



**COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
AND LIFE SCIENCES**

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

Mary Kay Smith, M.D., DFAPA  
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry  
Director, Public and Community Psychiatry  
Director, Psychiatry Clerkships

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

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March 6, 2015

Dear Member of the Community Connectors Grant Review/Selection Committee,

I am writing this letter to declare my unwavering support for The University Church's application for Ohio's *Community Connectors Grant*. As Principal Investigator on The University of Toledo's (UT) Medicaid Technical Assistance and Policy Program (MEDTAPP) Health Care Access (HCA) Initiative Grant, I have chosen The University Church as a core non-clinical community partner. We share a number of common goals, primarily those addressing the social determinants of health that continue to have a negative impact on traditionally underserved individuals in our community. Ohio's MEDTAPP HCA Initiative was created to foster innovative partnerships between the Ohio Department of Medicaid, Ohio's academic health centers, and Ohio's health sciences colleges and universities, in collaboration with Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Board of Regents, and Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center, among others. The intention is to support the development and retention of healthcare practitioners to serve Ohio's Medicaid population by using emerging healthcare delivery models and evidence-based practices.

While many of the 20+ programs funded by the MEDTAPP HCA Initiative chose somewhat more traditional paths to follow in reaching the targeted outcomes, my team proposed a more transformative model – one that relies on inspiration and community engagement to keep our graduates in the health professions in Ohio to meet the needs of those adversely impacted by a number of social factors. The University Church, and by extension, Reynolds Elementary, have become critically important partners as we collaboratively develop and implement a number of 'flagship programs' that bring our health professions students into the community to address five key areas of social determinants of health, as developed by Healthy People 2020:<sup>1</sup>

- Education
- Health and Health Care
- Social and Community Context
- Economic Stability
- Neighborhood and Built Environment

One example of how this collaborative partnership has benefited everyone involved is the conceptualization, development, and implementation of the first UT MEDTAPP HCA community-based clinic: *UT Rocket Pediatrics School-Based Clinic at Reynolds (Rocket Peds – Reynolds)*. *Rocket Peds – Reynolds*, which was launched mid-June 2014, had two focus areas during the fall: promotion of community awareness of the clinic, and increased community utilization of clinic services. On November 12, 2014, a meeting was held to review the clinic progress and develop a plan of action pertaining to shared focus areas. In attendance were Rocket Pediatrics professionals and the Chair of UT's Department of Pediatrics, MEDTAPP HCA Initiative representatives, Toledo Public School representatives, Reynolds Elementary school nurses, Reynolds Elementary administrative personnel, The University Church School Program Director, Pickett Elementary 'HUB Director', and other faculty involved with health disparities from UT. In response to the needs discussed at that meeting, UT's MedTAPP HCA Initiative grant funded an MPH graduate assistant to assist in registering families for the clinic. A need was identified and quickly addressed, all facilitated by The University Church School Program Director. The graduate student identified additional health professions students to assist with further enrollment at a school-based event less than a month later. At the end of December 2014, *Rocket Peds – Reynolds* had 105 students, roughly one-third of the student population, enrolled to be eligible for services. In one day alone, 36 children received flu shots as a result of a targeted effort coordinated by The University Church.

UT currently has five colleges and numerous health professions and disciplines involved with our MEDTAPP HCA Initiative implementation, and those with health professions students and/or faculty who have already participated in meaningful ways with The University Church and/or Reynolds are as follows (in bold):

- **College of Medicine and Life Sciences**
  - Psychiatry**
  - Family Medicine
  - Medicine
  - Pediatrics**
  - Physician Assistant Studies**
  - Public Health and Preventive Medicine**
- **College of Languages, Literature, and Social Sciences**
  - Psychology**
- College of Nursing
  - Advanced Practice Nursing
- **College of Health Science and Human Service**
  - Social Work**
- **College of Pharmacy**
  - Pharmacy Practice**

Some have engaged in after-school tutoring, some completed their *Community Health Internships* for eight weeks last summer at either *The University Church/UT Health Grows Community Garden* or with the summer youth program at Reynolds Elementary, while others have been helping to enroll families to enable them to access services at *UT Rocket Pediatrics*. But the 'surface has barely been scratched'.

