

The Mentoring Network

Letters of Support



CITY OF **BEDFORD** OHIO

MICHAEL S. MALLIS
City Manager

March 4, 2015

Governor John Kasich
Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
77 South High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor Kasich,

We strongly encourage the Community Connectors program to fund The Mentoring Network's grant application for expansion of its youth mentoring program within the Bedford City School District.

The Mentoring Network's program is critical to preventing juvenile delinquency and building the self-esteem and academic achievement of youth in our community. When it was conceived three years ago, our community wholeheartedly supported its efforts through direct financial assistance. Today, the City still supports the foundation of the program because it commands a unique niche in meeting the needs of our young people and represents a model mentoring program for other Ohio communities to follow.

The City of Bedford provides a variety of services for its youth residents including an active recreation center called Ellenwood Center and extensive parks and all-purpose trails. Hence, The Mentoring Network's youth prevention program is fully aligned with the City's goals to achieve a "vibrant future for all residents". The City of Bedford will continue to support The Mentoring Network's invaluable work for the youth of this community.

If we can answer any questions or provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Stanley C. Koci
Mayor

Michael S. Mallis
City Manager



Mayor Fletcher D. Berger

March 9, 2015

Governor John Kasich
Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
77 South High Street 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor Kasich,

I have reviewed a summary of “The Mentoring Network” program and spoken with their representatives. I believe that this program is needed and necessary in Bedford City School District of which Bedford Heights is a part. I respectfully encourage the Community Connectors program to fund The Mentoring Network’s grant application for expansion of its youth mentoring program within the Bedford City School District.

The Mentoring Network’s program is critical to preventing juvenile delinquency and building the self-esteem and academic achievement of youth in our community. In fact, we support the program not only because it commands a unique niche in meeting the needs of our young people, but represents a model mentoring program for other Ohio communities to follow.

The City of Bedford Heights provides a variety of services for its youth, including a fully equipped Community Recreation Center, baseball fields, a basketball court, a playground area and parks (*Tinkers Creek Metro Park and Reed Park*). As part of our commitment, we are willing to make these venues available (*based on scheduling*) to “The Mentoring Network.” We will also make a financial donation in the amount of \$5,000 in support of The Mentoring Network. Hence, The Mentoring Network’s youth prevention program is fully aligned with the city’s primary goal, which is to “provide services that promote the health and well-being of the community.” Our P.A.C.T team (*Police And Community Together*) is already in place working with and mentoring Bedford School District youths under the leadership of our Detective Bureau.

If I can answer any questions or provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (440) 786-3211.

Sincerely,

Fletcher D. Berger
Mayor/Safety Director

FDB/rdm

Letter of Support for The Mentoring Network Village of Oakwood

March 3, 2015

Governor John Kasich
Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
77 South High Street 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor Kasich,

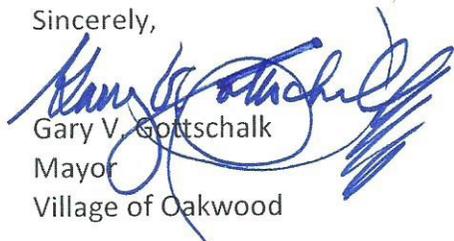
I strongly encourage the Community Connectors program to fund The Mentoring Network's grant application for expansion of its youth mentoring program within the Bedford City School District.

The Mentoring Network's program is critical to preventing juvenile delinquency and building the self-esteem and academic achievement of youth in our community. In fact, we support the program not only because it commands a unique niche in meeting the needs of our young people, but represents a model mentoring program for other Ohio communities to follow.

The Village of Oakwood provides a variety of services for its youth residents, including one of Cuyahoga County's best recreational facilities. Since its incorporation in 1951, the Village has been a proud and progressive community that has adopted a "Family First" philosophy about everything from commercial development to law enforcement. Hence, The Mentoring Network's youth prevention program and its comprehensive array of services are fully aligned with the village's vision of a "family friendly" community. In fact, the Village of Oakwood will contribute \$5,000 annually—for the next three years as a match for securing Community Connectors grant funds—in support of The Mentoring Network's invaluable affecting this community.

If I can answer any questions or provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (440) 232-9988.

