

Title I – 1003 (g) – SY 2015-2016 – Cohort 6
Harrison Primary Center
Letters of Support

City of South Bend, Pete Buttigieg, Mayor

South Bend Police Department, Ronald Teachman, Chief of Police

St. Joseph County Health Department, Robin Vida, Director of Health Education

Indiana Health Centers, Elvin Plank, CEO

Oaklawn, Bonita Bontrager Schrock, Vice President, Child and Adolescent Outpatient Services

Community Foundation of St. Joseph County, Rose Meissner, President

Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties Head Start Consortium, Dr. Kathy Guajardo

United Way of St. Joseph County, Matt Harrington, President/CEO

WSBL-LP 93.5 FM Radio, Eliud Villanueva, Founder and Director

La Casa de Amistad, Sam Centellas, Executive Director

Navarre Intermediate Center, Matthew Emery, Principal

Clay Church, Rev. Brian Durand, Lead Pastor

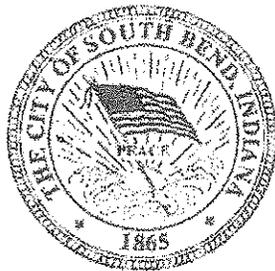
Holy Cross College, Carmen Macharaschwili, Chair , Education Department

Indiana University South Bend, Talandra Neff, Director of Student Teaching and Clinical Practice

Saint Mary's College, Samira Payne, Assistant Director, Office for Civic and Social Engagement

Real Services, Pamela Welch, Foster Grandparent Program Director

Asante Foundation, Nancy Ickler, Executive Director



CITY OF SOUTH BEND

PETE BUTTIGIEG, MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

June 18, 2015

Cindy Hurst
Title I Coordinator
South Tower, Suite 600
115 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Hurst,

I am writing on behalf of the City of South Bend in strong support of Harrison Primary Center's application for a School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G).

The City of South Bend is known both as a collegiate community—and a town experiencing a high-tech Renaissance. As a community geared toward innovation research, Harrison Primary Center provides a solid foundation to build bright futures, especially as the main public elementary school that serves South Bend's Hispanic community.

Research shows that achievement gaps in persistently low-performing schools often occur prior to children entering kindergarten. High-quality early learning programs, like Harrison provides, have proven to help close the gap for individual children—and for a school as a whole. Research also indicates that the impact of high-quality pre-kindergarten on children's development is sustained when children also experience a high-quality and aligned early elementary experience.

The combination of enhanced Pre-K to third grade early learning programming, increased teacher capacity, targeted interventions, and wraparound services, along with an extended learning day—which a School Improvement Grant could help Harrison Primary accomplish—will greatly help Harrison Primary provide students with new opportunities for academic success.

I am confident that awarding a School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G) to Harrison Primary Center and its principal, Patricia Karban, would go far in helping to implement higher student proficiency and academic achievement. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Pete Buttigieg
Mayor

701 W. SAMPLE STREET
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA 46601-2890



PHONE 574/ 235-9311
FAX 574/ 288-0268

CITY OF SOUTH BEND PETE BUTTIGIEG, MAYOR
SOUTH BEND POLICE DEPARTMENT
RONALD E. TEACHMAN, CHIEF OF POLICE

Cindy Hurst
Title I Coordinator
South Tower, Suite 600
115 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

June 15, 2015

Dear Ms. Hurst,

I am writing on behalf of the South Bend Police Department in strong support of Harrison Primary Center's application for a School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G).

Research shows that achievement gaps in persistently low-performing schools often occur prior to children entering kindergarten. High-quality early learning programs have proven to help close these gaps both for individual children and for the school as a whole. Research also indicates that the impact of high-quality pre-kindergarten on children's development is sustained when children experience a high-quality, aligned early elementary experience.

The South Bend Police Department, in partnership with our community, will strive to protect the life, property, and the personal liberties of all individuals. We believe that the overall quality of life for all citizens will improve through the deterrence of criminal activity and the understanding of the diversity of cultures within our community. The South Bend Police Department will continue to build the community's trust by participating in the learning community at Harrison Primary Center. We will continue to support the student reading program, attend family fun nights and parent teacher conferences. Harrison will continue to serve as a location for the South Bend Police Departments Three Kings Event in January of 2016.

The combination of enhanced Pre-K to 3 early learning programming, increased teacher capacity, targeted interventions and wraparound services along with an extended learning day through a School Improvement Grant at Harrison Primary Center will significantly help provide students with new opportunities for academic success.

Thank you for considering Harrison Primary Center's School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G) application for a grant award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronald E. Teachman', is written over a horizontal line.

Ronald E. Teachman
Chief of Police

SCOTT A. RUSZKOWSKI
UNIFORM DIVISION CHIEF
235-9311

STEPHEN A. SMITH
INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION CHIEF
235-9263

GARY A. HORVATH
SERVICES DIVISION CHIEF
235-5940



INDIANA HEALTH CENTERS

Your Pathway to Health

IHC @ Kokomo & WIC Program
3118 South Lafountain Street
Kokomo, Indiana 46902
(765) 864-4160

IHC@ Marion & WIC Program
925 South Nebraska Street
Marion, Indiana 46953
(765) 664-7492

Project Homecoming
701 South Main Street
South Bend, Indiana 46601
(574) 235-7990

IHC @ South Bend
1901 #B Western Avenue
South Bend, Indiana 46619
(574) 234-9033

Community Health Center of Jackson County
113 North Chestnut, Suite 100
Seymour, IN 47274
(812) 524-8388

