

**NECIC**  
**Mansfield Community Connectors Program**  
**R.O.A.R. ReaOpportunities for Achievement and Readiness**

LETTERS OF SUPPORT GRANT APPLICATION  
MARCH 10, 2015

1. NECIC – North End Community Improvement Collaborative – Lead Applicant
2. Mansfield City School District – School Partner
3. Life Vineyard Church of Mansfield – Faith Based Community Lead
4. Oasis of Love Church – Faith Based Community Partner
5. First Christian Church – Faith Based Community Partner
6. The Ohio State University Mansfield Campus – Business and Higher Education Partner
7. The Honorable Mark J. Romanchuk – State Representative 2<sup>nd</sup> House District – Government Partner
8. North Central State College - Business and Higher Education Partner
9. UMADAOP of Mansfield, Inc – Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program – Business and Mentor Training Partner
10. Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Central Ohio, Inc - Business and Mentor Training Partner
11. RCDG – Richland Community Development Group – Business Partner
12. Richland Area Chamber of Commerce – Business Partner
13. Directions Credit Union – Business and Financial Literacy Training Partner
14. Office of the Mayor – City of Mansfield – Business and Government Partner
15. Richland County Commissioners – Business and Government Partner
16. Richland County Children Services – Business and Government Partner

March 9, 2015

The Ohio Department of Education  
Attention: Community Connectors Program  
25 South Front St  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Community Connectors Program Office:

The North End Community Improvement Collaborative, Inc. is pleased to submit this letter of commitment to lead the Mansfield Community Connectors program. We are extremely excited about this new opportunity to work with the Governor's Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives.

NECIC is a non-profit neighborhood development organization established in 2007 to improve the quality of life of North End Residents by identifying, supporting and connecting local and regional assets and advancing community economic development. NECIC has forged strong, grassroots ties with the youth, elders, faith community, local school districts, colleges/universities and the business community to revitalize the North End of Mansfield, where the only public middle and high schools are located. With strong grassroots ties, and organizational relationships with the faith, business, education, social service and philanthropic community, NECIC is uniquely positioned to identify, support and connect youth and their families to pro-social adult role models desiring to build strong relationships with youth.

To support the five principles of Goal setting for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Careers, Character Building, Developing Pathways to Achievement, Building Resiliency and Believing in a Positive Future, NECIC will work with its partners to provide programming specifically developed or included to connect not only with youth, but with each other. These partners include: The Mansfield City Middle and High School, The Ohio State University-Mansfield Campus, North Central State College, Mansfield Urban Minority Alcohol and Drug Abuse Outreach Program, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Life Vineyard Church (representing and coordinating faith-based community involvement), the Chamber of Commerce, Directions Credit Union and others.

In its role as the lead agency, NECIC is committed to being a champion for the youth of our community and will work with this diverse group of partners to provide an array of mentors, coaches and other adults with a desire and interest *in building relationships* that fortify youth. Through individual, group/in-class, peer-to-peer mentoring, nearly every aspect of the community is represented to provide information, skill building, and tools for increasing each students chance for success. Our partners, from churches to colleges, to mentoring agencies, to schools, all have information that is valuable youth need to thrive and we have committed to helping to mobilize and organize these assets for the benefit of youth in grades 7-12 in Mansfield City Schools.

NECIC is pleased to commit the following:

NECIC

199 N. MAIN ST. P.O. BOX 954 MANSFIELD, OHIO 44901 TEL: 419.525.3101 FAX: 567-247-1594

WWW.NECIC-OHIO.ORG

E-MAIL: INFO@NECIC-OHIO.ORG

MICHAEL J. HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- Ensure compliance with all fiscal, programmatic, and evaluative requirements stated in the Community Connectors grant.
- Ensure the clear communication of the collective project to the community via regular progress reports, highlights, updates, and announcements through web, print, email, and local media outlets.
- Work with partners throughout the grant period to broaden support, engage more mentors, and financially sustain this unique effort.
- Ensure that all partners are informed, engaged, compliant and effectively working toward the goals stated in the proposal.
- Keep partners, parents, youth and community informed of program requirements, updates, changes to the grant, information from the school district, etc.
- Manage data collection process. Collect and compile individual programmatic, evaluative, and fiscal reports and aggregate the data, and prepare and submit all required reports.
- Deliver the Peaceworks! Curriculum to middle school students through staff or independent contract.
- Facilitate monthly meetings with the Leadership team monthly for feedback, to share information/resources, troubleshooting, planning and evaluation.
- Work with partners to identify gaps in services, assess and address the systemic barriers to the success of youth.
- Ongoing engagement of individuals, public officials, philanthropic, business and faith communities support the program financially and programmatically.

