



Building A Caring Community – One Family At A Time

August 16, 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 2012 S.M.A.R.T. Community Improvement Grant Application. We understand that this generous gift represents over 4.53% of the over \$760,000 granted by the United Way to strengthen the Salina area community.

Our grant application requested funding to improve the financial stability of the homeless families and individuals we serve through computer-based trainings on adult education opportunities, employment skills, and financial literacy coupled with one-on-one case management support. 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 financial stability is critical to the education and health of a family. In 2009, Ashby House and SAUW agreed to work on a shared goal of increasing the financial stability of families in the Salina area. Our purpose is work together to educate families on how to manage their expenses and debt to become economically self-sufficient. From 2010 to 2012, our measurable **S.M.A.R.T. Community Improvement Grant Goal** at Ashby House is to increase the number and percent of homeless families paying off 50% of their debt. The agency was able to surpass this target by the end of 2011 with a total of 51.2% of our families and individuals achieving this goal.

In closing, I would like to share with you just one story of how **meaningful and powerfully** the work we are doing together to advance our community. Sandi Green writes that she is a former resident of the Ashby House. Upon her arrival, she was over \$33,000 in debt. She managed to eliminate \$22,180.86 of her entire debt by the end of her stay. Sandi now participates in Ashby House's new long-term housing program for women who do not qualify for low-income housing or who want to remain on the Ashby House campus due to a history of chronic relapse, and she has already reduced her total past-due debt by another \$770.50 while managing to pay her rent and bills on time every month. She is just one example of the accomplishments the men and women we serve are capable of if offered the right tools to succeed.

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,

Bryan Anderson, Executive Director