

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. letter	[Various letters from parents/students re: student's problems] (12 pages)	ca. 1997	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 23247

FOLDER TITLE:

[Letters 1999-2000: Last Names Starting with "I"] [2]

2013-0534-S
ry1629

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 14, 1999

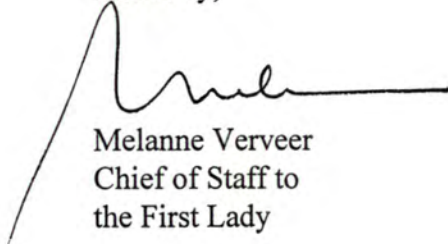
Mildred Leet
Trickle Up Program
121 West 27th Street #504
New York, NY 10001

Dear Mildred:

Thank you for your kind letter and the information about Trickle Up (you may not recall but years ago when I worked at People for the American Way, you told me all about Trickle Up.) The organization does great work and the First Lady was honored to send a greeting. It is heartening to know the event was such a success!

Very best wishes and thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

June 10, 1999

Mildred Leet
Trickle Up Program
121 West 27th Street #504
New York, NY 10001

Dear Mildred:

Thank you for your kind letter and the information about Trickle Up. ~~Mrs. Clinton regretted not being able to attend the event on May 5 but was honored to send a greeting.~~ It is heartening to know the event was such a success!

Very best wishes and thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

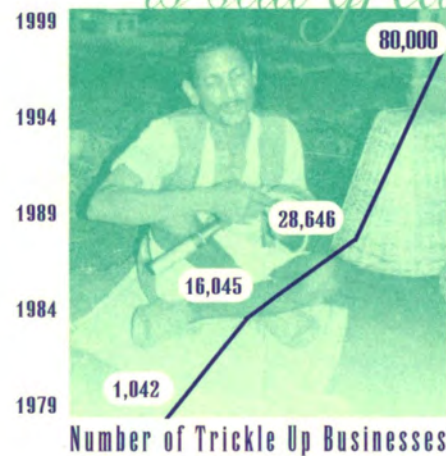
(you may not recall
but years ago
when I
worked at
People for the
American
Way, you
told me
all about
Trickle Up.)

The agency's
does great work &
the First Lady
was honored
to send a
greeting.

Trickle Up is turning 20!



*The need for
Trickle Up
is still great*



121 West 27th Street, Suite 504
New York, NY 10001
Tel: 212-362-7958
Fax: 212-877-7464
E-mail: info@trickleup.org
Web: <http://www.trickleup.org>

*The Trickle Up Program is a 501 (c) (3) organization
All contributions are tax deductible*



Trickle Up

Trickle Up Timeline

- 1979** Glen Leet and Mildred Robbins Leet start 10 Trickle Up businesses in the Caribbean island of Dominica with \$1,000
- 1981** Program expands to Central America in partnership with United Nations Development Programme in Costa Rica
- 1981** Trickle Up enters Asia, starting businesses in Sri Lanka
- 1982** Trickle Up enters Africa, with businesses started in Kenya
- 1983** Receives first grant from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), for partnership in five countries
- 1984** Trickle Up is published as a UN document entitled "Liberating the Potential of the Poor"
- 1986** Receives first grant from the Government of the Netherlands, starting a ten-year relationship
- 1987** The Leets return to Dominica and find seven of the first 10 businesses still continuing after 8 years
- 1989** 10,000th Trickle Up business is started
- 1990** Introduces Enterprise Zone initiative for communities
- 1991** UNDP premieres the video "If Given the Opportunity" featuring Trickle Up
- 1993** Cao Hai Nature Reserve project is started in China in partnership with the International Crane Foundation
- 1994** Initiates Cost-Sharing Project in Liberia with the UNDP
- 1994** USA Pilot Project starts with a grant from A&S Federated Stores
- 1996** Website debuts
- 1997** Fisher/Peck Evaluation in Ecuador and Guatemala reveals a 90% business continuity rate after three years
- 1998** Co-Founder Glen Leet dies at the age of 89
- 1998** 500th business is launched in the United States
- 1999** 20th Anniversary — more than 75,000 businesses are started

TRICKLE UP: *An Answer to Poverty that Works*

The Trickle Up Program was founded 20 years ago. Its purpose is to reduce poverty by helping the poor work their way out of poverty by helping them launch their own small businesses. It began with the belief that people, no matter how poor, have dreams, skills and the desire to move out of poverty. However, too often they lack the opportunity to obtain capital and gain the trust of others. Working in partnership with local community organizations, Trickle Up starts where the people are, and the money goes directly to them. Women and men agree to plan and work together and start a business of their own design.

"The concept of 'Trickle Up' is the best thing I have ever heard of as a means of helping the little person get a start; to realize an ambition, goal or dream."

Jack Webster, Trickle Up entrepreneur in the U.S.

In the past two decades, this international nonprofit organization has helped start or expand over 75,000 businesses in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Central & Eastern Europe. Over half a million people have used their own ideas and seed capital from Trickle Up to begin to move up out of poverty — themselves. Evaluations have shown that 90% of the businesses continue after three years. With support from individuals, foundations, corporations, the United Nations and the government of the Netherlands, Trickle Up has become one of the pioneers in the microenterprise movement.

Trickle Up creates opportunities by providing entrepreneurs with \$100 in conditional start-up capital (\$700 in the US) and basic business training to start or expand small businesses. Low-income entrepreneurs seize the opportunity to turn a business idea into a reality, starting businesses, enhance their economic self-reliance, and improve their standard of living.

