



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
NATIONALLY ACCREDITED SINCE 2004

1215 N. Santa Fe  
P.O. Box 1883  
Salina, KS 67402-1883  
785/827-3841

September 12, 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 of over \$45,000 of the Salina area community represents over 6% of the over \$760,000 granted by the United Way to strengthen the Salina area community. In short, this gift is the largest grant we received in 2011 and makes up 11% 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 and 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 Martin Luther King will achieve 10 of 10 school readiness skills including count to 20, recognize all letters, write their own names and read or act like they are reading.

In 2012, 80% of our students are achieving this success before kindergarten. In 2012 we made progress toward achieving this goal by training more staff in school readiness skills and using a developmental checklist to track development progress. We 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 together to advance our community. We have allowed Lynnea Cook to work while giving her son Mareon Hightower a safe, comfortable place to play learn, and grow in order to enter school ready learn and succeed later in life. The financial assistance has allowed her to go to work and be able to provide for her family.

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,

  
Karen Henderson  
Executive Director



Community Partner