IHC Jackson County West
100 N. Walnut Street 3rd Floor
Seymour, IN 47274
(812) 405-1857

Community Health Center of Miami County
661 E. Main Street
Peru, Indiana 46970
(765) 472-2519

Cass County Community Health Center
1700 Dividend Drive
Logansport, Indiana 46947
(574) 722-7407

Cass County WIC Program
1807 Smith Street
Logansport, Indiana 46947
(574) 753-4961

Clinton County WIC Program
2120 Washington Avenue
Frankfort, Indiana 46041
(765) 659-2131

Fulton County WIC Program
913 Main Street Suite 101
Rochester, IN 46975
(574) 223-2073

Hamilton County WIC Program
942 North Tenth Street
Noblesville, Indiana 46060
(317) 776-3445

Tipton County WIC Program
116 S. Main Street
Tipton, Indiana 46072
(765) 252-1052

June 15, 2015

Cindy Hurst
Title I Coordinator
South Tower, Suite 600
115 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Hurst,

I am writing on behalf Indiana Health Centers, Inc. in strong support of Harrison Primary Center's application for a School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G).

Indiana Health Centers, Inc. is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) providing medical, dental, and behavioral health care to medically underserved and uninsured populations throughout Indiana. Our clinics provide primary care on a sliding fee scale to patients of all ages who might not otherwise be able to afford quality healthcare.

We know that the academic achievement of our youth is strongly linked with their health. Research has shown that schools play a critical role in promoting the health and safety of young people and helping them establish lifelong healthy behaviors. Research also has shown that school health programs can reduce the prevalence of health-risk behaviors among young people and have a positive effect on academic achievement.

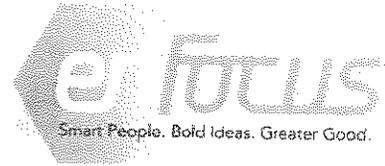
Indiana Health Centers recognizes the close relationship between health and education and looks forward to the possibility of partnering with Harrison Primary Center on a clinic based at the school to foster the health and well-being within the educational environment for all students.

The combination of a robust school health program, enhanced Pre-K to 3 early learning programming, increased teacher capacity, targeted interventions and wraparound services along with an extended learning day through a School Improvement Grant at Harrison Primary Center will significantly help provide students with new opportunities for academic success.

Thank you for considering Harrison Primary Center's School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G) application for a grant award.

Sincerely,

Elvin Plank, CEO
Indiana Health Centers, Inc.



July 7th, 2015

Cindy Hurst
Title I Coordinator
South Tower, Suite 600
115 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Hurst,

We hope this letter finds you in good spirits. We are writing on behalf of enFocus, Inc. in support of Harrison Primary Center's School Improvement Grant application [SIG 1003(g)]. enFocus mission is to engineer innovation communities, fostering vibrant ecosystems of innovation across the regional economy. As a planning partner and external provider for Harrison Primary Center during the period of the School Improvement grant, we see the passionate commitment of Harrison school staff and leadership towards continuous improvement, community collaboration and a vision of a better tomorrow for our youth.

Both research and feedback from community leaders confirm the belief that achievement gaps in low-performing schools can be addressed by expanding the continuum of high quality learning earlier in the student's academic journey. Early learning programs seek to prepare students more effectively for the K-4 curriculum, providing an expanded base of knowledge for individual students and the school as a whole. Proper alignment of these early learning objectives with existing primary experiences will augment children's development, and research indicates many benefits of increasing quality education for pre-kindergarten children well into adolescence and beyond.

As a planning partner and external provider, enFocus, Inc. will assist Harrison Primary Center in evaluating and improving its proposed School Improvement plan as a whole. We will deploy of team of professionals to support data management and external reporting of program, school and community-wide outcomes with the aim to continuously improve through collaboration and an increasing use of technology to support impact.

As supporters of Harrison Primary Center, we are truly excited to play a role in supporting leadership and school staff in growing tomorrow's agents of change. The combination of enhanced Pre-Kindergarten early learning programming, increased teacher capacity, targeted interventions, technology deployment and wraparound services enable Harrison Primary to become a community hub for success, both academically for students and socially for the community at-large.

We thank you for considering Harrison Primary Center's School Improvement Grant 1003(g). We see the methods developed in this application as impactful models for other low-performing schools, and we strongly support the proposed application.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Wiand'.

Andrew Wiand
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryant Dennis'.

Bryant Dennis
Director of Development and Growth



OAKLAWN

Toward Health and Wholeness

web site: www.oaklawn.org • e-mail: info@oaklawn.org

June 15, 2015

Cindy Hurst
Title I Coordinator
South Tower, Suite 600
115 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Hurst,

I am writing on behalf Oaklawn in strong support of Harrison Primary Center's application for a School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G).

Oaklawn provides mental health and addictions treatment for children, adolescents, adults and seniors throughout the Michiana community. Our specialized services range from outpatient therapy to inpatient care and housing. We believe in treating the whole person — mind, body and spirit. We do this by employing highly trained professionals who provide all levels of services to our clients and advocate within our community on their behalf.

We know that the academic achievement of our youth is strongly linked with their mental health. When students experience mental health problems, they often struggle to attend school, have difficulty completing assignments, and have more frequent conflicts with peers and adults. Increasingly, schools are recognized as places where students should receive mental health services. Research has shown that schools play a critical role in promoting the health and safety of young people and helping them establish lifelong healthy behaviors.

Oaklawn recognizes the close relationship between mental health and education and looks forward to partnering with Harrison Primary Center to deliver mental health services at the school in order to foster the health and well-being within the educational environment for all students.