Over 300 active and committed partner Coordinating Agencies collaborate with Trickle Up, adding value to each Trickle Up investment. These grassroots volunteer development organizations incorporate Trickle Up into their work, strengthening poverty alleviation.

The past twenty years have demonstrated that Trickle Up works. There is much still to do, however, as the number of poor people in the world is growing — just about everywhere. Nearly 1.5 billion people live in poverty, forced to survive on less than \$1 a day. The gap between rich and poor is growing.



"The Trickle Up Program is certainly one of the most successful in the area of poverty eradication...I applaud the dedication and commitment that both of you have made towards creating choices for the poor."

Letter from James Gustave Speth, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to Trickle Up founders Mildred Robbins Leet and Glen Leet

Rabbits to Retail

In 1982 Helena Plaza was one of the first to benefit from the Trickle Up Program in Africa, qualifying for seed capital to start a donut business in Dschang, Cameroon. Since then her business has changed with the market—raising rabbits, then raising chickens for eggs and meat, and now running a retail grocery shop. From her modest beginnings, Helen now operates one of the most successful shops in the local marketplace. She is an inspiration to other Trickle Up entrepreneurs, teaching them where and how to buy materials and helping them promote their enterprises.

Helen contributes regularly to local savings and credit associations and has qualified for several loans to help fund the continued growth of her business. With profits from her business, she has been able to put her son and extended family members through school.

Crafting Success

Four years ago Gregorio and Eusebia Taipei started a Trickle Up business making traditional handicrafts in their native Peru. In this short time, the business has expanded from their home to a store. Gregorio's words capture their feelings:

"We thank Trickle Up for helping us develop our

business. To some extent, we have left poverty, but there are others here who are very poor and they need help. Now we live in a two-story house with a store in the front that is partly finished in cement and has a sturdy metal and clay tile roof. Our clothes are better and also our food. Before we ate potatoes and grain from our land. Now we can buy fruits and vegetables. Our children are in school, and our oldest is in university!"

From the Street to the Marketplace

As a young married couple with two daughters, Suprato and his wife struggled to make a living by selling drinks and snacks on a side street in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Their income was barely enough to get by and they could not qualify for a loan to expand. In 1994 they heard about Trickle Up from a representative with a Coordinating Agency.

Suprato used the first \$50 from Trickle Up to buy a cart. The second \$50 made it possible to expand their menu and they now sell local rice dishes, fried chicken and vegetables from a permanent stall in the market. Each morning they prepare the food while caring for their two daughters and every evening Suprato sells the food. Averaging sales of \$60 a day and making more than a \$12 profit, Suprato has big plans for the future.



May 5, 1999 Celebration

Welcome

Wendy Gordon Rockefeller, Co-Chair of 20th Anniversary Committee

Mildred Robbins Leet, Founder and President, Trickle Up Program

Remarks

Barber Conable, Former President, The World Bank

Celeste Holm, Arts Activist

Jack Hidary, President and CEO, EarthWeb

John Stossel, ABC News Correspondent

Suzan Habachy, Executive Director, Trickle Up Program



121 West 27th Street, Suite 504 • New York, NY 10001 • (212) 362-7958 • Fax: (212) 877-7464
e-mail: info@trickleup.org • www.trickleup.org

20th
1979-1999

Founders and President

Glen Leet (1908-1998)
*Mildred Robbins Leet

Executive Director

Suzan Habachy

Board of Directors

Robert J. Berg
Kurt Brouwer
Jean T. Burgdorff
Francesco Cantarella
Bernell Grier
Mary Keane
Ron Nelson
Charles Nicol
Aileen Robbins
Wendy Gordon Rockefeller
David H. Russell
Nessim Shallon
Charles Slaughter
Dr. Richard Pough,
Director Emeritus
*Board Member

Counsel

Hon. Bertram Harnett

Advisory Council

Bolanle Awe
Dr. Rodrigo Carazo
Dr. Harlan Cleveland
Charlotte Conable
Rev. Theodore Hesburgh
Aziza Hussein
Dr. Ajaga Nji
Leticia R. Shahani
Helvi Sipila
M.S. Swaminathan
Carmen Delgado Votaw
Mary Burke Washington
Muhammad Yunus

Business Council

Dr. Amelia Augustus
Tom Bennett
Jason Berger
Richard Burghelm
Craig Dixon
Karen Gerard
Leslie Hawke
Martin F. Kahn
Mary Koveleskie
David Larkin
James MacPherson
Ron Nelson

Dear Melanne Derveer,
Though we never talked directly I did
leave messages on your machine related
to a May 5th event to which I hoped
Mrs. Clinton could either attend or send greetings.
She did send greetings which were
received enthusiastically by three
hundred guests. Everyone was so pleased.
I am enclosing for your information
the program of the event - and a bit about
Trickle Up.

I want to thank you for your kind
consideration, and, once again, thank
you for forwarding a speech of Mrs. Clinton
that you felt might be of interest to
me. It was.

Sincerely,
Mildred Robbins Leet

May 10, 1999

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 14, 1999

Dr. Florence Tobo Lobe
B.P. 3397 Douala
Cameroun, West Africa

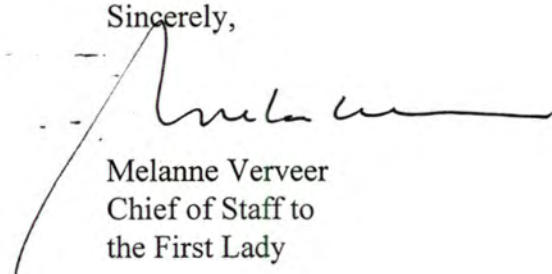
Dear Dr. Tobo:

On behalf of the First Lady, thank you for your fax and for forwarding Le Parisian's request to interview Mrs. Clinton.