Here is the point that needs to be made in this letter of support: The University Church has risen to the top of our list of collaborative partners during the three years I have been leading the implementation of UT's MEDTAPP HCA Initiative programs. I can think of no organization better suited to meet the challenges, deliver the results, leverage additional resources, and develop a sustainable model for mentoring our community's youth.

I recommend The University Church very highly and without reservation for your consideration as a reliable, motivated, and extremely competent 2015 Community Connectors Grant recipient. I look forward to expanding the mentoring relationships and opportunities for our health professions students with them as part of this innovative mentoring approach to addressing even more of the social and physical determinants of health in our local community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "MK Smith", followed by a horizontal flourish.

Mary Kay Smith, M.D., DFAPA  
Director, Public and Community Psychiatry  
Director, Psychiatry Clerkships

<sup>1</sup>Secretary's Advisory Committee on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Objectives for 2020. Healthy People 2020: An Opportunity to Address the Societal Determinants of Health in the United States. July 26, 2010. Available from: <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2010/hp2020/advisory/SocietalDeterminantsHealth.htm>



James Gault  
Transformational Leader of Curriculum and Instruction  
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March 4, 2015

Julian A. Davies, M.Div., Ph.D.  
Founding Pastor, The University Church  
Offices at: 4747 Hill Avenue  
Toledo, OH 43615

Dear Dr. Davies,

Toledo Public Schools is pleased to support The University Church's grant proposal to the Community Connectors program. Your project facilitates strong mentor/mentee relationships, provides emotional and academic support, encourages high and college exploration, and nurtures students' growth in character. All these activities reflect TPS's mission to produce competitive college and career-ready graduates through rigorous curriculum across all grade levels.

I personally look forward to continuing the district's support for The University Church's activities at Reynolds Elementary School. Toledo Public School's faculty and administration will provide any resources and feedback needed to support students academically. The district is especially eager to help mentors facilitate high school and college exploration with their 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade mentees.

Toledo Public Schools views The University Church as a crucial partner in our vision of excellence for Toledo's students and teachers. I wish you well on your proposal. If the district can be of further assistance in any way, please don't hesitate to say so.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'James Gault'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, flowing 'J' and 'G'.

James Gault



Reynolds School  
5000 Norwich Road  
Toledo, Ohio 43615

(419) 671-1500  
419) 671-1545 Fax

J. Gault, Principal  
M. Clark-Eagle, Assistant Principal

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Juliane Gault  
Principal, Reynolds Elementary School  
5000 Norwich Ave  
Toledo, OH 43615

March 4, 2015

Julian A. Davies, M.Div., Ph.D.  
Founding Pastor, The University Church  
Offices at: 4747 Hill Avenue  
Toledo, OH 43615

Dear Dr. Davies,

Reynolds Elementary School is pleased to support The University Church's grant proposal to the Community Connectors program. The proposal's extensive plans for one-on-one and group mentoring, tutoring, and character enrichment demonstrate how our Reynolds Rockets can truly be "ready, responsible, and respectful."

The University Church's collaboration with Reynolds Elementary School has provided our students and their families with services that expand learning opportunities, enhance social and emotional learning, strengthen families, and promote a healthier community. Reynolds' faculty and staff will continue work with Ms. Tiffany Ways on reinforcing classroom learning beyond the school day. We particularly look forward to helping identify 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students who will most benefit from the proposed mentoring program and developing their SMART goals.

The relationship between Reynolds Elementary School and The University Church provides a vibrant model for community investment in Ohio's schools. I wish you well with your proposal and am happy to provide any assistance needed.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Juliane Gault', written in a cursive style.