The combination of a robust school health program, enhanced Pre-K to 3 early learning programming, increased teacher capacity, targeted interventions and wraparound services along with an extended learning day through a School Improvement Grant at Harrison Primary Center will significantly help provide students with new opportunities for academic success.

Thank you for considering Harrison Primary Center's School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G) application for a grant award.

Sincerely,


Bonita Bontrager Schrock, LCSW

Vice President, Child and Adolescent Outpatient Services

330 Lakeview Drive
P.O. Box 809
Goshen, Indiana 46527
(574) 533-1234

2600 Oakland Avenue
Elkhart, Indiana 46517
(574) 533-1234

415 East Madison Street
South Bend, Indiana 46617
(574) 283-1234



June 15, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

I strongly endorse the application of Harrison Elementary School for a School Improvement Grant.

The Community Foundation of St. Joseph County has funded an early childhood initiative called The Early Years Count! for over a decade. This initiative, coordinated through The Family Connection (a local nonprofit) engages teachers in a recurring loop of assessment, training, mentoring and reassessment that supports teachers in their efforts to help their students succeed.

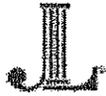
Ann Rosen and Sue Christensen of The Family Connection have led a highly-qualified team for over a decade devoted to training HeadStart and numerous other centers and ministries in the evidence-based High/Scope curriculum. We are expanding these efforts to help seven South Bend-elementary schools implement Responsive Classroom, an evidence-based education approach associated with greater teacher effectiveness, higher student achievement, and improved school climate. Both of these programs will assist Principal Patty Karban and her staff in achieving the level of quality the children of Harrison Elementary School so desperately need.

A School Improvement grant will allow Harrison to ingrain these and other best practices through intensive professional development and coaching. Mrs. Karban is a dedicated and dynamic school leader. I urge you to support her efforts to transform Harrison Elementary School.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rose Meissner".

Rose Meissner
President



THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SOUTH BEND, INC.
Women building better communities®

June 15, 2015

Cindy Hurst
Title I Coordinator
South Tower, Suite 600
115 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Hurst,

I am writing on behalf of the Junior League of South Bend, Inc. in strong support of Harrison Primary Center's application for a School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G).

The Junior League of South Bend, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

We know that research shows that achievement gaps in persistently low-performing schools often occur prior to children entering kindergarten. High-quality early learning programs have proven to help close these gaps both for individual children and for the school as a whole. Research also indicates that the impact of high-quality pre-kindergarten on children's development is sustained when children experience a high-quality, aligned early elementary experience.

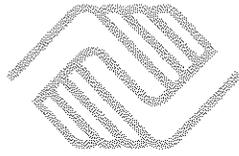
The Junior League of South Bend recently awarded Harrison Primary Center with a \$15,000 grant to help new preschool classrooms at the school. We are also looking forward to providing volunteers to support the preschool as well as other components of the early learning program at Harrison implemented through the SIG Grant.

The combination of enhanced Pre-K to 3 early learning programming, increased teacher capacity, targeted interventions and wraparound services along with an extended learning day through a School Improvement Grant at Harrison Primary Center will significantly help provide students with new opportunities for academic success.

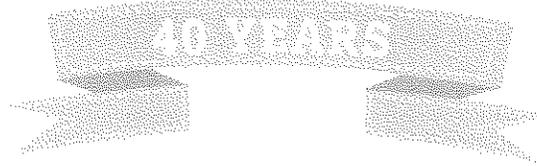
Thank you for considering Harrison Primary Center's School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G) application for a grant award.

Sincerely,

Kayla Ernsberger
Junior League of South Bend, Inc.
Community Vice President 2015-2016



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY**



June 24, 2015

Cindy Hurst
Title I Coordinator
South Tower, Suite 600
115 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Hurst,

I am writing on behalf of the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County in strong support of Harrison Primary Center's application for a School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G). The Boys & Girls Clubs provide out of school care for Harrison Primary after school as well as in the summer. In our partnership with the school, we work with students in areas of academic enrichment, health and wellness, character and leadership development as well as recreational play.

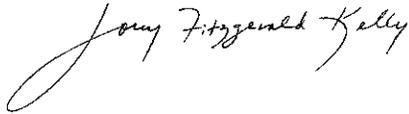
Research shows that achievement gaps in persistently low-performing schools often occur prior to children entering kindergarten. High-quality early learning programs have proven to help close these gaps both for individual children and for the school as a whole. Research also indicates that the impact of high-quality pre-kindergarten on children's development is sustained when children experience a high-quality, aligned early elementary experience. We see our agency as a resource to the school, and we collaborate to fill in the gaps to best serve our student and member population. We are all here for the same purpose, and that is to serve the kids in our school at the highest level possible.

The combination of enhanced Pre-K early learning programming, increased teacher capacity, targeted interventions and wraparound services along with an extended learning day through a School Improvement Grant at Harrison Primary Center will significantly help provide students with new opportunities for academic success. Under the experienced guidance and

extraordinary leadership of Principal Patricia Karban, I am confident awarding a School Improvement Grant for Harrison Primary Center will result in a measurable and meaningful deepening of impact for the children and families we serve.

Thank you for considering Harrison Primary Center's School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G) application for a grant award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jory Fitzgerald Kelly". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Jory Fitzgerald Kelly
President & CEO

The Family 
Connection
of Saint Joseph County, Inc.

Promoting high quality experiences for young children

June 25, 2015

Cindy Hurst
Title I Coordinator
South Tower, Suite 600
115 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Hurst,

We are writing to express our strong support of Harrison Primary Center's application for a School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G) and to assure our commitment to helping fulfill its goals.