As a neighborhood development agency, NECIC is primarily committed to ensuring that the youth in the community are adequately prepared, supported and connected to the resources, information, opportunities that they need. Through the development of intentional partnerships, we are positive that our collective interest, efforts will magnify the impact of individual programs, and efforts, and multiply opportunities for our youth and families.

The participation of NECIC in this program will result in a total in-kind contribution of \$104,624 in salary and benefits.

Please don't hesitate to call me at 419-525-3101 with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Howard", written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Howard  
Executive Director



# Mansfield City Schools

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**Mansfield City Schools  
Administrative Offices**  
P.O. Box 1448  
Mansfield, Ohio 44901

Physical Location  
856 West Cook Road

Phone: 419-525-6400  
Fax: 419-525-6415

#### **Board of Education**

Ms. Renda Cline  
Mr. Cliff Crose  
Mrs. Dina Davis  
Mr. Chris Elswick  
Mrs. Monica Hubbard

#### **Administration**

Brian K. Garverick  
Superintendent

Rosetta L. Stephens  
Treasurer

Betsy L. Alexander  
Director of State & Federal

March 4, 2015

To whom it may concern:

Mansfield City Schools strongly supports the grant application of Mansfield's North End Community Improvement Collaborative in its effort to create the Real Opportunities for Adult Readiness Collaboration program.

While details are being developed, the program would benefit our students in grades seven through 12 in a variety of ways, including after-school peer-to-peer interaction and opportunities to improve college readiness and business connections. Mentoring of students who are at risk or in need of direction is the major focus of the NECIC initiative. We anticipate that some of our highly qualified teachers would be involved in after-school mentoring in addition to local organizations which provide counseling services.

Mansfield City Schools already partners successfully with other community groups that would be part of the proposed NECIC program, including Ohio State University-Mansfield, UMADAOP and several local businesses.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Garverick", written in a cursive style.

Brian Garverick  
Superintendent  
Mansfield City Schools

*We are an equal opportunity employer.*

*Focused on student learning; building tomorrow's dreams.*

March 5, 2015

NECIC

Mr. Michael Howard, Executive Director  
199 N. Main Street  
Mansfield, OH 44901

Life Vineyard Church of Mansfield is excited about this program and eager to serve as the Faith-Based Partner of the Mansfield Community Connectors Program (R.O.A.R.). We see our role and contributions in the following ways:

**Administrative & Core Partnership Support** – We are committed to continuing our involvement in the weekly and monthly core group meetings that keep us moving towards the goals established in this program and enhancing the program as it evolves and grows. We will contribute time and resources to help see that this program is a success and the vision and direction remain intact. To date we have contributed in excess of 60 man hours to help in the development of the program and to help communicate its vision.

**Networking & Partner Recruitment** – We see the success of this program closely tied to community engagement and participation. Part of our role within the program will be to reach out and build relationships with other faith-based organizations within the community. One of our strengths and contributions has been and will continue to be meeting with and networking with other faith-based organizations and groups. We meet with them in order to promote the program, cast vision, and also request their participation in the form of facilities, finances, personnel and mentors, program development, and to help achieve the goals as laid out in the program. We will continue to look for and seek out additional opportunities to meet, share and ask for partners. We see it as our responsibility to help connect the faith-based communities to this program. We want to make it exciting and easy for them to engage and be involved.

**Mentors** – We will recruit and develop mentors within our organization to be involved in the program. We would like to recruit 50 volunteer mentors from the faith-based community per year. These might be one-on-one mentors or small group mentors.

**Financial** – To date we do not know what we will contribute financially, but we will be making contributions to the program and will add them to our annual budget to help with sustainability of the program. We have set a goal of raising \$50,000 from the faith-based community per year. The faith-based community also has resources which are often unused and untapped such as buses and shuttles, community rooms and large group meeting facilities, kitchens and hospitality areas, video and audio technologies. We see these as huge assets to assist in the program. We believe that our role as a partner is to reach out to the faith-based community and help them connect these resources to the program and engage them as partners with these resources.

