

**Salina  
Child Care  
Association, Inc.**

**155 N. Oakdale Salina, KS67401 (785)827-6431**

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September 5, 2012

Mr. Andrew T. Martin  
Executive Director  
Salina Area United Way  
P.O. Box 335  
128 N. Santa Fe, Suite 3A  
Salina, Kansas 67401

Dear Andy,

The purpose of this letter is to express gratitude to the Salina Area United Way (SAUW), its Board of Directors, volunteers, business and individual donors for funding our 2013 S.M.A.R.T. Community Improvement Grant Application. We understand that this generous gift from the Salina area community represents 9.08% of the dollars granted by the United Way to strengthen the Salina area community. In short, this gift will be one of the largest grants we receive in 2013 and makes up 10% of our operating revenue.

Our grant application requested funding to improve education by inspiring and motivating children and youth to achieve their full potential. Our organization staff, Board and volunteers are proud to partner with the United Way to create lasting change for the common good of all with meaningful and measurable results to improve lives and strengthen Salina area communities.

It is a well known fact that graduation from high school and transition to post secondary education or employment are the ultimate intent, purpose and goal of all stages of the education system. This system is defined by a developmental process with basic principles and values that drive the effectiveness of each stage of development. In 2009 SAUW agreed to work on a shared goal of helping children enter school ready to learn and succeed later in life. Our purpose is to support families in helping children enter school developmentally on track in the areas of literacy and social, emotional and intellectual skills, elementary students are prepared to succeed in later grades,

From 2013 to 2015 our measurable **S.M.A.R.T. Community Improvement Grant Goal** is that 80% of 5 year olds at Salina Child Care Center will have achieved 10 of 10 school readiness skills, including the ability to count to 20, recognize all letters, write their own names and read or act like they are reading.

In 2012, 65% of our students met this specific goal, an increase from the 12% who met the goal in 2011. We continue to make progress toward achieving this goal by additional staff training in school readiness skills and using a developmental checklist to track development progress and we will continue to work in partnership with other SAUW agencies.

In closing, I would like to share with you just one story of how **meaningful and powerfully** the work we are doing helps to advance our community. A single mother writes that her son made great progress while in our program and learned many of the skills he needed to be well prepared for kindergarten. She credits our staff for the early education her son received.

Thank you again for all United Way does to advance our community. We are proud to LIVE UNITED with Salina Area United Way, other funded partners, business and individual donors.

Sincerely,

  
Elaine Edwards  
Executive Director