The mission of The Family Connection is to foster excellence in community systems that serve children and families. For the past fifteen years, we have focused almost exclusively on raising quality in early childhood programs—as project directors of the Early Years Count Education Initiative for the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County and as professional development specialists for Head Start in St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties.

Because there was little to no evidence of a transition system in place for children moving from early childhood programs to kindergarten, we began working with five SBCSC elementary schools in 2013 to bring Responsive Classroom training and support to teachers in grades K - 4. That number has now grown to nine schools.

We are excited to increase our focus on Harrison Primary Center to assure that a high quality preschool is put in place, that Responsive Classroom is fully implemented, and that family engagement is maximized. Specifically, we will:

- act as mentor/coach for the principal, Patty Karban, in the area of early childhood
- conduct teacher assessments (including Pre-K CLASS, HighScope's Program Quality Assessment, and Early Language and Learning Classroom Observation for preschool; CLASS and Responsive Classroom for K-4th grade teachers) and provide one-on-one individualized feedback to teachers
- compile classroom assessment data for professional development planning

- provide coaching for pre-K teachers
- work closely with the onsite Responsive Classroom teacher coach and provide support as needed
- facilitate a Ready School Assessment Team and implementation planning, including development of a transition protocol
- hold grade-level workshops on child development
- dedicate .25 of a Family Connection employee exclusively for on-site Harrison support

We fully believe that children will learn and thrive when high quality practices—both in the classroom and throughout the school—are intentionally and thoughtfully incorporated into every aspect of a child's day. We see strong evidence of high commitment from Harrison's principal and her team to make these practices a reality. Thank you for considering Harrison Primary Center's School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G) application for a grant award.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Sue Christensen and Ann Rosen in cursive script.

Sue Christensen and Ann Rosen
Co-Directors



Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties Head Start Consortium

245 North Lombardy, Suite A ~ South Bend, IN 46619

Office Phone: (574) 283-8127 ~ Fax: (574) 283-8108

Toll – Free: (866) 440-8843 Web site: www.headstartesj.com

Dr. Kathy Guajardo, Executive Director (574) 283-8128

June 15, 2015

Cindy Hurst
Title I Coordinator
South Tower, Suite 600
115 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Hurst,

I am writing on behalf Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties Head Start Consortium in strong support of Harrison Primary Center's application for a School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G).

My name is Dr. Kathy Guajardo and I am the Executive Director for the Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties Head Start Consortium. We are 100% federally funded and serve 1020 Pre-School-Aged Children within the two counties providing Head Start services. In South Bend, we service 340 children per year. Additionally, we provide services for 36 infants and toddlers for South Bend Schools Teen Mom program and 24 infants and toddlers in Elkhart County.

Research shows that achievement gaps in persistently low-performing schools often occur prior to children entering kindergarten. High-quality early learning programs have proven to help close these gaps both for individual children and for the school as a whole. Research also indicates that the impact of high-quality pre-kindergarten on children's development is sustained when children experience a high-quality, aligned early elementary experience.

Historically, over seven years we have a documented waitlist of 390 or more for South Bend Schools territory (meaning full application with financial records for parents) of children/families who would qualify for Head Start services but due to lack of funding are not able to provide services for the families. These families will hopefully be serviced through the additional support offered through this initiative. We are excited about the collaboration as it will place more children into quality programs and opportunities that otherwise would not be available to these families.

The combination of enhanced Pre-K to 3 early learning programming, increased teacher capacity, targeted interventions and wraparound services along with an extended learning day through a School Improvement Grant at Harrison Primary Center will significantly help provide students with new opportunities for academic success.

Thank you for considering Harrison Primary Center's School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G) application for a grant award.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathy L. Guajardo



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Timothy Sexton
Associate Vice President

405 Main Building Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-4635
tel (574) 631-1785 email Timothy.D.Sexton.30@ND.EDU

June 25, 2015

Cindy Hurst
Title I Coordinator
South Tower, Suite 600
115 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Hurst,

I am writing this letter in support of Harrison Primary Center's application for a School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G). I serve as the Associate Vice President for Public Affairs at the University of Notre Dame. In this role, my team and I regularly interact with key partners in the community with the intent of improving the quality of life for all involved. Harrison Primary Center in South Bend, under the leadership of Mrs. Karban, has become a great partner with the University.

As background, the University of Notre Dame embraces its identity as a longstanding anchor institution in St. Joseph County and the surrounding region. The University's day-to-day operations, budget allocations, classroom and research initiatives, and public leadership consistently demonstrate an institutional commitment to community engagement for the common good. Collaborating with local schools like Harrison is an important element of our educational engagement strategy, particularly through efforts to impact children's academic performance early in their development.

Research shows that achievement gaps in persistently low-performing schools often occur prior to children entering kindergarten. High-quality early learning programs have proven to help close these gaps both for individual children and for the school as a whole. Research also indicates that the impact of high-quality pre-kindergarten on children's development is sustained when children experience a high-quality, aligned early elementary experience.

To support early success in school and to multiply the impact of the SIG grant, Notre Dame will provide tutoring through the ND Robinson Community Learning Center (in collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club of St. Joseph County); provide College Savings planning / advice to parents; engage faculty with expertise in elementary literature, particularly for Latino children and families; and encourage volunteer students to serve as mentors and/or research assistants for key initiatives at Harrison.