Program Activities and Monthly H.O.P.E. – We envision our organization to be very actively involved in the Monthly H.O.P.E. events but the specific activities and the roles that the Faith Based Community will have are still being planned and developed. The faith-based community will be integral in helping to define and develop some of the intangible aspects of the program. These are things like **character, generosity, love, compassion, hope, teamwork, servant heart, etc.** We will work with the faith-based community to help develop programs or tweak programs already in existence to help bring out and measure these intangible characteristics which are essential parts of the program and its success.

Sincerely,



Timothy A. Campbell – Lead Pastor





Oasis of Love Church

*Celebrating 74 Years in Ministry*

190 Chester Avenue

P.O. Box 1705

Mansfield, OH

Phone: 419-524-0344

Fax: 419-524-7036

Pastor Walt Jordan, II

March 5, 2015

**Mr. Michael Howard  
North Community Improvement Collaborative  
P. O. Box 954  
199 North Main Street  
Mansfield Ohio 44901**

Dear Mr. Howard,

**Greetings and God's best to you! May you continue to be a shining example and support to the city of Mansfield and our community at large. This letter is to confirm my commitment along with the entire Oasis of Love Church to work with the North End Community Improvement Collaborative. Thank you for being a positive influence in building a stronger community here in the North-end and our city as well.**

**I certainly understand that youth intervention is greatly needed to secure a better future for our city, community and world. Therefore we support your efforts and plan to assist providing qualified volunteers and mentors to assist the Mansfield Community Connector Partners.**

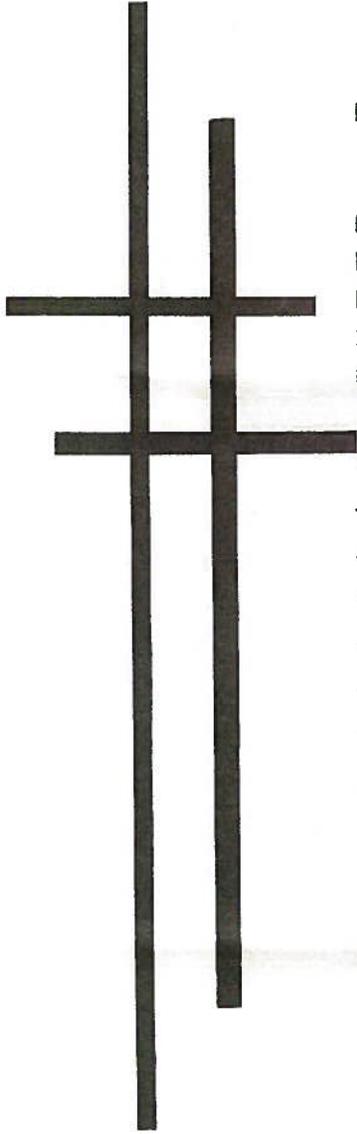
**It is my endeavor to continue to assist in building up this community and will join in with you to make this community one of the greatest by investing in the future of our youth and families.**

**Should you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me personally on my cell 419-610-1487 or at the church 419-524-0344 and press extension 228 to speak with my Assistant Sardia Jordan. May the Lord continue to bless your Pastoral Care.**

**In His Service,**

*Pastor Dr. Walter Jordan II*

**Pastor Dr. Walt Jordan, II  
Senior Pastor**



March 5, 2015

Mr. Michael Howard  
North End Community Improvement Collaborative  
P.O. Box 954  
199 North Main Street  
Mansfield, Ohio 44901

Dear Mr. Howard,

The R.O.A.R. program is innovative and very exciting! We are confident of the positive impact this will have on our entire community!

Our congregation supports this NECIC initiative and will actively support this important program.

Thank you for all your good work.

Blessings,

Rev. Gregory Bibler

**FIRST CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH**



*(Disciples of Christ)*

200 West Third St. • Mansfield, Ohio 44902 • (419)524-4813 FAX (419)524-4281



**Office of the Dean**

OSU Mansfield  
1760 University Drive  
Mansfield, OH 44906-1535

March 5, 2015

Phone (419) 755-4221  
Fax (419) 755-4241

Colonel Michael Howard, Director  
North End Community Improvement Collaborative  
199 N. Main Street  
Mansfield, Ohio 44902-7657

Dear Colonel Michael Howard:

Please accept this letter of support for the program ROAR: Real Opportunities for Achievement and Readiness. Our Ohio State Mansfield faculty, students, and administrators are fully supportive and excited about this innovative mentoring program.

