our organization has been working with at risk populations in this corner of Clark County for over 50 years. As a Christian church, we are driven by the example of Jesus to serve others. Like Jesus, we serve with all our lives, and we give until it hurts. However, like most organizations, we need the support of others. We cannot do it alone. We need the local businesses, churches, and Family Youth Initiatives.

We see this grant as a stimulus for our volunteer corps. We are convinced that it will stir us into even more intelligent, organized and heartfelt charity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

**Rev. Father Kenneth Hummel
Pastor**

476 North Scott Street
New Carlisle, Ohio 45344
Rectory: 937-845-3121
Center: 937-845-1373
Facsimile: 937-846-1223

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

SHERIFF GENE A. KELLY

www.clarkcountysheriff.com

OFFICE: 937.521.2050
FAX: 937.328.2515



120 NORTH FOUNTAIN AVENUE
SPRINGFIELD, OH 45502-1119

February 20, 2015

Dear Members of the Grant Review Committee,

As the Sheriff of Clark County, Ohio I write this letter in Support of Family and Youth Initiatives (FYI) application for a grant under the Community Connectors. FYI has been a leading force in the community since their inception in 1978 and with their model of *“Educating Families/ Strengthening Communities” their goals and objectives match the five core principles of this grant well.*

FYI has 10 programs under their organization. Each program works with individuals and groups to give them the tools they will need to be able to make positive choices in their lives, to create the self esteem and self respect they need to succeed, to give them the life skills education (including GED tutoring, basic job skills education, and classes like budgeting, nutrition, etc) so that they are ready for adulthood and life.

More importantly to us, FYI has always taught values to their clients, including the over 10,000 middle and high school students each year in 6 counties. The values include integrity, honesty, character, resiliency, and long term goals. In 2002-2007 FYI had successful afterschool programs in 7 school districts. Last year, FYI began a pilot program cascading mentoring at Tecumseh. Basically youth led, this program trains high school youth how to mentor middle school

youth on so many of the values oriented issues and is a great match for this grant.

FYI has the support of many businesses in the New Carlisle, Ohio area to help students see what careers will be available, how to attain them, and even take some of the participants to job shadow. I also offer the Clark County Sheriff's Office as a place for students to gain knowledge of service and career opportunities.

I feel this is a good match for this grant and I highly recommend that FYI be awarded the ability to expand the program already begun and make it more successful and also a model for other schools.

Thank you for allowing me to offer my support for this program in Clark County, Ohio.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Gene A. Kelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gene" being the most prominent.

Sheriff Gene A. Kelly



BETHEL CHURCHES UNITED

Where community churches come together for one common goal!

February 23, 2015

Dear reviewers of the Community Connectors Grant:

This letter is in support of Family and Youth Initiatives' (FYI) application for a grant under the Community Connectors program. Since 1978 FYI has shown remarkably effective leadership in pulling together numerous schools, churches, businesses, and non-profit organizations to help accomplish its mission to educate our families and strengthen our community.

By cultivating key relationships in the Tecumseh Local School District, FYI has developed several programs that optimally complement the educational programs administered by our schools. Examples include *Cole's Warriors*, which provides information about the consequences of prescription drug abuse; *Little Scholars*, a free preschool program for children ages 3-5 with parental participation; **DEFY**, an after school peer-to-peer mentoring program that provides students information on alcohol, tobacco, and drugs and encourages them to make healthy decisions; and **Real Life Teen Relationship Education**, an in-school educational program that helps students make responsible, well informed decisions regarding at-risk behavior.

FYI's **Women's Network** provides a wide range of free services for women who experience unplanned pregnancies. Also, free **Adult Development Programs** include classes in job searching skills, housekeeping, food preparation, GED test preparation, computer skills, and small engine repair.

It is noteworthy that, notwithstanding an austere budget, FYI leaders have mounted an amazing group of volunteers to augment their limited staff. Further, FYI is integratively tied to several other mutually supportive organizations, e.g., the Western Clark County Business Coalition (WCCBC), IMPACT Bethel, Tecumseh Local School District, and Bethel Churches United (BCU).