Regrettably, Mrs. Clinton will not be able to do the interview with Sean Cormier. We do appreciate your intervention but are sorry we can't schedule it at this time, given the competing demands on Mrs. Clinton.

Mrs. Clinton was so pleased to see you. Best wishes to you in your important work.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

Dr. Florence TOBO LOBE '69
B.P. 3397 Douala
Cameroun, West Africa

June 7, 1999

*unable
to do
interview*

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
c/o Pam Cicceti
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Hillary,

It was a thrill seeing you again. Thank you for the June 3rd most memorable and so significant pre-reunion party at the White House. My son Oliver and I had a ball!

On that evening I intervened on behalf of Le Parisian, concerning their request to interview you. You accepted the letter I delivered from them. I am hereby sending you more information about the journalist, who will be honored if you would agree to answer his questions.

Le Parisian is the largest French newspaper with a daily distribution of two million papers. My friend, Jean Cormier, is "grand reporter" since 1969 (an important year for all of us)! He wrote eleven books, one of which is the biography of Che Guevara. He has interviewed a lot of well known people such as Nelson Mandela, Menem (Argentina), Fidel Castro, Marco Maciel (Brazil), and also Mrs. Audrey Hepburn and Mrs. Daniele Mitterand.

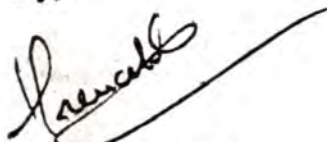
The French people are very supportive of the wonderful work you have accomplished as the First Lady. They are fond of your extraordinary personality, your shrewdness and your engagement in world issues.

I would appreciate it if you would respond to me with this request and I will then contact Le Parisian.

As for me, I would like, at your convenience, to discuss the possibility of my working for you in Africa on issues in which you have immersed yourself in the United States, specifically women's education. I am also enclosing my resume.

I appreciate your consideration of these matters and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Florence TOBO LOBE

Tel/Fax (237) 42 69 97

Objectifs



Cabinet d'Expertises, de Conseil, de Consultations et d'Analyses Physico-chimiques.

Structure multidisciplinaire, souple et performante qui gère une bonne connaissance de l'Afrique et des mécanismes des milieux d'affaires.

Par sa méthodologie d'approche et d'exécution rapide,



* mène des expertises industrielles dans le domaine de l'assainissement et de l'environnement;

* intervient dans des missions de Consultations Techniques, de Contrôle de qualité et de conformité;

* fait du Conseil en Organisation et en Management des Projets dans les secteurs de compétences diverses (les services, les eaux, les marchandises, ...)



Florence TOBO

- Docteur ès Chimie Organique de l'Université de Paris Sud
- Vice-Présidente de la Fondation Pierre CROUIGNEAU Pour la Recherche Scientifique & Technique
- Expert Technique agréé d'Etat
- Expert assermentée auprès des Tribunaux de Douala
- Animatrice de groupes de réflexion sur le "Gender Issue", l'Education, la Pauvreté et la Paix en Afrique
- Elle intervient dans le Conseil en Organisation et en mutations structurelles et de développement.

Présentation

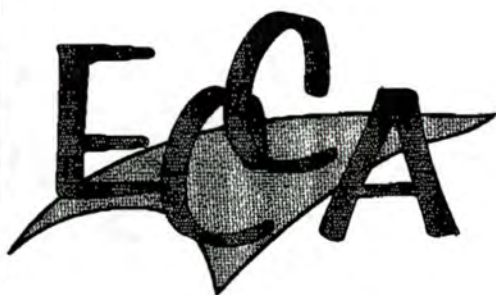
Pour mémoire...

Florence TOBO a été:

- Maître Assistant à la Faculté des Sciences de l'Université de Yaoundé;
- Directeur de Laboratoire d'une usine d'engrais à Douala (SOCAME)
- Senior Consultant auprès de diverses agences spécialisées des Nations Unies (PNUD, ONUDI, UNSO, UNIFEM, ...), des Banques internationales d'investissement (SFI, D.E.G., CDC), des Ministères et des Entreprises privées.

Dans le secteur des Services, elle a été pendant longtemps, de 1983 à 1996, le Conseiller Spécial du Groupe SOPPO, et notamment du Président Paul SOPPO PRISO, sur d'importants projets du secteur privé en Afrique (FEA/SFI) dans le suivi et l'évaluation des dossiers de montage et gestion de sociétés, la liquidation et la privatisation d'entreprises.

Contacts/Renseignements



1406, Avenue Paul SOPPO PRISO (Bonapriso)

Boîte Postale 3397 Douala - République du CAMEROUN

BUREAU: 7^e étage - Ex ONCPB

Tél. & Fax: (237) 42 69 97



EXPERTISES
CONSULTATIONS
CONSEILS
ANALYSES

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 13, 1999

Sara Sibley Lundine
2718 Route 394
Ashville, NY 14710

Dear Sara:

Thank you for your kind words and the invitation for Mrs. Clinton to visit the Jamestown High School VideoWorks project. It sounds like a great project, and we appreciate your bringing this program to our attention.

Although there's a lot of travel to New York these days, it is not certain whether Mrs. Clinton's schedule will allow her to visit the project in the near future. I have forwarded the request to Patti Solis Doyle, Director of Scheduling for the First Lady. If a visit seems possible, her office will be in touch with you.