The Ohio State University at Mansfield has a long history of collaboration with the Mansfield City School District (MCSD). Currently, our Mathematics Literacy Initiative is housed in the Mansfield City School's Springmill Learning Center, an MCSD building. Our faculty and students have worked closely with the students, teachers, and administration of MCSD and are deeply invested in the larger Mansfield community. Our campus has developed programming that will provide high school juniors and seniors with Ohio State credit in the areas of leadership and service learning through the College Credit Plus initiative. The peer-to-peer mentoring program includes participation from our university students, and under the guidance of our Math Literacy Initiative and Family Engagement faculty to mentor Mansfield's 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This process is designed to encourage the youth of Mansfield City Schools in the areas of leadership development, academic achievement in the STEM fields, and the power of service to others. Our family engagement component will provide an avenue for the incredible collaborative group brought together by the ROAR program to reach not only the students, but also the entire family and community unit.

The purpose of this letter is to underscore the fact that I, as Dean and Director of Ohio State Mansfield, have long supported the work and collaboration between our institutions and wish for that collaboration to grow. This commitment comes with it an agreement to match the budget for a total of \$79,872 in cash and in-kind support.

In this fiscally tight environment, our support for the students, teachers, families, and community is at a high. It is rare that districts come together around a common goal - mentoring our young people. The ROAR program provides for the structure needed to take this commitment to a new level.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen M. Gavazzi".

Stephen M. Gavazzi, Ph.D.  
Dean and Director  
Professor, Human Sciences



**MARK J. ROMANCHUK**

State Representative  
2<sup>nd</sup> House District

March 2, 2015

Mr. Michael Howard  
North End Community Improvement Collaborative  
P.O. Box 954  
199 North Main Street  
Mansfield, Ohio 44901

Dear Mr. Howard,

It is my pleasure and privilege to write this letter recommending the approval of this Mansfield Community Connectors Program grant application.

This program, called **R.O.A.R. (Real Opportunities for Achievement and Readiness)**, is designed to bring parents, schools, communities, faith-based groups, local non-profits, higher education institutions, and businesses together to help students reach their full potential. At the center of this program are faith-based values that will be incorporated into multiple types of mentoring opportunities which will equip students with the foundations and skills to help them succeed in life. By combining collaboratively connected mentoring, family engagement, specialized business training, and career exploration this program will help prepare our Mansfield youth for a bright and promising future.

In closing, I am extremely excited to lend my support and urge the selection committee to give this application every possible consideration. This proposal is vital to provide real opportunities to Mansfield City Schools. Please keep me informed during the selection process and do not hesitate to contact me on my cell at 419-612-5610 at any time. I do believe this collaborative effort has the potential to benefit our youth and our community for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Romanchuk  
State Representative  
House District 2

cc: Mr. Joseph Eckstein

**Committees:**  
Economic and Workforce Development, *Vice Chair*  
Public Utilities  
Finance

77 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215  
614-466-5802 (Office)  
[Rep02@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Rep02@ohiohouse.gov)



Office of the President

Col. Michael Howard  
Executive Director  
NECIC  
199 N. Main St.  
Mansfield, OH 44901

March 4, 2015

Col. Howard:

It is with great pleasure that I commit North Central State College to participate in the Community Connectors grant proposal that is being submitted for Mansfield by the North End Community Improvement Collaborative.

As part of the Real Opportunities for Achievement and Readiness (ROAR) program envisioned by NECIC, North Central State College staff members will participate in the Peer-to-Peer Mentoring Programs and Hope Sessions. North Central State College will also offer Getting Ready for College Summer Institutes for students in grades 7-10 and Career Exploration Summer Institutes for students in grades 9-12.

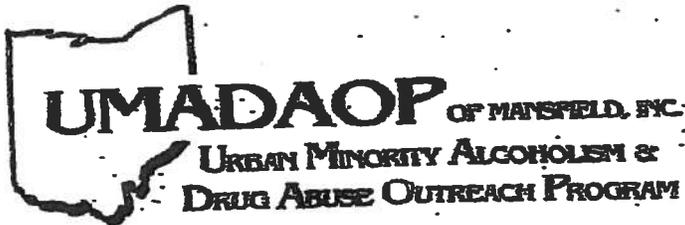
The participation of staff members in these programs will result in a total in-kind contribution of \$60,808 in salary and benefits.