Juliane Gault  
Principal, Reynolds Elementary School

**RFS Charitable Foundation**

**T.A.C.K.L.E.**

**PROGRAM**

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Keary Sarabia  
CEO, RFS Charitable Foundation  
1709 Speilbusch Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43604

March 4, 2015

Julian A. Davies, M.Div., Ph.D.  
Founding Pastor, The University Church  
Offices at: 4747 Hill Avenue  
Toledo, OH 43615

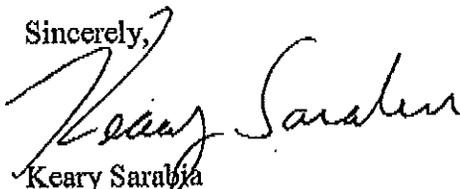
Dear Dr. Davies,

RFS Charitable Foundation supports The University Church's grant proposal to the Community Connectors program. Your proposal's emphasis on building academic success, resilient character, and a strong community reflects our TACKLE program's integrated approach to community mental health services. Both TUC and TACKLE focus on the student, the family, and the community in order to improve health and well-being.

TACKLE and The University Church share a history of collaboration with Reynolds Elementary School, where both organizations offer students and their families resources such as; mental health counseling, after-school programming, and supplemental nutrition. We anticipate not just the continuation of this partnership, but its expansion into one-on-one and group mentoring. Our TACKLE officers (including case managers and therapists) will help recruit mentees among 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students and guide those mentees in making SMART goals towards personal and academic growth. The TACKLE officers will also provide mental health training, for mentors, and minimize barriers to students' participation (e.g. transportation, family support). RFS Charitable Foundation will cover all costs related to its TACKLE officers' involvement.

RFS Charitable Foundation is pleased to assist both The University Church and Reynolds Elementary School in providing students with bright and hopeful futures. You have our best regards and may contact me should you need any further support for your proposal.

Sincerely,



Keary Sarabia  
CEO, RFS Charitable Foundation



Page Armstrong, Ph.D.  
Director of Honors Living and Learning Community  
MacKinnon Hall 2000C  
The University of Toledo  
Toledo, OH 43606

March 4, 2015

Julian A. Davies, M.Div., Ph.D.  
Founding Pastor, The University Church  
Offices at: 4747 Hill Avenue  
Toledo, OH 43615

Dear Dr. Davies,

The University of Toledo's Jesup Scott Honors College is pleased to support The University Church's grant proposal to the Community Connectors program. The proposal's focus on strengthening Reynolds Elementary School's community through a vigorous mentoring program reflects the Honors College's mission to create a nurturing, challenging educational environment that fosters personal growth and intellectual discovery.

The Jesup Scott Honors College has already collaborated extensively with The University Church and Reynolds Elementary School. Once a week, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in the church's Reynolds After-School Program visit the University of Toledo's campus, where they receive tutoring from honors faculty and students. We are excited to expand this relationship via The University Church's proposed mentoring program. In addition to recruiting mentors from among high-achieving students, the Honors College will provide opportunities for Reynolds 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students to explore college opportunities, become more familiar with the college experience, and eventually navigate the college admission's process.

On behalf of the Jesup Scott Honors College, I wish you the greatest success with your proposal.

Best regards,

Page Armstrong, Ph.D.  
Director of Honors Living and Learning Community

Dr. Tamam Baiz, Ph.D  
Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Mercy College  
2221 Madison Ave.  
Toledo, OH 43604

March 4, 2015

Julian A. Davies, M.Div., Ph.D.  
Founding Pastor, The University Church  
Offices at: 4747 Hill Avenue  
Toledo, OH 43615

Dear Dr. Davies,

On behalf of Mercy College of Ohio and Mercy Health Partners, I am pleased to support The University Church's grant proposal to the Community Connectors program. The proposal's focus on strengthening Reynolds Elementary School's community through a vigorous mentoring program reflects Mercy's mission to educate and inspire students towards leadership and service in a global community.