I hope we get to see you one of these days. Our best to Stan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melanne', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

P

Sara Sibley Lundine
2718 Route 394
Ashville, New York 14710
(716) 763-7070
Fax: (716) 763-7060
Email: LundineS@Battelle.org

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Office of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Melanne:

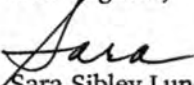
I have been asked on behalf of the Jamestown High School VideoWorks project to extend an invitation to the First Lady to visit the VideoWorks project at any time that is convenient in her schedule. The JHS VideoWorks project is one of 81 innovative curricula featured in "Gaining the Arts Advantage, Lessons from School Districts That Value Arts Education", prepared by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities for which Mrs. Clinton served as Honorary Chair.

I have enclosed a two-page summary of the VideoWorks project as well as an article about the project that appeared in today's Sunday Jamestown Post Journal. I am personally familiar with this project, it's teachers, and the New York City firm that developed the original curriculum. I have served as a member of the community assessment team the last two years, and I was the facilitator for an enlightening evening discussion among last year's VideoWorks class in which they had the opportunity to talk openly, with only a handful of adults present, about their views on the Nushawn Williams AIDs scare and their ideas for creating positive teen activities in the city.

What is missing from the two-page description, and what I think is singularly important, is that this class is not selected from the "best and the brightest". Students are recommended for VideoWorks by middle school teachers and counselors based on assessments of their need for focused, structured, creative environments that will get them on track and keep them from becoming "lost". Their academic abilities span the spectrum. I think one of the most important components of the project is that it compels students to learn teamwork and collaboration among students who are not "in their group".

For a city and school district that has endured endless negative publicity in the wake of the Nushawn Williams AIDs situation, this is a truly compelling and successful project that encourages students to tell their own stories in a creative, productive, educational environment. Because of her well-known advocacy of children and teenagers, Mrs. Clinton's visit to the Jamestown High School VideoWorks project would send the right message to teenagers everywhere.

Thanks for your assistance!
Best Regards,


Sara Sibley Lundine

*And Hillary can use our living room
whenever she wants!*

(R)

Sara Sibley Lundine
2718 Route 394
Ashville, New York 14710
(716) 763-7070
Fax: (716) 763-7060
Email: Lundine@madbbs.com

3/17/99

Hi Melanne!

There's a rumor afoot that New York is intruding on your life a bit....

Like most people who assume that their invitations may die in mailroom purgatory, Mark Thomas, our friend and County Executive, asked if I could send a copy of his letter to "someone" at the White House close to the First Lady. I chose you!

Hope you are well. Stan and I just returned from almost two weeks in Maui. A perfect escape from the snow -- lots of whale-watching, snorkeling, swimming, and even a 38-mile bike ride (coasting!) downhill from the top of the Haleakala crater. Trust me -- there is life after politics!

All the best!

Love,
Sara

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 13, 1999

Peter M. Leibold
Executive Vice President and CEO
American Health Lawyers Association
1120 Connecticut Ave., NW #950
Washington, DC 20036-3902

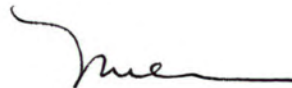
Dear Peter:

Congratulations on your move to the American Health Lawyers Association. You're clearly on an upward trajectory!

It is not yet certain whether the First Lady's schedule will permit her to accept either of AHLA's invitations. I have forwarded your invitation to Patti Solis Doyle, Director of Scheduling for the First Lady. As plans for the coming year are made, her office will be in touch with you.

Best wishes and hope all is well with you and your family.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 950
Washington, DC 20036-3902
(202) 833-1100
Fax (202) 833-1105

September 27, 1999

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff
To the First Lady
100 Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Melanne:

I am writing for two reasons. First, I wanted to inform you that I have left the Catholic Health Association (CHA) to become the Executive Vice President and CEO of the American Health Lawyers Association (AHLA). I loved CHA and miss Jack Bresch and my other colleagues, but I am very excited about the enormous opportunities available to me at AHLA.

AHLA has 9400 members, the vast majority of which are health lawyers. Its mission is to produce high quality educational programs, provide for information exchange and interaction among members, and act as a public resource on important health care legal issues.

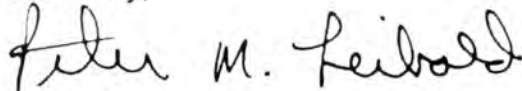
I want to encourage the First Lady to see the AHLA as a forum by which she can speak to our members and the public on issues related to health law. AHLA holds thirteen educational meetings a year for health lawyers and other professionals who advise the health care community. I have two specific meeting in mind for her consideration.

The first is entitled *Legal Issues Affecting Academic Medical Centers and Other Teaching Institutions*. It will be held on January 27th & 28th at the Ritz-Carlton Pentagon City Hotel. We would welcome an address by the First Lady between 9:00 a.m. and noon on January 27th or 28th if she had time in her schedule and wanted to speak. The expected attendance for this meeting is 100 – 150 individuals. If she would like to address this audience, I am sure that we could arrange a much larger C-Span audience as well.

The second meeting is AHLA's annual meeting from June 18 – 21, 2000. This meeting will be at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, also in Washington, D.C. We would welcome the First Lady to provide the keynote address on Monday June 19th at or around 9:00 a.m. We expect roughly 1000 people to attend this meeting. Again, a larger television audience would also tune in to hear her remarks.