North Central State College is committed to seeing the youth of Mansfield succeed in their personal and academic lives. We believe the ROAR can be a significant step in helping them succeed.

We look forward to working with you and the partners from the faith, academic and business communities on this grant and other programs.

Best,

Dr. Dorey Diab  
President



400 Bowman Street  
P.O. Box 1316  
Mansfield, Ohio 44901  
(419) 525-3525  
(419) 525-3538 FAX

February 25, 2014

Mr. Michael Howard  
North Community Improvement Collaborative  
P.O. Box 954  
199 North Main Street  
Mansfield, Ohio 44901

Dear Mr. Howard,

This letter is to solidify our commitment to work with the North End Community Improvement Collaborative, Inc. (NECIC) and the Mansfield Community Connectors Initiative.

We at the Mansfield Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program (UMADAOP) understand, that our role as a social service agency specializing in treatment, intervention and prevention for youth and adult who are challenged with alcohol and substance abuse; is a significant responsibility, which will contribute to the success of your initiative.

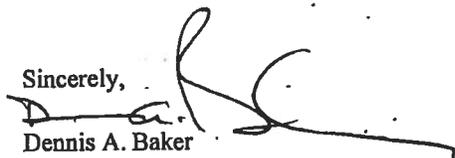
We support the effort to:

- Assist Mansfield Community Connector Partners and members of the faith-based community with designing mentoring program strategies utilizing evidence-based practices
- Assist in establishing guidelines and procedures for a new mentoring program
- Provide professional training/workshops on various topics to participating mentors (basic policies and procedures, cultural dynamics, temperament styles, navigating mentee barriers, etc.)
- Help match mentors to mentees as requested by the Mansfield Community Connectors partners
- Provide strategies to evaluate the mentoring training program and develop ways to improve based on feedback from bi-monthly meetings
- Provide \$35,000.00 matching funds per year to support the Mansfield Community Connectors mentoring programs, development, and training activities
- Meet with NECIC and the Mansfield Community Connectors partners to discuss the progress and concerns of mentors and mentees, parents, teachers, etc.
- Provide local supportive services information to mentors, mentees, and interested family members
- Advertise to recruit mentors and mentees attending Mansfield Middle and Mansfield Senior High School

We believe supporting the Mansfield Community Connectors Initiative is an investment in the future of our youth. We hope this letter demonstrates our sincere interest and willingness to aid you in attaining the funding needed to support this positive endeavor.

We look forward to working with NECIC and the Mansfield Community Connectors partners.

Sincerely,

  
Dennis A. Baker  
Executive Director

Funded by the Ohio Department of Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services  
Through Richland County Board of Mental Health & Recovery Services



## **BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF NORTH CENTRAL OHIO, INC.**

March 9, 2015

Mr. Michael Howard  
North End Community Improvement Collaborative  
P.O. Box 954  
199 North Main St.  
Mansfield, Ohio 44901

Dear Mr. Michael Howard:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Central Ohio (BBBS-NCO) provides our full support to the North End Community Improvement Collaborative (NECIC), and is committed to working with the partners involved with this community connectors grant opportunity. This wide reaching collaboration involving many different sectors within our community all coming together to work toward a common goal, is a very exciting proposition. BBBSNCO feels that this initiative is an investment in the future of our community through bettering our youth, and this is directly in line with our mission and vision.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is the oldest, largest and most effective mentoring program in the nation today. Our mission of providing children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever, can only be strengthened with our involvement in this collaboration. We hope that all children achieve success in school and in life, and we partner with parents/guardians, volunteers, and others in the community to accomplish this. We hold ourselves accountable for each child in our program achieving higher aspirations, greater confidence, better relationships, avoidance of risky behaviors, and educational success.

We achieve measurable outcomes for each youth served in the following three, key areas:

- Educational Success – youth attends school, performs better and is more likely to graduate.
- Attitudes & Competencies – youth has higher aspirations, gains confidence to overcome challenges, and improved relationships with others.
- Risky Behavior Avoidance – youth avoids risky behaviors, delinquency and the juvenile justice system.

Our work positively impacts individuals and communities. At-risk youth served by BBBS-NCO become responsible productive citizens, able to achieve lifelong success, ultimately benefitting families, communities, schools, and businesses.

