

USD 500 Homeless Liaison

Partnership Letter with Ozanam



Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools

Office of the Homeless Liaison

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May 8, 2008

Dorothy Loyd
Vice President of Transitional Services
3549 Broadway
Kansas City, MO 64111

Dear Ms. Loyd,

This letter is to confirm USD 500's Office of the Homeless Liaison program's commitment to providing case management services to the unaccompanied youth residing in Ozanam-Pathway's HUD funded transitional living program in Wyandotte County. This amounts to an in-kind donation of services to ensure that program youth will attend school in USD 500, and reach academic success. HUD provides \$22,660 in funding for our case management position each year; this is matched by USD 500 in the amount of \$7,553.

USD 500, the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools, Office of the Homeless Liaison works with over 700 homeless children and youth each school year. We are based in the Willa Gill soup kitchen, and consistently see young people struggling to access resources. Many of our students are attempting to finish high school, even though they are homeless. They sleep in cars, abandoned houses, or wander the street.

Ozanam's proposed program would provide an immensely valuable resource for our community of homeless and runaway youth. As a public school, we are committed to making it possible for our students to reach their educational goals. This cannot be achieved without a stable foundation. Homeless and runaway youth desperately need the stability associated with secure housing. Ozanam's program can mean the difference between our children and youth dropping out of school, and facing a lifetime of challenges, or having the foundation that permits graduation, a high school diploma and a promising future.

As an agency, we welcome Ozanam's participation in our community.

Sincerely yours,

Staci Pratt

USD 500 Homeless Liaison