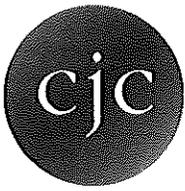
Mercy Health Partners and College will continue to afford opportunities to Reynolds Elementary students. Since the first week of The University Church After-School Program, Mercy Health Partners has been a critical partner since The University Church established the Reynolds After-School Program. On a weekly basis, Mercy Health Partners staff members assist with the facilitation of the health, nutrition, and physical fitness programs. Additionally, Mercy College provides volunteers and facilitates college visits for Reynolds' students. To expand its existing collaboration with The University Church, Mercy College/Health Partners will help recruitment of mentors; establish a health, nutrition, and physical fitness club; and host college exploration nights.

Everyone here at Mercy College of Ohio and Mercy Health Partners looks forward to working more closely with The University Church. I personally wish success with your proposal.

Best regards,



Tamam Baiz, Ph.D  
Assistant Professor of Chemistry with Mercy College/Health Partners.



law

Connelly, Jackson & Collier LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Reginald S. Jackson, Jr.\*

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Adam S. Nightingale

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H. Buswell Roberts, Jr.\*\*\*

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\*\*Ohio State Bar Association Board Certified in Insurance Coverage Law

\*\*\*Certified by American Board of Certification in Business Bankruptcy

March 6, 2015

Julian A. Davies, M.Div., Ph.D.  
Founding Pastor  
The University Church  
4747 Hill Avenue  
Toledo, OH 43615

Dear Dr. Davies,

As a partner in the law firm of Connelly, Jackson & Collier LLP, I can tell you we are delighted to support The University Church's grant proposal to the Community Connectors program. We share a commitment to the Toledo community and wish to encourage mentoring opportunities, build character among young minds, and provide opportunities for civic engagement.

We value this chance to collaborate with your organization and our local school district. As an attorney with Connelly, Jackson & Collier LLP, I plan to be involved with The University Church's proposed mentoring program as both a potential mentor and reliable community resource. I look forward to helping Reynolds Elementary School's students develop professional and transferable skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace.

I have personally been able to witness the relationship between The University Church and Reynolds Elementary School, which has created a vibrant model for community investment. We are pleased to be part of this collaboration and assist with its expansion. Best of wishes with your proposal.

Sincerely,



Steven Collier  
Partner

SPC:ss

Devon Fay  
After-school Food Program Coordinator, Children's Hunger Alliance  
4345 Secor Dr.  
Toledo, OH 43623

March 4, 2015

Julian A. Davies, M.Div., Ph.D.  
Founding Pastor, The University Church  
Offices at: 4747 Hill Avenue  
Toledo, OH 43615

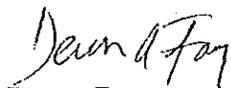
Dear Dr. Davies,

The Northwest Ohio Regional Office of Children's Hunger Alliance is pleased to support The University Church's grant proposal to the Community Connectors program. Your proposal's focus on improving the overall health and well-being of Reynolds Elementary School's community reflects Children's Hunger Alliance's mission to ensure all children are fed regular and nutritious meals and develop lifelong healthy eating habits.

The University Church and Children's Hunger Alliance have worked together to alleviate child hunger since the Reynolds After-School Program was established January 2013. In February 2015 we were excited to name The University Church's program our after-school partner of the year. We will continue to supply warm, nutritious dinners for the Reynolds After-School Program. In turn, the church will help Children's Hunger Alliance encourage the students to develop healthy eating habits.

Our collaboration with The University Church continues to be a crucial element in addressing hunger and food insecurity among Ohio's children. If there is anything else we may do to support the success of your grant proposal, please don't hesitate to say so.

Best regards,



Devon Fay  
After-school Food Program Coordinator, Children's Hunger Alliance