Sincerely,



Gary V. Gottschalk
Mayor
Village of Oakwood



Village of Walton Hills, Ohio

Kevin Hurst – Mayor/Safety Director/Economic Development Director

March 4, 2015

Governor John Kasich
Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
77 South High Street 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor Kasich,

I strongly encourage the Community Connectors program to fund The Mentoring Network's grant application for expansion of its youth mentoring program within the Bedford City School District.

The Mentoring Network's program is critical to preventing juvenile delinquency and building the self-esteem and academic achievement of youth in our community. When it was conceived three years ago, our community wholeheartedly supported its efforts through direct financial assistance. In fact, we continue to provide the same support to the program today not only because it commands a unique niche in meeting the needs of our young people, but represents a model mentoring program for other communities in Ohio to follow.

The Village of Walton Hills provides a variety of services for its youth residents, including a recreation department, wellness station, and its 13-acre park that includes Walton Hills Lake. The Village is also a friendly community that provides its residents with the necessary services and affords them the opportunity of participating in planned social and civic organizations. Hence The Mentoring Network's youth prevention program and its comprehensive array of services are fully aligned with the village's vision as a community where residents live in harmony as good neighbors and concerned citizens. In fact the Village of Walton Hills will continue to contribute \$5,000 annually—for the next three years as a match for securing Community Connectors grant funds—in support of The Mentoring Network's invaluable work for the youth of this community.

If I can answer any questions or provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mayor Kevin Hurst

Summit Church

Mark Stradiot ~ Senior Pastor

March 2, 2015

To whom it may concern:

This letter comes in support of the Mentoring Network organization. I have have had personal experience and involvement with the Menoring Network the past few years. The Mentoring Network is active building positive character traits in young men and women in our community. Along with building positive character traits, the organization assists students by goal setting to help improve their behavior and grades. This organization has quality leadership and has developed curriculum that is being used in the mentoring sessions.

I would highly recommend supporting the Mentoring Network. We are currently working on getting the Mentoring Network in the community where I work.

Thank you for your kind consideration.



Pastor Mark Stradiot
Senior Pastor, Summit Church, Twinsburg, OH
Chaplain, True Freedom Ministries, Chesterland, OH

10204 Ravenna Road, Twinsburg, Ohio 44087, 330-405-8144

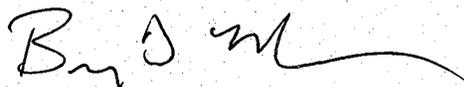
March 2, 2015

To whom it may concern:

Lima Community Church has been a proud supporter of the Mentoring Network for the past two years. In each of these years, we have donated \$10,000 to this organization to aid their efforts in mentoring the students of the Bedford School system. I have seen firsthand the effectiveness of these efforts as they lead students to a brighter future. We look forward to continuing our financial support in the amount of \$10,000 per year.

If I can provide you with any further information regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Rev. Bradley D. Taylor
Executive Pastor
Lima Community Church



March 3, 2015

Governor John Kasich
Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
77 South High Street 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor Kasich,

It is my privilege to express my support and my church's endorsement to the Mentoring Network's grant application.

Our church has been highly involved in this program since it's inception and continues to play an integral role today. We sponsor and administrate a mentoring/tutoring program in the elementary schools called "Kid's Hope", and have volunteers serving in the UBU Mentoring at Heskett Middle School, working with both young men and young women.

I personally am involved in the Mentoring Networks efforts with the Bedford High School Football team. We have seen some definite and even dramatic results in the lives of young people as basic lessons of integrity, respect, honesty, and compassion are being shared in a way that is immediately applicable and transferable.

In addition, our church provides facility space for one of the young men's mentoring group that meets off the school campus, and it is our desire to support the Mentoring Network with the material and physical means at our disposal.

If you need any additional information, feel free to contact me at 440 232 7440.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Michael Dennis', is written over a large, faint circular stamp or watermark.

Reverend R. Michael Dennis
Lead Pastor
Bedford Church of the Nazarene



First Baptist Church of Bedford

445 Turney Road Bedford, Ohio 44146

Telephone: 440-232-0694

Email: fbcob@sbcglobal.net

Website: bedfordfirstbaptist.org

March 4, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of the Mentoring Network. I, along with members of First Baptist Church of Bedford, have been involved with the Mentoring Network since its inception.

It has been a pleasure to partner with this group to make a positive difference in the lives of young men in our community. The program has adapted and changed over the years as the leaders learn what is and what is not effective, and I am excited to be a part of something that is continually improving.