If you believe that either of these meetings would be a useful forum for the First Lady to communicate her views on healthcare issues to a knowledgeable audience of individuals committed to improving the healthcare system, we would welcome her as a keynote speaker. If it is possible, we would love to hear whether she would look favorably upon such a request in the next month or so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter M. Leibold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" being more prominent and the last name "Leibold" following in a similar style.

Peter M. Leibold
Executive Vice President and CEO

cc: Patricia Solis-Doyle

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

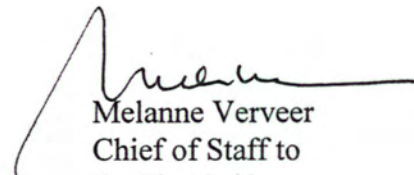
October 13, 1999

Ruth Lummis
Jerrie Cobb Foundation, Inc.
1008 Beach Blvd.
Sun City Center, FL 33573-5405

Dear Ms. Lummis:

On behalf of the First Lady, thank you for your letter
and for forwarding the letters from the women of Mercury 13.

With best wishes,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

Jerrie Cobb Foundation, Inc.

1008 Beach Blvd.
Sun City Center, FL 33573-5405
Fax: 813.634.2606

©

September 25, 1999

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton;

Here are seven personal letters hand-written to you by the surviving members of the "Mercury 13." They are the women who passed the Mercury astronaut selection tests in the early 1960s but were not allowed to fly in space because of their gender.

These dedicated women pilots want to see their hero, Jerrie Cobb, fly on the next space shuttle as validation of their contributions to space flight 38 years ago. Last year John Glenn was given a second space flight to study health and aging in space. We believe that Jerrie Cobb should be offered her first space flight for the same reason, to study women's health and aging in space. There is no one else that NASA could fly who would bring so much good will to our nation's space program. And we would like for you to have the honor of making this important announcement on October 29th, the one-year anniversary of John Glenn's second flight in space.

Thank you for helping to make the Mercury women's long-held dreams come true. We look forward to your reply.

Blessings,



Ruth Lummis

P.S. Enclosed is a copy of a fax sent to you on August 9th. No reply was received by any of the seven Mercury women. Surely you did not mean to slight these brave women.

JERRIE COBB FOUNDATION, INC.

A non-profit organization approved under Section 501(c)(3)
237-00-3507 established in 1967.

**1008 Beach Blvd.
Sun City Center, FL 33573-5405
Fax: 813.634.2606**

August 9, 1999

To: Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to the First Lady

From: Mrs. Ruth Lummis
Fax: 813.634.2606

Dear Melanne, please see that Mrs. Clinton receives this. Thank you..

Dear Mrs. Clinton;

Enclosed are six personal letters written to you from America's top women pilots who passed the Mercury astronaut selection tests in the early 1960s. Like Jerrie Cobb, they were denied the opportunity of serving their country as astronauts because of their gender. Now they are asking NASA to fly Jerrie for medical research (same as John Glenn) as validation of their contributions to America's early space program.

Thank you for supporting American women in their quest for a space flight for Jerrie. Professional organizations, individuals, groups and institutions representing over one million people have asked NASA to fly Jerrie Cobb. We wonder how many more it will take for NASA to see the importance of doing this. And hasten the day when gender, race, and age are considered qualities instead of issues.

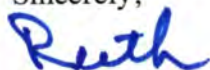
Two is not enough! After 40 years of manned space flights over 200 pilots (men) have flown in space, but **ONLY TWO WOMEN PILOTS HAVE EVER FLOWN IN SPACE!** This is far from the "level playing field" NASA claims to be committed to.

One of the Mercury women is Janey Hart. Her husband, Senator Phillip A Hart, was instrumental in getting Title IX passed in 1972 to guarantee equal money spent on college athletics for women as for men. Because of that we can now rejoice with America's women soccer team being the best in the world..

Perhaps we need a similar Title IX passed for NASA, to guarantee that equal money is spent on programs for women as for men. Then we could rejoice at having the world's best space program for women, as well as men. Surely it would be nice to have the majority of tax-paying voters supporting America's space budget.

I look forward to receiving your reply.

Sincerely,



Ruth Lummis

July 21, 99

Dear Mrs Clinton:

I write this from Cocoa Beach where
we, the 'Mercury 13' women have gathered
to cheer on Irene Collins, STS 93. One of
only 2 women to pilot a space craft
out of a cadre of 280 men. NASA's
record is deplorable from day one. We
were well qualified & ready to go,
but as everyone knows, we were women.
We now ask your help in getting
NASA to send our Jerrie Cobb in
the same position as John Glen.
Jerrie is still an active qualified
pilot & could contribute much to
women's health & also validate our
efforts so long ago. Please help us &
all women pilots.

Thank you -

Jerri Shull
1431 Long Post
Richardson, Tex
75080

JULY 21, 1999

DEAR MRS CLINTON,

AS A MEMBER OF "MERCURY 13," I
WOULD LIKE TO SEE JERRIE COBB
FLY IN SPACE AS A GUEST ASTRONAUT,

WOMAN HAVE NEVER BEEN PROPERLY
REPRESENTED IN THE SPACE PROGRAM,
MEDICAL RESEARCH MUST BE DONE ON
FEMALES AS WELL AS MALES!

BY LETTING JERRY COBB FLY IN
SPACE, OUR GROUP WILL BE VALIDATED, WE
WILL KNOW OUR EFFORTS WERE NOT
IN VAIN,

SINCERELY,

Sarah Lee Gorelick Ratley

SARAH LEE GORELICK RATLEY

9534 ASH

SHAWNEE MISSION, KS 66207

913-381-6881

July 20, 1999.