We in BCU, a consortium of 16 churches of various denominations, collectively take our hats off to FYI, not only because their educational programs constitute a valuable resource to folks of all ages in our area, but also because the character development embedded intentionally in FYI programs is priceless. It is our firm belief that FYI is so well managed that award of the Community Connectors Grant would lead to significant expansion of existing programs and render the grant providers delighted to have given FYI favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Larry Fry
For Bethel Churches United



February 23, 2015

I am writing this letter to support Family and Youth Initiatives (FYI) in their application for the Community Connectors Grant. FYI has been a part of the Tecumseh community for over 35 years and has continuously worked with youth to give them the tools to become adults of character, with the ability to understand the rewards of positive choices and with the encouragement to look at their long term goals in life and begin to see how they can achieve them. New Carlisle and Bethel Township are poor rural areas with nothing for the youth to do and so many get into trouble. With the influx of the Hispanic children, the challenges are many, trying to assimilate them into the American culture.

FYI's plan for mentoring and tutoring is just what Tecumseh needs right now. So many youth here are ready to give up before they understand how important they are, that they can make a different life for themselves and in the lives of others. Many do see the future that education, especially job skills, can give them. Assessing the younger youth before they even get into high school will give them and their parents an idea of where their path may lie. FYI plans to integrate the business into the one-on-one mentoring with their employees. Some of the companies may send more than one employee and I applaud each of them for caring so much for their communities.

Our church is willing to work with FYI right now to see the best way to use our congregations and volunteers. This will be a great opportunity for many of us to share our blessings with the community as well.

What is most important for a faith based organization to have is a dedication to children that is focused on finding the worth of each child, ensuring the child understands and absorbs that worth, and harnessing the understanding to achieve a fulfilling life. We find this is exactly what FYI does and it has helped thousands of youth since its inception in 1978.

We hope that you will look favorably on FYI's application and we look forward to working with FYI to have a successful project.

Sincerely,

Marion David Russell
Minister, Malcoag Christian Church

3333 Lake Road
Medway, Ohio 45341

Bethel Township

Clark County, Ohio

937.849.9499
FAX: 1-888-882-2409

February 20, 215

Dear Members of the Community Connectors Review Team,

I am writing in support of the application by Family and Youth Initiatives (FYI) for the Community Connectors Grant. FYI has worked with youth in the Tecumseh Local Schools community for over 35 years, helping them make positive choices and set long term goals to achieve as they become adults of character.

Much of New Carlisle and most of Bethel Township qualify for federal Low to Moderate Income (LMI) designation, with many families struggling financially. This is also a rural area with few available activities, which leads to many young people getting into trouble.

Having experienced an influx of Hispanic children, we are having many challenges trying to assimilate them into the American culture. Special programming to help Hispanic children was cut from FYI's budget three years ago due to inadequate funding, and at the present time there is no programming for children who do not speak fluent English. This grant will bring back that special programming, allowing them to have the same advantages as their English speaking peers.

FYI has worked with the Hispanic community for many years. They allow them to use their building for events, prayer groups, and anything else they may need to expedite their assimilation into the community. FYI's after school program at Tecumseh now has 10% Hispanic participation, and the families and youth know that FYI is an organization to be trusted.

FYI's plan for mentoring and tutoring is what Tecumseh students need right now. So many of our youth are ready to give up before they understand how important they are and that they can make a different life for themselves. Fortunately, many do see the future that education and job skills can give them, and FYI wants to assist them to realize that brighter future. Assessing younger youth before they even get into high school will give them and their parents an early idea of where their path may lie.

FYI plans to integrate businesses into one-on-one mentoring between their employees and students. Some of the companies may send more than one employee and I applaud each of them for caring so much for the community.

Thank you for this opportunity, and I hope you will look favorably on FYI's application. Bethel Township looks forward to working with FYI to have a successful project.

Sincerely,



Nancy K. Brown
Bethel Township Trustee

Trustees: Nancy Brown, Don Minton, David Phares

Fiscal Officer: Melanie Cochran

Township Coordinator: Ray Nelson



The Board of

Clark County Commissioners

RICHARD L. LOHNES

JOHN DETRICK

50 East Columbia Street
P.O. Box 2639
Springfield, Ohio 45501-2639

Phone: 937.521.2005
Fax: 937.328.4588
Email: commission@clarkcountyohio.gov

February 23, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing in support of Family and Youth Initiatives (FYI) application for a grant under the Community Connectors. FYI has been leading force in the community since their inception in 1978 and with their mission statement: "Educating Family/Strengthening Communities", their goals and objectives match the five core principles of this grant well.

FYI has the support of Clark County Job and Family Services and they will be doing 7 career and job fairs and soft skills training with Tecumseh. With a planned college visit for interested youth to at least one local affordable college will give many youth the encouragement they need to apply and realize their long term goals and dreams.