I anticipate that the combination of enhanced Pre-K to 3 early learning programming, increased teacher capacity, targeted interventions and wraparound services along with an extended learning day through a School Improvement Grant at Harrison Primary Center will significantly help provide students with new opportunities for academic success. Thank you for considering Harrison Primary Center's School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G) application for a grant award.

Sincerely,

Tim Sexton
Associate Vice President
Office of Public Affairs

United Way
of St. Joseph County

June 15, 2015

Cindy Hurst
Title I Coordinator
South Tower, Suite 600
115 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Hurst,

I am writing on behalf of the United Way of St. Joseph County in strong support of Harrison Primary Center's application for a School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G).

United Way of St. Joseph County is an independently-governed nonprofit organization connected to a network of more than 1,400 local United Ways through United Way Worldwide. Our strategic approach to community problem solving focuses on collaboration and collective impact. We work with more than 50 local partner agencies and over 12,000 donors, advocates and volunteers every year that in turn work with thousands of individuals and families living at or below the federal poverty level.

Research shows that achievement gaps in persistently low-performing schools, in many instances, manifest prior to children entering kindergarten. High-quality early learning programs have proven to demonstrate positive effects on closing these gaps both for individual children and in the aggregate for the school. Further, research indicates that the impact of high-quality pre-kindergarten on children's development is sustained when children experience a high-quality, aligned early elementary experience.

We believe that implementing early learning strategies through a School Improvement Grant at Harrison Primary Center will significantly help provide students with opportunities for academic success.

United Way has a long history of supporting South Bend School Corporation's programs and initiatives and is eager to support this early learning initiative through the School Improvement Grant by helping to secure additional resources for its success.

Please give Harrison Primary Center's School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G) application every consideration for a grant award.

Sincerely,



Matt Harrington
President/CEO

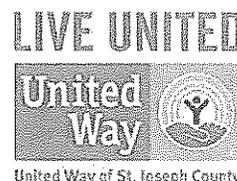


To mobilize the community to collectively reduce poverty.

3517 E. Jefferson Blvd.
South Bend, IN 46615

TEL. 574.232.8201
FAX. 574.239.2251

info@uwsjc.org
www.uwsjc.org





St. Joseph County Health Department

"Promoting physical and mental health and facilitating the prevention of disease, injury and disability for all St. Joseph County residents"

Dale D. Deardorff, M.D.
Interim Health Officer

Nicholas G. Molchan, R.E.H.S.
Administrator

Michael A. Harding
President, Board of Health

Dale D. Deardorff, M.D.
Vice President, Board of Health

June 17, 2015

Cindy Hurst
Title I Coordinator
South Tower, Suite 600
115 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Hurst,

I am writing on behalf of the St. Joseph County Health Department in strong support of Harrison Primary Center's application for a School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G).

The St. Joseph County Health Department, with a mission to promote physical and mental health and facilitate the prevention of disease, injury and disability for all residents, has had a strong history with the South Bend School Corporation providing numerous public health services and health education to all schools within the corporation.

Research shows that achievement gaps in persistently low-performing schools often occur prior to children entering kindergarten. High-quality early learning programs have proven to help close these gaps both for individual children and for the school as a whole. Research also indicates that the impact of high-quality pre-kindergarten on children's development is sustained when children experience a high-quality, aligned early elementary experience.

The St. Joseph County Health Department would provide evidence-based early childhood programming on physical activity and nutrition to lower students risk for becoming overweight or obese. Operating on a "fit kids are fit to learn" model, we would ensure the environment would lend itself to allow students to be creative and active which would enhance the learning and growing process. We would also assist families in understanding the importance of a healthy home environment and ensure families struggling to feed their families would be linked to resources to assist. The Department would also assist with providing other community resources and support when needed.

The combination of enhanced Pre-K to 3 early learning programming, increased teacher capacity, targeted interventions and wraparound services along with an extended learning day through a School Improvement Grant at Harrison Primary Center will significantly help provide students with new opportunities for academic success.

Thank you for considering Harrison Primary Center's School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G) application for a grant award.

Sincerely,

Robin Vida, MPH, CHES
Director of Health Education
(574)245-6749
rmeleski@co.st-joseph.in.us

))) WSBL-LP (((

93.5 FM Radio

South Bend Council 5001, Inc.



www.radiosaborlatino.com

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Flavio Ramírez

Michael Snyder

June 15, 2015

Ms. Cindy Hurst
Title I Coordinator
South Tower, Suite 600
115 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Hurst,

I am writing on behalf of Radio Sabor Latino in strong support of Harrison Primary Center's application for a School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G).

Radio Sabor Latino is a community radio station in South Bend with interest in all education efforts for the Hispanic community in St. Joseph County.

Research shows that achievement gaps in persistently low-performing schools often occur prior to children entering kindergarten. High-quality early learning programs have proven to help close these gaps both for individual children and for the school as a whole. Research also indicates that the impact of high-quality pre-kindergarten on children's development is sustained when children experience a high-quality, aligned early elementary experience.

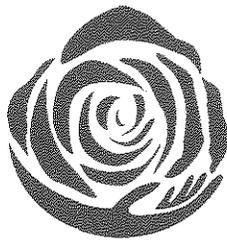
As in the last school year, Radio Sabor Latino will provide a venue for students of Harrison School to reach our listeners in their own one hour radio program every other week. The information they disseminate is of interest to all families with students in South Bend's school system, and we are glad to be able to be of service to our community this way.

The combination of enhanced Pre-K to 3 early learning programming, increased teacher capacity, targeted interventions and wraparound services along with an extended learning day through a School Improvement Grant at Harrison Primary Center will significantly help provide students with new opportunities for academic success.

