



**Toledo Public Schools
Scott High School**

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Equal Opportunity Employer

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Candice Harrison and I am the director of the Schools as Hubs initiative at Scott High School in Toledo, OH. Schools as Community hubs is a strategy that collaborates with multiple partners to offer an integrated and impactful array of services, programs and resources to support the social and emotional development of our students and families. In an effort to provide programs that positively impact our students, we partnered with CHANGE to provide afterschool programming. Please accept this as my formal recommendation for CHANGE; as an organization, its curriculum, volunteerism, staffing and overall ability to powerfully impact students.

The goal of CHANGE is to empower girls to break negative cycles and create change for their future. Their focus is to be a positive voice in their lives and to encourage girls to be the change they wish to see. Our girls learned that beauty comes from inner security and strong character. CHANGE truly believes that the words our young girls speak are the words that will frame their lives in the future. They assisted them in identifying healthy boundaries and goal setting. As the result, our girls began to adapt this mindset in their daily lives. Their behavior reflected their learning and development in CHANGE in the classroom and at home.

CHANGE began serving students at Scott High School the Fall of 2012 and continued through the Spring of 2013. They met with students in grades 9-12 girls every Wednesday for a six-week period for one hour after school. This program started from the ground. Through grassroots recruitment and personal interaction with students in the school, the program began with eight students and grew to 30 students enrolled over the course of the year.

The impact was so great that staff and students alike have made many requests for CHANGE to return to our school. CHANGE was comprised of all volunteers. This also taught our students the importance of giving back to the community! Our students truly learned that they were valued by the time, effort and care given to them by the volunteers. This program is a genuine example of how to create the "change" we would like to see in our next generation.

It is with honor that I recommend them for future opportunities to impact our youth.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Candice L. Harrison'.

Candice L. Harrison, MA
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