



326 Chandler Street, Worcester, MA 01602-3440
Telephone: 508-791-4702 • Fax: 508-791-3613
Web Site: www.worcesteryouthcenter.org

NOT JUST A PLACE TO GO – A PLACE TO GO FARTHER

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March 21, 2016

Professor Ira Silver
Framingham State University
Nonprofit Giving Course
100 State Street
Framingham, MA 01701

Dear Professor Silver:

Please find enclosed our proposal requesting \$6,000 for our High School Equivalency (HSE) program. We are excited to start our Satellite HSE program this year at Friendly House on Worcester's East Side. This enhancement to our HSE program will accommodate a portion of Worcester's youth have been unable to take advantage of the Center's HSE services due to gang lines that make it unsafe for youth on the East Side to travel to other parts of the city. We are known for offering unique services that others do not.

What set our program apart years back is that we offer multi-level, year-round preparation in English and Spanish. More recently, the Center started catering our program even more to the needs of our youth by addressing access and hunger issues by providing bus passes and healthy snacks. Now we are preparing to go off-site to make a unique accommodation to at-risk youth who are confined to their neighborhood due to Worcester's gang territories.

I continue to be impressed with how eager young people are to voluntarily do the necessary hard work to improve their lives by furthering their education and seeking other resources for self-betterment. Youth who drop out of high school are more likely to need public assistance, to end up in a correctional institution, to make less money and to be unable to meet labor force requirements. The Youth Center's High School Equivalency Program is a critical opportunity, and the investment in helping Worcester's youth earn their high school diploma is something that benefits not only the youth, but the community as well.

You can reach me at smartin@worcesteryouthcenter.org or 508/791.4702 should you need any further information. I look forward to meeting your class and introducing them to our youth and the Center.

Sincerely,

Samuel N. Martin
Executive Director