Thank you for considering Harrison Primary Center's School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G) application for a grant award.

Sincerely,

Eliud R. Villanueva, Founder and Director



LA CASA
DE AMISTAD
YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTER

June 15, 2015

Cindy Hurst
Title I Coordinator
South Tower, Suite 600
115 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Hurst,

I am writing on behalf La Casa de Amistad's strong support of Harrison Primary Center's application for a School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G).

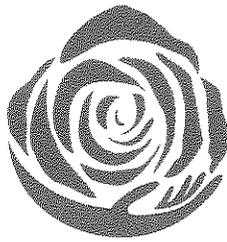
For over 40 years La Casa has been a pillar in the West Side of South Bend. Annually we serve nearly 1000 families and register well over 8000 individual contacts. Registration continues to increase in our youth programs, and we are now running a year around program with special summer sessions. This growth is related to the support of our generous community. This past fall many of our programs started full and with a wait list and we are looking for creative ways to grow our programs. Our success is rooted in the support of local organizations, and great local schools like the Harrison Primary Center.

Research shows that achievement gaps in persistently low-performing schools often occur prior to children entering kindergarten. High-quality early learning programs have proven to help close these gaps both for individual children and for the school as a whole. Research also indicates that the impact of high-quality pre-kindergarten on children's development is sustained when children experience a high-quality, aligned early elementary experience.

La Casa is proud to partner to provide our resources and expertise working with the Latino community to the staff, students and families served at Harrison. We work to provide afterschool programming, family and parent programming at our community center just a few blocks from the school. Our partnership also has us providing outreach programming at the school as well and very much appreciates the use of their space and connection to the families at the school.

OUR MISSION

To empower the Latino/Hispanic community within Michiana by providing educational, cultural and advocacy services in a welcoming, bilingual environment.



**LA CASA
DE AMISTAD**
YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTER

The combination of enhanced Pre-K to 3 early learning programming, increased teacher capacity, targeted interventions and wraparound services along with an extended learning day through a School Improvement Grant at Harrison Primary Center will significantly help provide students with new opportunities for academic success.

Thank you for considering Harrison Primary Center's School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G) application for a grant award.

Sincerely,

Sam Centellas
Executive Director

OUR MISSION

To empower the Latino/Hispanic community within Michiana by providing educational, cultural and advocacy services in a welcoming, bilingual environment.



SOUTH BEND COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

NAVARRE INTERMEDIATE CENTER

**4702 W. FORD ST. SOUTH BEND, IN 46619
TELEPHONE (574) 283-7345 FAX (574) 283-7351**

June 15, 2015

Cindy Hurst
Title I Coordinator
South Tower, Suite 600
115 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Hurst,

I am writing on behalf of Navarre Intermediate Center in strong support of Harrison Primary Center's application for a School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G).

Navarre Intermediate Center serves fifth through eighth grade students. Harrison Primary Center is our main feeder school. We have a strong partnership with them (mentor program, etc.).

Research shows that achievement gaps in persistently low-performing schools often occur prior to children entering kindergarten. High-quality early learning programs have proven to help close these gaps both for individual children and for the school as a whole. Research also indicates that the impact of high-quality pre-kindergarten on children's development is sustained when children experience a high-quality, aligned early elementary experience.

We have a vested interest in Harrison's success because the majority of our incoming fifth graders attended school there. Our students' success depends on the foundation that is built at Harrison.

The combination of enhanced Pre-K to 3 early learning programming, increased teacher capacity, targeted interventions and wraparound services along with an extended learning day through a School Improvement Grant at Harrison Primary Center will significantly help provide students with new opportunities for academic success.

Thank you for considering Harrison Primary Center's School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G) application for a grant award.

Sincerely,



Principal
Navarre Intermediate Center



June 17, 2015

Cindy Hurst
Title I Coordinator
South Tower, Suite 600
115 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Hurst,

I am writing on behalf of Clay Church in strong support of Harrison Primary Center's application for a School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G). Clay Church strives to encourage our congregation to be faithful witnesses that support others to grow and Live In Faith Every day. As a supporting partner with Harrison Primary Center, our leadership has witnessed first hand a fantastic commitment and incredible strides in improving the education for the children of South Bend.

Research shows that achievement gaps in persistently low-performing schools often occur prior to children entering kindergarten. High-quality early learning programs have proven to help close these gaps both for individual children and for the school as a whole. Research also indicates that the impact of high-quality pre-kindergarten on children's development is sustained when children experience a high-quality, aligned early elementary experience.

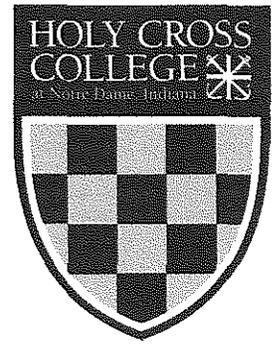
Clay Church is a partner with Harrison Primary Center to help provide academic, behavioral and emotional growth for their students. We have been and will continue supporting the early learning initiative by donating supplies, funds for the Gotcha Reading acknowledgment incentives, Thanksgiving and Christmas family food baskets, experiential learning transportation funds, and volunteer support.

The combination of enhanced Pre-K to 3 early learning programming, increased teacher capacity, targeted interventions and wraparound services along with an extended learning day through a School Improvement Grant at Harrison Primary Center will significantly help provide students with new opportunities for academic success. As supporters, we're excited for the possibilities, encouraged by the school leadership and teachers, and blessed to see the growth and leadership of the students.

Thank you for considering Harrison Primary Center's School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G), and we at Clay strongly support their application for the grant award.

