

TCIMA

Trumbull County Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, 2501 Niles Road, Warren, Ohio 44484, Phone: 330-369-1441

Rev. Alton Louis Merrell Sr., President
Rev. Todd Johnson, Vice-President

Rev. Vincent Peterson, Secretary
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To Whom It May Concern:

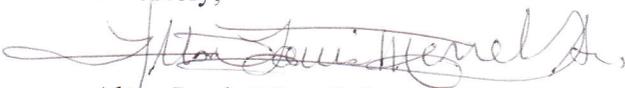
This serves as a letter of support for Mind, Body and Soul Asset Development Center (MBS) in their efforts to secure the Community Connectors Grant. I have worked with the staff of MBS in various capacities over the years. I served as a mentor in the original WHI-JUMP grant. My church also partnered with MBS serving as a site for a character education program with middle school students utilizing Sean Covey's 7 Habits of an Effective Teen. I have witnessed MBS creatively link the home, school, and community to serve our area youth.

I write this support letter in the capacity of President of The Trumbull County Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (TCIMA). TCIMA is a collaboration of fifteen area churches whose mission is based on the belief that every child's life has a purpose and that instilling values such as hard work, discipline, and personal responsibility are necessary to ensuring that purpose is fulfilled. As President of TCIMA, I have met with MBS Executive Director, Troy Woods to discuss how we can collaborate to serve the youth in our area. As a grassroots agency, MBS has limited physical or human resources that are necessary to carry out community-wide programming. However, MBS has the educational resources and evidenced-based programming to join with TCIMA to assist us in utilizing the human resource of volunteers to implement evidence-based mentoring programming. The Community Connectors provide the resources to coordinate a collaboration of time and talent that will assist in assisting area youth to reach their fullest potential.

As a former principal, I understand the necessity of the community to become engaged in youth development. I believe MBS receiving the Community Connectors grant will serve as conduit in this process. As partners, MBS and TCIMA have three goals for the grant period. 1) To join MBS to serve as mentors for the HOW-JUMP program 2) To receive training from MBS that will assist us in implementing community based mentoring at our own churches 3) To utilize the data tracked during the grant and the improvements made through the evaluation process to present the Warren City School District with an alternative plan to suspension for under-resourced youth. By year three of the grant, it is our desire to utilize volunteers from our area churches to mentor youth who are eligible for suspension and utilize the HOW-JUMP model.

I have witnessed the global vision of MBS and their passion to make a difference in the lives of the youth. It is my belief that the Community Connectors grant will provide the provisions to make the vision of collaborative community based mentoring sustainable within our community.

Sincerely,



Alton Louis Merrell Sr.
President