



YMCA

We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.

March 20, 2007

Dear Mayor Foy and Council Members,

For the past 12 years the Chapel Hill - Carrboro YMCA has been working with the Town of Chapel Hill to provide free after school childcare for children from low income neighborhoods throughout Chapel Hill and Carrboro. During this time, we have provided quality care that has continued to improve year after year. We have also increased the number of neighborhoods that we are able to serve.

This year I made a critical mistake and a big error in judgment and planning, and did not meet the deadline for submitting grant request for funding. The grant application was due by 5:00pm on Wednesday, February 28th. It was turned in on Friday, March 2nd at 9:00am. I realized that I had missed the deadline on Thursday morning when I returned from a conference and immediately contacted Loryn Clark to inform her of my mistake and tell her that we were planning to apply and that I would have the proposal to her by Friday morning. You all received a letter from me in January stating that the YMCA was interested in applying for the Community Block Grant again in 2007-2008. I have enclosed another copy of this letter for your review.

My personal mistake should in no way negatively reflect the YMCA and its dedication to the outreach program and serving the Chapel Hill and Carrboro communities. I realize that I made a mistake and I am not expecting you to make an exception for me personally but for you to strongly consider the reputation that the YMCA has in this community and its commitment for serving our Outreach families. The outreach children should not be penalized because of my error.

Part of our YMCA's mission is to provide quality child care for all families in need of such a service regardless of their financial abilities. We are able to provide scholarships to families through grants and personal donations to our Strong Kids Program. Ordinarily, families are required to pay a portion of the cost of the care they receive; however, there has been an

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exception given to the outreach families in the past since the Town has helped to offset the expenses for the program.

Unfortunately, if we are unable to receive funding for this coming school year, the YMCA will have to make adjustments in its operating budget to accommodate an expense such as the outreach program. Several adjustments could include serving fewer than 12 children and possibly eliminating the outreach counselor position which will mean we will not be able to provide the individualized care for the children of the outreach program. The YMCA has looked at alternative ways to secure the funding for this program and has been unsuccessful thus far since many of the deadlines for other grant opportunities have also passed.

I have been at this YMCA for almost 7 years and have been fortunate to see many kids from our outreach program grow up at the YMCA; some moving on to be leaders in the community and at the YMCA. These outreach children have been able to enjoy many wonderful experiences each day at the YMCA and have had the opportunity to receive support and resources that will hopefully one day help them become successful adults that will give back to their communities.

It is for the reasons listed above that I ask you to consider funding our grant proposal for the 2007-2008 school year. I apologize again for missing the deadline and you can be assured that this mistake will not happen again.

Sincerely,

Whitney Kahn
Youth Director



YMCA

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January 30, 2007

Dear Mayor Foy and Council Members,

My name is Whitney Kahn and I am the Youth Director at the Chapel Hill - Carrboro YMCA. I am unable to attend the public hearing on Wednesday, January 31, 2007 due to a previous commitment; however, I would like to request your continued support of our outreach program through the Community Block Grant Funds. Our Outreach Program at the YMCA serves 12 children, from several low-income neighborhoods. These children range in age from Kindergarten through Eighth grade. Our program consists of homework assistance, physical activity and social skills within the after school program involving over two-hundred children. These children are given the opportunity to have staff and volunteers provide them with one-on-one assistance with homework as well as resources such as books, computers and school materials to ensure their academic success.

For the last 12 years, we have been able to provide care for children from the South Estes and Pine Knolls Communities. This year, we were excited to have the opportunity to also serve the Airport Gardens community. All the children in the program have been very successful and have had the ability to enjoy and benefit from the same program that so many Chapel Hill and Carrboro children do each year. Without this grant, it would not be possible to provide such a great service to so many children.

We look forward to the opportunity to continue the grant with the Town of Chapel Hill and ensure that these children and others will continue to strive to their very best. The after school hours have been seen as some of the most influential in a child's life, and we are so grateful that we are able to affect so many lives each day. Thank you again for allowing us another opportunity to build strong kids, strong families and strong communities. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at wkahn@chcymca.org or 442-YMCA(9622).

Sincerely,

Whitney Kahn