



# Auburn's Neighborhood Program

*"keeping Auburn a great place to live & raise kids"*

Dept. of Planning & Community Development  
25 West Main Street, Auburn, WA 98001  
phone: 253-804-5029

April 19, 2001

Linda Wolf  
The Daughters Sisters Project  
P.O. Box 4492  
Rolling Bay WA. 98061.

SUBJECT: Letter of Support

Dear Linda,

Please feel free to circulate this letter of support. As you know, volunteers and AmeriCorps members serving in the City of Auburn's Neighborhood Program have attended your workshops for the past two years. We also use your consulting services to train our AmeriCorps members on how to effectively talk to teens. I keep sending people to your workshops because of the results they generate after attending your training sessions.

Our AmeriCorps members and volunteers serve as mentors to teens at high-risk of academic failure. They serve as intervention specialist at two middle schools. They tutor truant students and facilitate a support group for teenage girls at high risk of teen pregnancy. Most of the students they serve are referred to them by teachers, juvenile court or counselors. They frequently use the anger management, mediation, mentoring and facilitation skills that you taught them. In particular, the support groups they organize use your "talking circles" model or concept.

The results they achieve are commendable. Approximately 70% of the students served increase their attendance at school. Among the students with BECCA referrals, 80% of them are still in school and their absentee rates have been cut in half. The support group that uses the "talking circles" concept is also very successful. None of the girls in the group have dropped out of school. Only one girl out 17 served over the past two years became pregnant. The grade point average of the participants is higher than the school average. Two graduates from last year's group are currently in college and return each week to help facilitate this year's group.

You once said that you help people "discover" their self-esteem. The emphasis of your approach is to focus on the intrinsic value, heritage and self-worth that is in each of us. Our AmeriCorps members and volunteers successfully use the non-judgmental, nurturing approach that you taught them. Most of the young people they serve appear to be developing into resilient adults with positive perspectives for a self-reliant future.

You have done a commendable job organizing an outstanding program. Feel free to have people contact me for more information or details.

Sincerely,

F.W. "Bill" Mandeville  
Program Coordinator



Washington Service Corps Project  
*A member of the AmeriCorps National Service Corporation*