We feel this is a good match for this grant and we highly recommend that FYI be awarded the ability to expand the program already begun and make it more successful and also a model for other schools.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Lohnes

John Detrick

79TH HOUSE DISTRICT

PARTS OF CLARK COUNTY
INCLUDING: SPRINGFIELD, NEW CARLISLE,
SOUTH CHARLESTON, AND ENON

COMMITTEES

COMMERCE AND LABOR
ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
EDUCATION



COLUMBUS OFFICE

VERN RIFFE CENTER
77 SOUTH HIGH STREET 11TH FLOOR
COLUMBUS, OH 43215-0253
PHONE: (614) 466-2038
REP79@OHIOHOUSE.GOV

**State Representative Kyle Koehler
Ohio House of Representatives**

January 29, 2015

To the reviewers of the Community Connectors Grant
468 N Dayton Lakeview Rd.
New Carlisle, OH 45344

Dear Sirs,

I am writing in support of Family and Youth Initiatives' (FYI) application for a grant under the Community Connectors. FYI has been a leading force in the community since their inception in 1978 and with their model of "Educating Families/ Strengthening Communities," their goals and objectives match the five core principles of this grant.

FYI has 10 programs under their organization. Each program works with individuals and groups to give them the tools they will need to be able to make positive choices in their lives, to create the self esteem and self respect they need to succeed, and to give them the life skills education (including GED tutoring, basic job skills education, and classes like budgeting, nutrition, etc.) so that they are ready for adulthood and life.

More importantly to us, FYI has always taught important values to their clients, which includes over 10,000 middle and high school students each year in six counties. These values include integrity, honesty, character, resiliency, and long term goals. From 2002-2007, FYI had successful afterschool programs in 7 school districts. Last year, FYI began a pilot program cascading mentoring at Tecumseh Schools. Basically youth led, this program trains high school youths how to mentor middle school youths on so many of the value-oriented issues, and is a great match for this grant.

FYI has the support of many businesses in the New Carlisle area to help students see which careers will be available, how to attain them, and even "job-shadow" at some of the businesses.

Family and Youth Initiatives is a perfect match for this grant, and I highly recommend that FYI be awarded the ability to expand this program already begun and make it more successful and a model for other schools.

Thank you for making this available to Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle Koehler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Kyle Koehler
State Representative
79th House District



State Representative Stephen A. Huffman
District 80

Governor John R. Kasich
ATTN: Community Connectors
77 S. High Street, Floor 30
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor Kasich,

The purpose of this letter is to express my support for the Community Connectors grant for the Tecumseh School District in Clark County. Although I am not the State Representative for this area, it is my belief that underprivileged schools in Ohio should be recognized.

I was inspired to write a letter of support after meeting with Pat Banaszak, the Executive Director for Family and Youth Initiatives (FYI). Here are some reasons as to why FYI would make a good candidate for the grant:

- FYI provides a youth led program (Drug Education for Youth or DEFY), in which students discuss social issues under a particular curricula, and with the help of adult mentors, create a program to take to the middle school youth so they may understand and discuss the consequences of at- risk behaviors, but also the importance of such issues as integrity, building character, honesty, responsibility, building resiliency, and setting goals to be prepared for 21st century careers;
- FYI will be working with 5th through 12th grade youth but will be changing the whole community as they interface with the business community with career fairs and with service projects;
- The success of this program will help lead to more involvement in other schools across the region, including, Troy and Piqua City Schools that reside in my district; and
- I believe that Family and Youth Initiatives meet the core principles the grant is seeking from prospective applicants.

I would please ask for your support of the Community Connectors grant be awarded to Family and Youth Initiatives to continue the wonderful work they have done here in Ohio.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen A. Huffman".

Stephen A. Huffman
State Representative – 80th District

Committees:

Health and Aging, *Vice-Chair*
Education
State Government

www.ohiohouse.gov

77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Contact Information:

Office: 614-466-8114
Toll-Free: 1-800-282-0253
FAX: 614-719-3979
Email: Rep80@ohiohouse.gov



Jim Buchy **State Representative**

To Whom it May Concern:

The Family and Youth Initiatives is an organization that has been helping families since 1993. Over the years the Family and Youth Initiatives has expanded, and is operating in six counties. The organization has a history of teaching students in my district about responsibility, relationships, and long term goals.

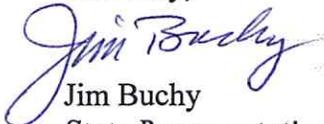
I am writing this letter to recommend the Family and Youth Initiatives to be a recipient of the Governor's Community Connectors Grant.