Dear Mrs Clinton,

My husband, Sen. Philip Hart,
was most proud of his work and success
to get Title IX passed into law. The results,
finally, were the Gold Medals of the last
Olympics and recently the success of the
the U.S. Soccer team: "One small step
for women."

Medical research is still
heavily loaded towards men. A stimulus
is needed to change this. Jerrie Cobb
is qualified, ready and eager to contribute
to this goal. She should be a guest
Astronaut aboard the Space Shuttle. The
ageing process among women would be
studied and missing data provided; "One
great leap for women-kind."

Please urge NASA to give
American women this hope.

Sincerely

Janey Hart

One of the
Mercury 13.

Lakewood Cottage
Mackinac Island Mi
49757.

Mr. Dan Goldin
NASA Administrator
Washington, DC 20046

July 20, 1999

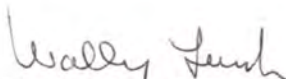
Dear Mr. Goldin:

As a member of the Women's Mercury 13 astronaut testing program, I am writing this letter in support of Jerrie Cobb's request for consideration as a guest astronaut.

Because of Ms. Cobb's continued interest in both the space program and its recent research dealing with medical issues of the elderly, she clearly can be identified as an excellent candidate for this opportunity. As subjects of medical research, women have far too long been neglected. This neglect has profoundly restricted what can be learned and benefitted by both present and future generations of women.

As I write this, I am anxiously awaiting the launch of Mission STS-93. This flight will catapult Lt. Col. Eileen Collins through the glass ceiling as the first female astronaut to space shuttle commander. This obvious dedication to increasing the vital participation of women in the space program, opens an excellent opportunity for Ms. Cobb to contribute both her interest and abilities to this Nation's Space Program.

Sincerely yours,


Wally Funk
Mercury 13
NTSB-Retired

Box 1219
Roanoke, Texas
76262

July 20, 1999

Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear Mrs Clinton

On this auspicious day a young talented woman slipped into the US Shuttle STS-93 to blast off into space and history. Due to a technical problem within 3 seconds of main engine ignition the launch was aborted.

The grace and self confidence by the Commander Col. Eileen Collins & her crew should prove the ability, passion and problem solving that women too have.

As an early aspirant of becoming an astronaut, I along with 24 other women pilots volunteered to undergo the same physical as had been developed for the Mercury Pilot selection in the early 60's. Early inclusion of women would have been possible, we were pilots aspiring to be astronauts. The program was dropped due mostly to discrimination.

Please know our interest in space has not dimmed & our desire to motivate young women in space has not changed.

We are waiting & hoping that Sen. Leamon will
step up to the task of convincing NASA, Congress and
the world to drop the gender discrimination and
let us all contribute our talents to making
Space a peaceful, cohesive endeavor.

The most likely person to represent all women
in the Conquest of Space is Jerri Cobb.

Jerri's resume, passion and deep devotion to
Space would serve the Space Program well.

Please know that we feel you are the
one if only you would accept the
challenge.

We wish you well in your endeavor
& look forward to your response.
Respectfully,

Bernie T. Strader - M. 13.

1172 Knoll Oak Ct.

Traverse City, MI 49686

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20001

July 20, 1999

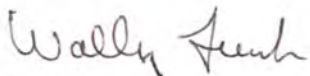
Dear Mrs. Clinton:

As a member of the Women's Mercury 13 astronaut testing program, I am writing this letter in support of Jerrie Cobb's request for consideration as a guest astronaut.

Because of Ms. Cobb's continued interest in both the space program and its recent research dealing with medical issues of the elderly, she clearly can be identified as an excellent candidate for this opportunity. As subjects of medical research, women have far too long been neglected. This neglect has profoundly restricted what can be learned and benefitted by both present and future generations of women.

As I write this, I am anxiously awaiting the launch of Mission STS-93. This flight will catapult Lt. Col. Eileen Collins through the glass ceiling as the first female astronaut space shuttle commander. This obvious dedication to increasing the vital participation of women in the space program, opens an excellent opportunity for Ms. Cobb to contribute both her interest and abilities to this Nation's Space Program.

Sincerely yours,



Wally Funk
Mercury 13
NTSB-Retired

Box 1219
Roanoke, Texas
76262

July 20, 1999

Dear Mrs Clinton;

I am one of the "Mercury 13"
and would like to see Jerrie Cobb
selected as a guest astronaut and
fly in space. She is very, very
qualified and would be an asset
to the Space Program and all women.
Did you know that of ~~approximately~~ ^{the} 280
pilots that have flown in space in
the past 40 years only 2 were women.
We really need your help.
Thank you.

Sincerely,
Beverly Wolman
17 Polo Circle
Colorado Springs CO 80906
719-633-9512

SUPPORTERS OF JERRIE COBB TO FLY IN SPACE

(partial list)