We at BBBS-NCO express our support and sincere interest and willingness to aid in attaining the funding needed to support this important work. We look forward to working with the NECIC, the Mansfield City Schools, the other non-profit agencies involved, the Higher Education Facilities, and the faith based and business sectors within our community as we try to change the way children grow up and view their futures.

Sincerely,

Jim Nicholson  
Executive Director  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Central Ohio  
PH: 419-525-4618  
FAX: 419-525-4285  
[bbbsnco@aol.com](mailto:bbbsnco@aol.com)

380 N. MULBERRY ST., MANSFIELD, OH 44902-1048



Richland Community Development Group

55 North Mulberry Street, Mansfield, Ohio 44902

419-755-7234 • ChooseRichland.com

March 9, 2015

Col. Mike Howard  
Executive Director  
North End Community Collaborative  
19 West Sixth Street  
Mansfield, Ohio 44902

Dear Col. Howard:

The Richland Community Development Group (RCDG) heartily endorses your submission of the R.O.A.R. project for Community Connector Grant funding. This project has the potential to have significant impact on the workforce of our future. This is directly in line with the strategic goals of RCDG.

RCDG is the privately funded economic development organization for Richland County. We serve as the connector to the JobsOhio network and we work continuously with the business community to improve our economy. RCDG is overseen by a Leadership Board of sixty - all of whom are vested in the success of producing career oriented young persons for our future.

We will assist your project in the following activities:

1. Acting as a conduit to the business community for volunteers
2. Providing a sounding board for ideas and suggestions to implement and improve the project
3. Assisting as a platform for fundraising as the project is spun off from the grant funding.

These activities are not all inclusive and we will be pleased to explore additional supportive activities as you progress through the project. Thank you for stepping up to spearhead what we see as a vital addition to our workforce development efforts.

Sincerely,

Bridget T. McDaniel  
Executive Director



Richland Area Chamber of Commerce  
55 North Mulberry Street • Mansfield, OH 44902  
Phone (419) 522-3211 • Fax (419) 526-6853  
[www.richlandareachamber.com](http://www.richlandareachamber.com)

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## The Chamber

March 1, 2015

Col. Michael J. Howard  
Executive Director  
North End Community Improvement Collaborative  
P.O. Box 954  
Mansfield, OH 44901

Dear Col. Howard,

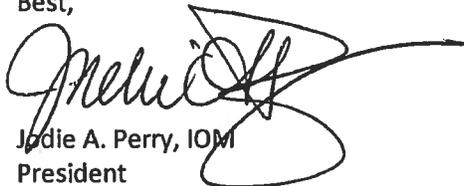
I am pleased to provide this letter of support for your Community Connectors Grant application. On behalf of the Richland Area Chamber of Commerce and the 1,000+ area businesses that we represent, we are very encouraged to see the broad coalition of agencies and individuals that are collaborating on this project.

We look forward to working with you to provide real opportunities to connect the youth that will be participating in R.O.A.R. with the business community. We believe that we can partner with you to offer field trips, internships or job shadowing opportunities and a personal connection to a successful businessperson in our community that will help you achieve the goals of giving these youth a vision for what their future could hold as well as helping to establish clear pathways to future careers.

Youth are the future of our community and we are very interested in seeing positive programs put in place to help assist them in their development into active and engaged citizens. We do look forward to working with you throughout the process and seeing this program launch later this year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you might have at 419-522-3211.

Thank you for dedicating your time to this most worthy project.

Best,



Jodie A. Perry, IOM  
President



P.O. Box 216, Mansfield, Ohio, 44901-0216 / 419-524-7113 / Fax 419-526-7844 / [www.directionscu.org](http://www.directionscu.org)

Jennifer Paramore  
Directions Credit Union  
777 N Main St  
Mansfield, Oh 44902  
[phone number]  
[jparamore@directionscu.org](mailto:jparamore@directionscu.org)

March 4, 2015

**To Whom It May Concern :**

As a not for profit financial cooperative, we are excited by the opportunity to participate in the Community Connectors Mentoring Program. The credit union belief of serving the underserved and banking the unbankable is a great fit for this program.

Our community outreach programs cover a wide range of financial options for learners of all ages. Specifically we are available for options that cover youth k-12 and beyond. In addition to these services we offer options for online education. All of these are at no cost as volunteers from our staff participate regularly.