Sincerely,

Rev. Brian Durand
Lead Pastor



June 16, 2015

Cindy Hurst
Title I Coordinator
South Tower, Suite 600
115 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Hurst,

I am writing on behalf of Holy Cross College in strong support of Harrison Primary Center's application for a School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G).

Holy Cross College is a four-year institution of higher learning, offering a liberal arts curriculum. Local, national, and international students enroll to earn their four-year BA degrees. As part of the liberal arts curriculum, a Teacher Education Program is offered through the education department. The mission is to prepare teachers to transform the lives of their future students. The inclusion of the area of English as a New Language (ENL) reflects the acknowledged need for beginning teachers to be culturally competent in working with children from all language backgrounds.

Research shows that achievement gaps in persistently low-performing schools often occur prior to children entering kindergarten. High-quality early learning programs have proven to help close these gaps both for individual children and for the school as a whole. Research also indicates that the impact of high-quality pre-kindergarten on children's development is sustained when children experience a high-quality, aligned early elementary experience.

The Teacher Education Program at HCC has been in collaboration with Harrison Primary Center for many years. Teacher candidates are able to assist in the early learning initiative through family literacy programming, and in working with mentor teachers in the classrooms. Pre-service teachers serve as instructional support, which, in turn, allows for more time for targeted interventions. Furthermore, Holy Cross College provides ongoing professional development on how to work with language minority students and their families.

The combination of enhanced Pre-K to 3 early learning programming, increased teacher capacity, targeted interventions and wraparound services along with an extended learning day through a School Improvement Grant at Harrison Primary Center will significantly help provide students with new opportunities for academic success.

Thank you for considering Harrison Primary Center's School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G) application for a grant award.

Sincerely,
Carmen E. Macharaschwili, PhD
Chair, Education Department
Holy Cross College
54515 State Road 933 North
Notre Dame, IN 46556



INDIANA UNIVERSITY
SOUTH BEND

June 15, 2015

Cindy Hurst
Title I Coordinator
South Tower, Suite 600
115 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Hurst,

I am writing as the Director of Student Teaching and Clinical Practice for IU South Bend in strong support of Harrison Primary Center's application for a School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G).

In my role as the Director of Student Teaching and Clinical Practice, I develop partnerships with area schools and districts to place teacher candidates in the education programs at IU South Bend to gain experience in the field of education prior to student teaching and student teaching. Additionally, I am responsible for identifying effective educators, who are no longer in the field of education, to supervise student teachers during student teaching. Harrison Primary Center has partnered with IU South Bend in the co-teaching placements for many teacher candidates in Elementary Education to provide models of effective instruction and leadership in teacher education preparation for future educators. Most recently, a graduate student of IU South Bend's Special Education program is employed at Harrison Primary Center as a Special Education teacher. Comments regarding this teacher include her wealth of knowledge of Special Education, ability to write and implement Individual Education Plans, as well as her skills in differentiating instruction to meet student needs.

Research shows that achievement gaps in persistently low-performing schools often occur prior to children entering kindergarten. High-quality early learning programs have proven to help close these gaps both for individual children and for the school as a whole. Research also indicates that the impact of high-quality pre-kindergarten on children's development is sustained when children experience a high-quality, aligned early elementary experience.

As part of our Early Childhood program, IU South Bend students complete field experiences and student teaching in Early Childhood settings. I am in support of partnering with Harrison Primary Center for placement of future educators in the field of Early Childhood, as well as encouraging our IU South Bend faculty to provide professional development on the latest research and evidence-based practices in the field of Early Childhood education.

The combination of enhanced Pre-K to 3 early learning programming, increased teacher capacity, targeted interventions and wraparound services along with an extended learning day through a School Improvement Grant at Harrison Primary Center will significantly help provide students with new opportunities for academic success.

Thank you for considering Harrison Primary Center's School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G) application for a grant award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Talandra Neff".

Talandra Neff, Director of Student Teaching & Clinical Practice
Indiana University South Bend

tneff@iusb.edu
(574) 520-4359



SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE
NOTRE DAME • INDIANA

June 19, 2015

Cindy Hurst
Title I Coordinator
South Tower, Suite 600
115 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Hurst,

I am writing on behalf of the Saint Mary's College Office for Civic and Social Engagement (OCSE), in strong support of Harrison Primary Center's application for a School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G).

The Saint Mary's College OCSE serves as a resource for the Saint Mary's College community to identify and participate in community service opportunities within the South Bend Community. In particular, the OCSE is committed to establishing and maintaining partnerships with Title I schools in South Bend to provide additional resources and support for K-12 students in our community. Since 2006, the OCSE has worked with primary and intermediate centers in South Bend to create an after-school tutoring program, a teacher's assistant program, a pen pal program, and other events promoting literacy.

In the 2014-2015 school year, our office was privileged to partner with Harrison Primary Center to help provide additional support and resources for Harrison students. Saint Mary's students were placed in classrooms at Harrison to help with small group work, reading with children, and other tasks identified by teachers that help to improve student achievement. In addition, we established an after-school tutoring program in which Saint Mary's students were matched with 1-2 Harrison students to further develop their reading fluency and comprehension and facilitate activities that reinforce the academic skills learned in the classroom. The Saint Mary's College OCSE is excited to continue our partnership with Harrison Primary Center and to continue to support their initiative to provide high-quality early learning to each of their students.

High-quality early learning programs have proven to help close the achievement gap, both for individual children and for the school as a whole. The combination of enhanced Pre-K to 3 early learning programming, increased teacher capacity, targeted interventions and wraparound services along with an extended learning day through a School Improvement Grant at Harrison Primary Center will significantly help provide students with new opportunities for academic success.