The Family and Youth Initiatives has operated afterschool programs. The programs have been proven to be successful in changing the attitudes and behaviors of students involved. With the grant The Family and Youth Initiatives will start a new program in the Tecumseh School District in Clark County, and create a model that can be implemented in other schools. Although students in my district will not be aided with the grant at this time it will help the organization expand in the future, and will benefit my district long term.

I am supportive of The Family and Youth Initiatives their programs are helping the youth in my district. With the grant they will be able to create an excellent model that can offer the help to begin after school programs that will create positive change with the youth.

Please give full consideration to this grant application. Do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions (614) 466-6344.

Sincerely,


Jim Buchy
State Representative
84th House District

Committees:

Agriculture & Rural Development
Government Accountability & Oversight
Public Utilities

www.house.state.oh.us

77 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Contact Information:

Office: 614-466-6344
Toll-Free: 1-800-282-0253
FAX: 614-719-3977
Email: rep84@ohiohouse.gov



To the members of the Community Connectors Review Team

I am writing this letter to support Family and Youth Initiatives (FYI) in their application for the Community Connectors Grant. FYI has been a part of the Tecumseh community for over 35 years and has continuously worked with youth to give them the tools to become adults of character, with the ability to understand the rewards of positive choices and with the encouragement to look at their long term goals in life and begin to see how they can achieve them. New Carlisle and Bethel Township are poor rural areas with nothing for the youth to do and so many get into trouble. With the influx of the Hispanic children, the challenges are many, trying to assimilate them into the American culture.

The special programming to help Hispanic children was cut from the budget three years ago and at the present time there is no programming for children who do not speak fluent English. This grant will bring back the program and allow our children to have the same advantages as their English speaking peers.

FYI has also worked with the Hispanic community for many years—allowing them use of the building for events, prayer groups, and anything else they may need to assimilate into the community. Their after school program at Tecumseh now has 10% Hispanic participation in it and the families and youth know that FYI is an organization to be trusted.

FYI's plan for mentoring and tutoring is just what Tecumseh needs right now. So many youth here are ready to give up before they understand how important they are, that they can make a different life for themselves and in their lives. Many do see the future that education, especially job skills, can give them. Assessing the younger youth before they even get into high school will give them and their parents an idea of where their path may lie. FYI plans to integrate the business into the one-on-one mentoring with their employees. Some of the companies may send more than one employee and I applaud each of them for caring so much for their communities.

We hope that you will look favorably on FYI's application and we look forward to working with FYI to have a successful project.

Sincerely,

William R. Flaute

Mayor of the City of Riverside, Ohio

937-254-2377



WENCO

A Team Builder

LEED AP / Engineers / Builders / Developers

March 4, 2015

To the members of the Community Connectors Review Team

WENCO is pleased to write a letter of support for Family and Youth Initiatives (FYI). They are writing for funding to help the youth at Tecumseh Schools. WENCO is based in Bethel Township and we know of the conditions here and realize this grant will allow the youth a better chance at graduating from high school, learning and choosing a career that they want to succeed in, learning how to apply for, obtain and retain a job, and become citizens of character within the community.

As a long-time area employer, we have a great interest in hiring qualified people to our company. The opportunity to identify young men and women who have the character, the belief in a positive future, the love of their community, is a winning situation for us and we have pledged to be an invested part of this project.

Within their project, FYI has planned to incorporate the growing Hispanic population so that these youth have equal opportunities to further their education, then find and keep meaningful and rewarding jobs. This will be a great benefit to the growing number of families settling in this area.

Family and Youth Initiatives has a long-standing reputation in this community as an organization that cares about young people and their futures.

We at WENCO hope you will look on favor for funding this organization with the Community Connectors grant. We look forward to becoming part of the mentoring process with them and are glad that this will be offered to the young people in Bethel Township.

Respectfully,

Dr. Rand Oliver
Director of Business Development



FRFC Springfield, Inc.

P.O. Box 383 New Carlisle, Ohio 45344-0383 * (937) 845-2142 * fax (937) 845-1705 * web: www.leeschicken.net

February 24, 2015

To the reviewers of the Community Connectors Grant

Dear Sirs:

As a community leader in Western Clark County, I am writing in support of Family and Youth Initiatives (FYI) application for a grant under the Community Connectors. FYI has been a leading force in the community since their inception in 1978 and with their model of *"Educating Families/ Strengthening Communities"* their goals and objectives match the five core principles of this grant well.

