CORNERSTONE ALLIANCE CHURCH
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(740) 387-3565 • (740) 387-0297 Fax
E-Mail: marioncma@midohio.twcbc.com
Web Site: www.marioncma.org

February 3, 2015

Dear Community Connectors Advisory Board,

I am writing to express support for the YMCA, Marion City Schools, Tri-Rivers, and Treca Community Connectors grant proposal. The project these organizations have proposed to establish a Mentoring Program for at risk-students will address some of our community and educational challenges in the most practical and effective way possible---developing relationships with young people who desperately need to see functional examples lived out before them.

Presently our church works in partnership with The Tomorrow Center in Edison, Ohio. We have adopted them as a missional community where we plug in and build relationships in multiple ways---from coaching to tutoring to mentoring to just showing up to show we care. We have seen incredible value in this and we are excited to get involved in similar ways in at-risk settings here in our Marion City Schools.

We will provide whatever support and volunteers within our ability and grasp to help accomplish the objectives of this grant application. This grant is all about hope; and in a world filled with hype, it provides incredible possibilities. Thank you for your efforts and your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Miller

Tim Miller
Lead Pastor- Cornerstone Alliance Church

DAYSPRING
WESLEYAN CHURCH
Connecting People to God and His World

2431 Marion - Mt. Gilead Rd
Marion, Ohio 43302
(740)389-3684
dayspringwesleyan@frontier.com

February 13, 2015

To The Community Connectors Advisory Board,

This is a letter of strong support for the grant proposal that is being submitted by the Marion, Ohio Y.M.C.A., Marion City Schools, Tri-Rivers and Treca, which relates to a Mentoring Program for students at risk.

Many of us who have worked with schools and children understand how easily in a child's life they can begin to lose confidence in themselves, feel devalued and begin to make a long series of choices that send their young lives in a downward spiral. Besides that misfortune, once a child gets behind in crucial skills like reading and math, it is sure to suppress their efforts and attitudes about future learning challenges presented in school.

Our congregation's mission is largely about community connection and impact. We have invested major money in the development of children. At the very time we were asked to submit this letter of support, we were discussing how enhancing our mentoring efforts should take a front row importance.

We have taken several steps in the past to connect with local schools in a helpful way. Most recently we have consulted with one of the area school superintendents to work on a plan to invest in area schools, as it benefits educational assistance for at risk children.

We are prepared to offer personnel and our facilities to make good differences in the lives of children who may greatly benefit by a few more people in their lives who care where those lives are going.

Thank you for considering our enthusiastic support for this grant and for valuing the children we believe it will benefit!

With Gratitude,

David Holdren

David Holdren, Lead Pastor

DH:dgf

emanuel
LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Pastor Mark Schuring
Associate in Ministry Kevin Kehn

February 27, 2015

Dear Community Connectors Advisory Board:

I am writing to express support of The YMCA, Marion City Schools, Tri-Rivers and Treca Community Connectors grant proposal. The project these organizations have proposed to establish a Mentoring Program for at-risk students will potentially strengthen our community by creating better citizens.

Emanuel Lutheran is pleased to build a relationship that is beneficial to the students in our community. We will provide whatever support is within our grasp to help accomplish the objectives of this grant application.

Because He lives,

Rev. Mark Schuring, Senior Pastor

241 S. Prospect St. Marion, OH 43302-3984
www.emanuellutheran.net • emanuel1@emanuellutheran.net • 740.383-2184

Meeting Sundays at 10 a.m.
Tri-Rivers Career Center
2222 Marion-Mt. Gilead Rd.
Marion, OH 43302

Mailing Address:
PO Box 2535
Marion, OH 43301
Ph: 740.251.0169

February 26, 2015

To the Community Connectors Advisory Board.

This is a letter of strong support for the grant proposal that is being submitted by the Marion Ohio YMCA, Marion City Schools, Tri-Rivers and Treca, which relates to a mentoring program for students at risk.

I'm certain I don't need to tell you that mentoring is what makes the difference in a child's life. Whether it's with a standard nuclear family, big brothers big sisters type program, or strategic relationships that are proposed within a church or scholastic community, I've seen the real difference in a child's life when that child has someone to encourage them.

Our congregation is deeply concerned about impacting the community in a positive way and we also understand this means we must invest in the next-generation. Therefore, we are prepared to help by offering corporate and personal mentorship in any way that would lend a hand toward accomplishing the goals of this new mentoring program for students at risk.