The credit union philosophy of "people helping people," was founded in the ideal of "Not for profit, not for charity, but for service." We look forward to working with other community groups as a part of this important Initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J Paramore".

Jennifer Paramore

Community Outreach Education Coordinator





# City of Mansfield

## Tim Theaker, Mayor

30 N. Diamond Street - Mansfield, OH 44902 - (419)755-9626 Fax-(419)755-9627

March 5, 2015

RE: Community Connectors Grant

To Whom It May Concern:

As Mayor of Mansfield, I am pleased to write this letter of support for the North End Community Improvement Collaborative (NECIC) for their Community Connectors grant application.

The Mansfield Community Connectors program is a collaborative mentoring program which engages youth from 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, primarily from the Mansfield City School District, in multi-faceted programs whose five core principles include;

1. Setting goals to be prepared for 21<sup>st</sup> century careers;
2. Building character;
3. Developing pathways to achievement;
4. Building resiliency;
5. Believing in a positive future

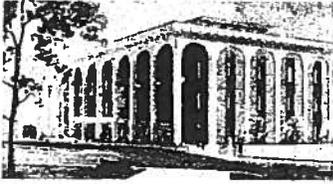
This program is designed to bring parents, schools, communities, faith-based groups, local non-profits, higher education institutions and businesses together to help students reach their full potential. At the center of this program are faith-based values that will be incorporated into multiple types of mentoring opportunities which will equip students with the foundations and skills to help them succeed in life.

I strongly support NECIC's grant application and hope you will give it favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Theaker  
Mayor

TT/mms



## **RICHLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
50 PARK AVENUE EAST, MANSFIELD, OH 44902

PHONE (419) 774-5550  
FAX (419) 774-5862



March 5, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

The Richland County Board of Commissioners strongly supports Mansfield's North End Community Improvement Collaborative in their efforts to promote mentoring of at-risk students in Mansfield City Schools through their Real Opportunities for Adult Readiness Collaboration program.

NECIC has proven to be a great partner to many organizations throughout Richland County, including Mansfield City Schools, and we are encouraged by their creative and new ideas to reach out into our neighborhoods and improve the lives of our residents.

Thank you for your consideration of their ROAR program!

Sincerely,

Tim Wert  
Commissioner

Marilyn John  
Commissioner

Gary Utt  
Commissioner

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TIMOTHY A. WERT  
Chairman

MARILYN S. JOHN  
Vice Chairman

GARY UTT, SR.

STACEY L. CRALL  
Clerk

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# Richland County Children Services

731 Scholl Road, Mansfield, Ohio 44907-1571 • Phone (419) 774-4100 • FAX (419) 774-4114 • www.richlandcountychildrenservices.org

## BOARD MEMBERS

Letter of Support for the North End Community Improvement Collaborative (NECIC)

**Chair**  
Pamela Siegenthaler

Date: 3-5-2015

**Vice Chair**  
Jim Kulig, LISW

To whom it may concern:

**Secretary**  
Renee Bessick

Richland County Children Services is writing this letter of support as a collaborative partner with other local service providers for the purpose of bringing a positive mentoring program to our community.

**Treasurer**  
Robert Kirkendall

Lynn Friebe  
Stacy L. Jackson-Johnson  
Michelle Kowalski, PhD  
David Leitenberger  
Jason Murray, Esq.

NECIC has been an active member in many local initiatives and has stepped forward to be the lead agency for the Community Connectors grant. Based on my participation in meetings leading to the completion of the grant application, I am confident in NECIC and their ability to administer the grant as written.

**Executive Director**  
Patricia A. Harrelson,  
MSSA, LISW-S

The opportunity to provide additional services to youth can only have a positive impact on our community as a whole. This belief is apparent in the number of local agencies who are committed to the deliverables discussed within the grant proposal.



There are many national studies that indicate the value of mentoring and afterschool programs for youth. This would include a reduction in delinquency, improved school attendance, higher academic scores, and improved self-esteem. This grant would be a significant resource for the families and children in our community.



Richland County Children Services is not only supportive of NECIC being the lead agency for the grant, but appreciative of their commitment to provide a valuable program youth in our community.

Thank You,

Richland County  
Youth and Family Council

Tim Harless, Director of Community Outreach

**"To lead our community in assuring the safety, well-being and permanency of children at risk of abuse and neglect"**

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