FYI has 10 programs under their organization. Each program works with individuals and groups to give them the tools they will need to be able to make positive choices in their lives, to create the self esteem and self respect they need to succeed, to give them the life skills education (including GED tutoring, basic job skills education, and classes like budgeting, nutrition, etc) so that they are ready for adulthood and life.

More importantly to us, FYI has always taught values to their clients, including the over 10,000 middle and high school students each year in 6 counties. The values include integrity, honesty, character, resiliency, and long term goals. In 2002-2007 FYI had successful afterschool programs in 7 school districts. Last year, FYI began a pilot program cascading mentoring at Tecumseh. Basically youth led, this program trains high school youth how to mentor middle school youth on so many of the values oriented issues and is a great match for this grant. FYI has the support of many businesses in the New Carlisle area to help students see what careers will be available, how to attain them, and even take some of the participants to job shadow.

I feel this is a good match for this grant and I highly recommend that FYI be awarded the ability to expand the program already begun and make it more successful and also a model for other schools.

Thank you for making this available to Ohio.

Sincerely

Scott Griffith

sgriffith@leeschicken.net





AAA WASTEWATER SERVICES, INC.

SEPTIC TANKS • PORTABLE TOILETS • GREASE TRAPS
REPAIRS • LIFT STATIONS • WET/DRY VAC • SEWER/DRAIN

March 1, 2015

To the Community Connectors Review Committee:

I am writing this letter to support Family and Youth Initiatives (FYI) in their application for the Community Connectors Grant. FYI has been a part of the Tecumseh community for over 35 years and has continuously worked with youth to give them the tools to become adults of character, with the ability to understand the rewards of positive choices and with the encouragement to look at their long term goals in life and begin to see how they can achieve them. New Carlisle and Bethel Township are poor rural areas with nothing for the youth to do and so many get into trouble. With the influx of the Hispanic children, the challenges are many, trying to assimilate them into the American culture.

The special programming to help Hispanic children was cut from the budget three years ago and at the present time there is no programming for children who do not speak fluent English. This grant will bring back the program and allow our children to have the same advantages as their English speaking peers.

As a member of the Dayton Hispanic Chamber, I have been impressed with the work FYI has done with the Hispanic community for many years—allowing them use of the building for events, prayer groups, and anything else they may need to assimilate into the community. Their after school program at Tecumseh now has 10% Hispanic participation in it and the families and youth know that FYI is an organization to be trusted.

FYI's plan for mentoring and tutoring is just what Tecumseh needs right now. So many youth here are ready to give up before they understand how important they are, that they can make a different life for themselves and in their lives. Many do see the future that education, especially job skills, can give them. Assessing the younger youth before they even get into high school will give them and their parents an idea of where their path may lie. FYI plans to integrate the business into the one-on- one mentoring with their employees. Some of the companies may send more than one employee and I applaud each of them for caring so much for their communities.

I do hope that you will look favorably on FYI's application and I look forward to working with FYI to have a successful project.

Most sincerely,

Timothy E. DeHart
President
AAA Wastewater



To the Reviewers of the Community Connectors Grant

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Family and Youth Initiatives (FYI) application for a grant under the Community Connectors. FYI has been a leading force in the community since their inception in 1978. Their mission statement: *"Educating/Strengthening Communities,"* are goals and objectives that match the five core principles of this grant.

Family and Youth Initiatives have ten programs under their organization. Each program works with individuals and groups to give them the tools they will need to make positive decisions in their lives, to create the self-esteem and self-respect they need to succeed, and to give them educational skills. These life skills include; GED tutoring, basic job skill education and classes like budgeting and nutrition. All these tools can be used in adulthood and throughout life.

More importantly, FYI has always taught values to their clients. These values include; integrity, honesty, resilience, determination, and life goals. Last year, FYI began a pilot program mentoring students at Tecumseh Local School District. This program teaches high school students how to mentor middle school youth on many of the positive values supported by FYI. This is a great match for this grant.

Family and Youth Initiatives have the support of Clark County Job and Family Services. FYI will take part in seven different career fairs and multiple skill trainings with Tecumseh School Districts. We also have a college visit for those who are interested to at least one local and affordable college. This will give many youth the encouragement and support they need to realize their long term goals and dreams are possible.

We take part in many businesses in the New Carlisle area who want to help students reach their goals in their career and in life. These businesses are also willing to talk to the youth about local jobs that will be available after high school.

I feel this is a great opportunity for this grant and I highly recommend that FYI be awarded the ability to expand their program. Not only can this become a successful program for Tecumseh but this program could become a great model for other schools in the area.

Thank you for making this available in Ohio.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nancy Masters'.

WesBanco, Inc.
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