- 1. 30,000+ people who have signed petitions asking NASA to fly Jerrie.**
- 2. National Organization For Women (N.O.W.).**
- 3. 40,000 members of the American Association of University Women - California.**
- 4. Federation of Business and Professional Women - Texas.**
- 5. America Association of University Women - Minnesota.**
- 6. Ninety Nines, Inc., International Organization of Licensed Women Pilots.**
- 7. The National Women's Political Caucus.**
- 8. International Women's Air And Space Museum.**
- 9. National Women's History Project.**
- 10. Whirlygirls, Inc. (Licensed women helicopter pilots worldwide).**
- 11. American Association of University Women - Michigan.**
- 12. Pioneer Woman Museum.**
- 13. Federation of Business and Professional Women - California**
- 14. Women In Aviation, Inc.**
- 15. Oklahoma Historical Association.**
- 16. Many, many school children, and teachers.**
- 17. Women Of The West Museum.**
- 18. U. S. Senators: Barbara Boxer, Diane Feinstein, James Inhoff, Don Nickles.**
- 19. Experimental Aircraft Association (E.A.A.).**
- 20. Oklahoma Air and Space Museum.**
- 21. Women Fly, Inc.**
- 22. The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.**
- 23. American Association of University Women - Connecticut.**
- 24. American Association of University Women - Colorado.**
- 25. American Association of University Women - Maine.**
- 26. International Federation of Business and Professional Women.**
- 27. American Association of University Women - Idaho.**
- 28. American Association of University Women - Oklahoma.**
- 29. American Association of University Women - Texas.**
- 30. American Association of University Women - Alabama.**

Bill Clinton, President of the United States: " Today women comprise more than half the world's population. No nation can hope to succeed if half of its people lack the opportunity and the right to make the most of their God-given promise. Every woman deserves the chance to realize her full potential."

Madeline K. Albright, Secretary Of State: "As we approach the 21st century, we know that we cannot build the kind of future we want without the contributions of women. For what you have already done, and what you will go on to do to advance the status of women at home and around the world, I salute you."

Cobb has the three necessary elements of leadership: extensive travel outside of one's own environment and culture; strong spiritual and moral life; and the ability and willingness to challenge authority.

You have to hold a vision of what you want to contribute. Cobb only has one vision as a pilot. She wants to contribute to space exploration. "You cannot have that vision. Only men can do that" she was told in 1959 after qualifying as America's first woman astronaut. Three years later Russia sent the first woman into space.

Cobb is now asking to study the same health issues that won John Glenn a second space flight last year ... only this time, for women's health. From Earth orbit she would also like to study the deforestation of the world's rain forests, a matter very dear to her.

Citing her sense of mission as "spiritual," Cobb says she has always had a "burning desire" to use her talents to serve God and Country. After waiting 40 years for a space flight, Cobb says "I will do whatever it takes ... wait as long as it takes ... but I can't give up my dream. My life will not be complete until I fly in space."

Women are not exotic or a minority group but more than half of the world's population...Women pilots are not a novelty. Women experience the world differently from men in many ways that bear upon the priorities of space exploration.

We will be there for you...not because of a sense of duty, but because it is absolutely crucial for us to understand that women have a particular role in space exploration. It is impossible to conceive of effective research in space without the central role of women. Space travel without women is bereft of values that must be there. Gender, race, and age are qualities, not issues.

Two is not enough ...

After 40 years of manned space flights ...

278 pilots (men) have had the privilege of flying in space ...

But only two women pilots have ever flown in space ...

12 men have walked on the moon, but no woman..

Jerrie Cobb

First Woman to Pass NASA Astronaut Tests

In the infancy of the space age when America began selecting her first astronauts in 1959 Jerrie was picked to be the first woman to undergo the Mercury Astronaut Selection Tests. After months of grueling tests, Jerrie passed all three phases of astronaut testing with flying colors, qualifying as America's first woman astronaut at age 29. She was named a consultant to the Administrator of NASA but was not allowed to fly in space because of her gender. Three years later Russia sent the first woman into space.

Jerrie was born to fly. She fell in love with the sky when she left the planet Earth for the first time, and in a way forever. She was twelve years old. Working at small country airports after school, weekends, and summer vacations, Jerrie earned her wings at age 16 and left on her first flying job, barnstorming around Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas with a circus. At 18 she was teaching others to fly. By twenty-one Jerrie was delivering sleek military fighters and four-engine bombers to Air Forces around the world, well on her way to becoming one of the world's top pilots.

Jerrie set four new World's Aviation Records for speed, distance and absolute altitude(2) while still in her twenties. Life Magazine selected her one of only nine women in the "100 most important young people in the United States." She has earned many awards, including the Harmon Trophy for the top woman pilot in the world. The governments of France, Brazil, Peru, Colombia and Ecuador have honored Jerrie.

Since women were not allowed to contribute to the exploration of outer space in the 1960s Jerrie set her disappointment aside and decided to use her flying talents to explore "inner space" serving the primitive people of the Amazon jungle of South America. For more than 35 years she has found joy and delight in flying over the enormous uncharted jungle, bringing hope, seeds, and help to her primitive friends. For her humanitarian work in the jungle Jerrie was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Like Amelia Earhart, Jerrie is a great role model and an inspiration to many. She is a courageous woman with an extraordinary talent for flying who chose not to exploit it, but rather to use it in serving others. Her fabulous flying career spanning fifty-five years is a rich tapestry of adventure, continuing on today. At age 67 Jerrie continues flying, pursuing her deep love of the sky, and her passion to fly in space.

For more information: Jerrie Cobb Foundation, Inc.
1008 Beach Blvd., Sun City Center, FL 33573.
Fax: 813.634.2606.

(A new book, "*Jerrie Cobb, Solo Pilot*" is available from the Foundation. \$23.00 paperback.)



