



August 28, 2012

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

Dear Andy,

The purpose of this letter is to say thank you to the Salina Area United Way (SAUW), its Board of Directors, volunteers, business and individual donors for funding our 2013-2015 S.M.A.R.T. Community Improvement Grant Application. We understand that this gift represents 5.49% of the total granted by the United Way to strengthen the Salina area community. Which based on last year's total is around \$41,175 or 1.5% of our total operating budget.

Our grant application requested funding to improve education by inspiring and motivating children and their families to reach 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 families.

It is a known fact that graduation from high school and transition to post secondary education or employment is the ultimate intent, purpose and goal of all stages of the education system. The system is defined by a developmental process with basic principles and values that drive the effectiveness of each stage of development. In 2009 the YMCA and the SAUW agreed to work on a shared goal of helping children enter kindergarten developmentally on track in the areas of literacy and social, emotional and intellectual skills and to assist parents in developing skills to help their kids to reach these goals.

From 2013 to 2015 our measurable **S.M.A.R.T. Community Improvement Grant Goal** is that at least 80% of 5 year olds at the Salina Family YMCA will achieve 10 out of 10 school readiness skills including counting to 20, recognizing all letters, write their own names and read or act like they are reading.

In 2012, 59% of our students are achieving this success before kindergarten. In 2011 we made significant progress toward achieving our goal by training more staff in school readiness skills and using a developmental checklist to track developmental progress. We continue to work in partnership with other SAUW agencies to achieve our goal.

In closing, I would like to assure you that the YMCA has always and will continue to work to better our child care programs and provide the best of care to families.

Thank you for all the United Way does to advance our community. We are proud to **LIVE UNITED!**

Sincerely,

DeWayne Donaldson
President/CEO

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