Thank you for considering Harrison Primary Center's School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G) application for a grant award.

Sincerely,

Samira M. Payne
Assistant Director, Office for Civic and Social Engagement
Saint Mary's College

Saint Mary's College • Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-5001

Office of Civic and Social Engagement • Telephone (574) 284-5368 • Fax (574) 284-4716

www.saintmarys.edu



June 15, 2015

Cindy Hurst
Title I Coordinator
South Tower, Suite 600
115 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Hurst,

I am writing on behalf of the Foster Grandparent Program of St. Joseph County in strong support of Harrison Primary Center's application for a School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G).

The Foster Grandparent Program offers individuals, aged 55 and older, the opportunity to serve as a role model, mentor, tutor and friend to children and youth with special/exceptional needs or who are considered to be at risk.

Research shows that achievement gaps in persistently low-performing schools often occur prior to children entering kindergarten. High-quality early learning programs have proven to help close these gaps both for individual children and for the school as a whole. Research also indicates that the impact of high-quality pre-kindergarten on children's development is sustained when children experience a high-quality, aligned early elementary experience.

The majority of Foster Grandparents serve 20 hours a week and receives a stipend of \$ 2.65 an hour. Foster Grandparents perform a variety of tasks such as listening to children read, reading to children, talking to kids who are struggling, and help with assignments. They provide encouragement and affirmation, giving attention, encouragement and friendship to children.

The combination of enhanced Pre-K to 3 early learning programming, increased teacher capacity, targeted interventions and wraparound services along with an extended learning day through a School Improvement Grant at Harrison Primary Center will significantly help provide students with new opportunities for academic success.

Thank you for considering Harrison Primary Center's School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G) application for a grant award.

Sincerely,

Pamela Welch, csc
Foster Grandparent Program Director

Real Services, Inc.

1151 S. Michigan St.
P.O. Box 1835
South Bend, IN 46634
Phone: 574.233.8205
Toll Free: 800.552.2916
Fax: 574.284.2642

Alzheimer's &
Dementia Services

922 E. Colfax Ave.
South Bend, IN 46617
574.232.4121
Help: 888.303.0180
Fax: 574.232.4235

Community Services

574.284.2060

Energy Assistance

574.232.6501
800.225.3367
Fax: 574.236.4891

Meals on Wheels
Nutrition Services

574.256.1649

Case Management
and Pre-Admission
Screening Offices

Elkhart Co.
574.206.1551

Kosciusko Co.
574.269.1173

LaPorte Co.
219.324.4199

Marshall Co.
574.936.3175

St. Joseph Co.
574.284.2644

800.552.7928 (Indiana)

www.realservices.org

AREA 2 AGENCY ON AGING: Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaPorte, Marshall and St. Joseph Counties
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY: Elkhart, Fulton, Kosciusko, Marshall and St. Joseph Counties
ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA SERVICES: Elkhart, Jasper, Kosciusko, Lake, LaPorte, Marshall,
Newton, Porter, Pulaski, St. Joseph and Starke Counties



Nancy L. Ickler
Executive Director
nancy.ickler@asantefound.org

July 3, 2015

Cindy Hurst
Title I Coordinator
South Tower, Suite 600
115 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Ms. Hurst:

I am writing on behalf of Asante Foundation, Inc., in support of Harrison Primary Center's application for a School Improvement Grant (SIG 1003G).

Asante Foundation, Inc. is a charitable grant making organization that funds educational programs in South Bend, Indiana, as well as other basic needs. We believe that the period from birth to eighth grade is especially important for a child's success, and so we have made grants to meet key needs for children in that age range, for example: an early literacy program, Talk With Your Baby, which we helped convene; Family Literacy through the South Bend Community School Corporation; training in the LiPS and Wilson reading methods for South Bend elementary schools; other teacher development programs; and after-school programs.

Most significantly for this grant application, we have for many years provided half the funding for the Early Years Count Education Initiative described in the letter of support from The Family Connection. The Family Connection's work in bringing the evidence-based, child-centered High Scope curriculum to early childhood programs in South Bend has addressed a great need in our community. Ann Rosen and Sue Christensen and their team are hugely energetic, professional, thorough and much respected, and participating early education programs have shown remarkable improvement. Their methodology can be summarized as: assess, train, assess, and do it again. We are thrilled that they have recently begun working in high-need South Bend public schools to bring some of the same methods and principles to K-4 classrooms through Responsive Classroom training. Principal Patty Karban of Harrison Primary Center has shown great leadership in embracing this and other opportunities for her faculty and students.

Ms. Karban has developed relationships with many organizations that partner with the school to support a community of learning—HeadStart, El Campito dual-language preschool, area colleges and universities that send tutors, Purdue Extension offering nutrition classes, 100 Black Men providing mentoring and financial support, the Latino Task Force helping with parent outreach, La Casa de Amistad providing tutoring and adult education, Boys & Girls Clubs and other after-school programs, Notre Dame offering art and athletic enrichment on its campus—just to name a few. She will bring the same energy, inventiveness and collaborative spirit to the use of a School Improvement Grant.

Cindy Hurst
July 3, 2015

Most of the students attending Harrison Primary Center come from families that struggle in one way or another. A School Improvement Grant will give the school the capacity to meet these children's needs and put them on the road to success.

Thank you for considering Harrison Primary Center's School Improvement Grant application to fund enhanced early learning.

Yours truly,

ASANTE FOUNDATION, INC.

Nancy L. Ickler
Executive Director