On a final note, we especially believe in Tri-Rivers who has a proven track record of helping kids become adults with the right equipment to be successful in life! Therefore, we strongly encourage you to assist them with this particular grant.

Sincerely,

R. Keith Irey
Pastor

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www.NewMarionChurch.org

marion
FIRST CHURCH of the Nazarene

233 W. Church Street
Marion, OH 43302
tel: 740-383-6021
www.mfcn.org

February 2, 2015

Dear Community Connectors Advisory Board,

I am writing to express support of The YMCA, Marion City Schools, Tri-Rivers and Treca Community Connectors Grant proposal. The project these organizations have proposed to establish, a Mentoring Program for at-risk students, will help change the future of Marion by improving academic skills in her students. At the same time we will encourage young people to see the value of goals and consistent work. We will also work to restore the dignity and self worth of Marion's students no matter their background. In addition, we will work with these students and help them understand that they may accomplish whatever they want, if they will work for it.

Marion First Church of the Nazarene (MFCN) cares deeply for the young people in our community. As we say at church, young people are the church of the future, we might also say of Marion's youth. Marion's young people are Marion's future. For a young person to understand their value will help restore, or build self-esteem, enabling them to work to fulfill dreams of a brighter future for themselves and their community.

MFCN is in her third year of providing tutors to Grant Middle School. Our hope is for an adult to work with the same student all three of their years at GMC. This school year we are providing sixteen tutors, working with about thirty middle school youth, primarily in reading. We believe it's important for the young people to understand there are those in their community who care enough about them to spend time with them every week.

MFCN is pleased to continue building relationships that are beneficial to the students in our community. We will provide whatever support is within our grasp to help accomplish the objectives of this grant application.

Very Sincerely,

Steve deWeber

Steve deWeber
Associate Pastor

Mayes Community Temple Church of God in Christ
801 Bennett Street
Marion, Ohio 43302
(740) 361-5905

February 13, 2015

Dear Community Connectors Advisory Board:

I have been asked to write a letter in support of Marion City Schools, Tri Rivers, and Treca, who are applying for a Community Connectors Grant. It is my great pleasure to offer my perspective on the value that this grant would provide to the greater Marion community.

The Mentoring Program for at-risk students being proposed will strengthen our school system and community profile by encouraging more positive role models to step forward and get involved with our schools and children.

My investment for seeing this grant come to Marion lines up directly with the vision of my church. Mayes Community Temple is a church in a small city. The demographics of the city are somewhat diverse, but predominately African American. A number of our young people are coming to us from very poor families. Of the approximately 30 children who attend our services, roughly 70% come from one-parent households with limited financial resources. The children in these families often encounter daily challenges such as having limited homework assistance when they get home from school and a lack of adult supervision. The majority of our children go to the Marion City Schools and would greatly benefit from a strong mentoring program.

Our ultimate goal as a church is to bring the gospel of caring and hope to as many people as possible, and I believe the mentoring program will help provide the role models we need in our community to exhibit those type of important characteristics. We want our children to see people giving back. As it happens, a strong member of the African American community has already begun to establish an informal mentoring program that helps students find strong relationships, provides them an opportunity to talk about classroom behavior, finding a job, and getting into college. This program could work well in tandem with the one supported by the Community Connectors Grant.

This grant would also provide a great opportunity for members of my congregation to become involved in a formal way with young people. I will strongly encourage my members to volunteer their time to work with the program and to become mentors. As a church, we believe that it's vital to be concerned citizens of Marion who are seen as wanting to work with the young people and schools in our community.

We have approximately 60 members, and I have already discussed with some of them about possibility of mentoring, and a number have responded favorably. As the program grows, I fully expect more adults to participate.

In addition to my role as a pastor, I am a former educator of the Marion City Schools, and currently am employed as the Director of Diversity at the Ohio State University at Marion. I am proud to say that our university already partners with the Marion's City Schools, and other systems in the county to promote the value of attendance and academics among all children. One such program we offer is "Go Bucks" which offers them reduced tuition if they have perfect attendance or honor roll grades in a semester. The large number children in the city schools eligible for free or reduced lunch strengthens the need for another intervention program. In Marion City Schools alone, over 70% of the student are eligible for free or reduced lunch.

We at the Mayes Community Temple will be looking forward to being a significant part of this very important venture to our community and children. We are pleased to build a relationship that is beneficial to the students in our community. We will provide whatever support is within our grasp to help accomplish the objectives of this grant application.

Once again, we are excited about this fantastic opportunity for the children and community of Marion.

Sincerely,

Pastor Shawn Jackson

Pastor Shawn Jackson