It is fulfilling to encourage members of my church and community to partner with this organization because I see its positive benefits in student grades, attitude and behavior. I know it is making a difference because parents want students involved. This year I have the pleasure of working with the younger brother of a boy I mentored two years ago.

The program also makes a powerful difference in relationships that last far beyond the school year. The first boy I mentored now works in the local drug store, I see him regularly and, in a different way, get to continue that mentoring relationship.

I am certain that any support will only expand the positive role the Mentoring Network has on its students, its school and its community.

Thank you for your consideration.

David A Hardin, D. Min.

Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Bedford



234 Center Road
Bedford, Ohio 44146
440-439-1638
216-439-1178
email: liftyalife@gmail.com
visit us @ liftyourlife.org
Pastor Donte` Thomas

March 5, 2015

RE: Mentoring Network Recommendation

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter comes in support of the Mentoring Network organization. With a few commendable members of my congregation and myself, our personal experience and involvement with the Mentoring Network has been life-changing. The goal of actively building positive character traits into the youth of our community is an awesome goal that Ministry Network has achieved. Each mentor is not only helping with the development of each child's character traits but also in assisting them with setting behavioral goals and ways to improve their academics. The leadership and curriculum that is being displayed by the Mentoring Network is something that will be instilled in every child that is enrolled in the program.

I would highly recommend supporting the Mentoring Network. With the appropriate funding this program would be able to add to any flourishing community by assisting with building the foundation in today's youth. If you have any further questions concerning this matter please do not hesitate to give me a call at (440) 439-1638.

Sincerely,

Donte' M. Thomas

Pastor Donte' M. Thomas
Lead Pastor of Elevation Community Church

"Then, free of fault, you will lift up your face: you will stand firm and without fear."

Job 11:15 NIV



March 5, 2015

Governor John Kasich
Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
77 South High Street 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor Kasich,

I strongly encourage the Community Connectors program to fund The Mentoring Network's grant application for expansion of its youth mentoring program within the Bedford School District.

As a business owner, I have had the privilege and honor to be a part of The Mentoring Network since its inception. I have personally been a part of many of the programs that The Mentoring Network provides. I believe very strongly in mentoring not only because it can change the trajectory of kids' lives, but as in my case, adults as well. My life was forever changed when I made the decision to become a mentor and it's my desire to do whatever I can with the resources of my business as well as my staff to ensure more students are reached through the powerful model of mentoring.

Along with providing mentors through my business, I commit at least \$2,500.00 annually over the next three years. I believe wholeheartedly in the vision and leadership of The Mentoring Network and fully support all of their impactful programs.

If I can answer any questions or provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (216) 577-5269.

Sincerely,

Keith M. Tousley
President
Golden Standard Enterprises

THE FEDERAL METAL COMPANY

SUBSIDIARY OF OAKWOOD INDUSTRIES, INC.

Manufacturers of Brass and Bronze Ingot

7250 DIVISION STREET
BEDFORD, OHIO 44146
PHONE 440-232-8700
FAX 440-232-8726
www.federalmetal.com

March 5, 2015

Governor John Kasich
Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
77 South High Street 30th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor Kasich,

The Federal Metal Company is a manufacturer of brass and bronze ingots since 1913. We have been located in Oakwood Village in the Bedford school district since 1960. The company has been in the Nagusky family since its founding.

I first read about the Mentoring Network and the positive impact it was having at Bedford High School in the fall of 2013. Since then, I have gotten to know its co-founder, Keith Tousley, and witnessed the variety and quality of services it is providing at Heskett Junior High and Bedford High School. I have been impressed by the universal positive response the program has received from administration, staff, students, and the community mayors. The area that I believe I can provide continuing support and assistance is to enlist the awareness and support of the business community in the four cities that comprise the Bedford school district.

Having had a relationship with Keith Tousley for more than a school year now I am impressed with the program and the results it is achieving. I believe there is a role that the business community can play that is as yet untapped. I have expressed my willingness to personally spend a few hours a month helping to integrate the assets, both human and financial, toward helping the Mentoring Network reach more students and enrich the lives and improve the opportunities that the students have.

I personally made a financial contribution to the Mentoring Network in 2014 and expect that either I or Federal Metal to continue to do so foreseeably.

Sincerely,



David R. Nagusky, Chairman

The Federal Metal Company