ONE SMALL STEP

THE
JOURNAL-REGISTER
THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE



ONE GIANT LEAP

By Chris Britt, The State Journal-Register (Springfield, Ill.), Copley News Service

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 20, 1999

Mr. Jack Lang
Le Président, La Commission Des Affaires Étrangères
Assemblée Nationale
Pl. De La Republique
41018 Blois Cedex, France

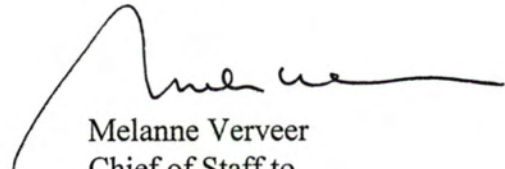
Dear Mr. Lang:

On behalf of the First Lady, thank you for your letter and invitation for Mrs. Clinton to speak before the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mrs. Clinton has no plans to be in Paris in the foreseeable future. Should that change, we will be in touch with you.

Very best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE

LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA COMMISSION
DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

cc.
M. L. L.
NSC
(R)

Paris, 14 september 1999

Nos réf : JL/LK/AT/130

Dear Madam,

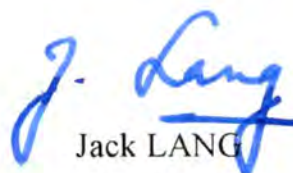
The National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee has in recent months extended its scope to all aspects of international life, from economic affairs, to human rights, the environment and culture. That is why I would be very pleased to invite you to state your views on these issues before all the deputies of this committee on the date of your choice.

Owing to the rhythm of parliamentary activity in France, Tuesdays and Wednesdays are the best time to meet and arouse much public attention.

If you agree in principle then I suggest you contact my secretariat (telephone number : 00.33.1.40.63.65.31. or fax number : 00.33.1.40.63.69.89).

Thanking you in advance for your interest in this invitation, I remain,

Yours faithfully,


Jack LANG

Mrs Hillary RHODAM CLINTON
Office of the first Lady
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
N.W. WASHINGTON D.C. 20500
USA

THE WHITE HOUSE

November 1, 1999

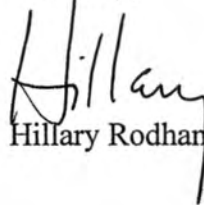
David Levy
Director and President
Corcoran Gallery of Art
500 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear David,

I want to extend my congratulations to you and your colleagues at the Corcoran for mounting the impressive Annie Leibowitz exhibition, "Women." I had wanted to personally convey my congratulations to you at the White House reception, but somehow missed you.

The President and I hope to have the chance to come by and see the exhibition at some future time. Again, our best to everyone at the Corcoran associated with this wonderful enterprise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Hillary", with a long, sweeping vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.

Hillary Rodham Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 8, 1999

Carolyn Lamm
White & Case
601 Thirteenth Street, NW Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005-3807

Dear Carolyn:

Thank you for the copy of your letter supporting Mellie Nelson's appointment to the DC Superior Court. I have passed your letter along to the appropriate officials and know Ms. Nelson will be given the fullest consideration.

Very best wishes and see you soon. *Love to all*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a stylized, flowing script.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

UNITED STATES
LOS ANGELES
MIAMI
NEW YORK
PALO ALTO
WASHINGTON, D. C.

EUROPE
BRATISLAVA
BRUSSELS
BUDAPEST
FRANKFURT
HELSINKI
ISTANBUL
LONDON
MOSCOW
PARIS
PRAGUE
STOCKHOLM
WARSAW

WHITE & CASE

LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

801 THIRTEENTH STREET, N.W.
SUITE 600 SOUTH
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3807
TELEPHONE: (1-202) 626-3600
FACSIMILE: (1-202) 639-9355
DIRECT DIAL: (1-202) 626-3605

ASIA
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ANKARA
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HO CHI MINH CITY
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SINGAPORE
TOKYO

MIDDLE EAST
JEDDAH
RIYADH

LATIN AMERICA
MEXICO CITY
SAO PAULO

AFRICA
JOHANNESBURG

R
to
Conley
pm
along

October 18, 1999

Beth Nolan, Counsel to the President
Michael Childress, Deputy Counsel to the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Mellie H. Nelson

Dear Ms. Nolan and Mr. Childrith:

I understand that Mellie Nelson is under consideration on the recommendation of the DC Judicial Nomination Commission for a vacancy on the DC Superior Court. I recommend her highly for appointment to Superior Court. Mellie Nelson is a superb lawyer, has been devoted to work in the public interest and is very well regarded by the bar. I urge the administration to consider seriously including her as one of its nominees for the vacancies on the DC Superior Court.

I have known Mellie Nelson for many years since we were attorneys together in the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Division. At that time she excelled as a lawyer for the U.S. as is obvious from her receipt of the Stanley D. Rose Memorial Award and variety of other awards that she has received for outstanding service at the U.S. Department of Justice.

She is now Deputy Chief of Special Litigation Section of the Civil Rights Division in the U.S. Department of Justice where she has been both lead counsel and has supervised counsel in very significant cases. She contributed significantly to the legal community and to the public interest community in Washington, DC.

She has demonstrated the substantive ability, the temperament and integrity to be a superb judge on the Superior Court as is evidenced by her exemplary service at DOJ and her service as a mediator at the U.S. District Court and Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. Counsel who have appeared before her have praised her ability and demeanor. Further she has

Beth Nolan, Counsel to the President

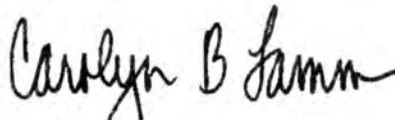
Page 2

demonstrated her competence by excelling while teaching at the Attorney General's Advocacy Institute, Department of Justice Legal Education Institute and a variety of other trial advocacy institutions.

Moreover, Mellie has served the community significantly and participated in many bar organizations including the District of Columbia Bar, Women's Bar as it's President and in many other significant positions. In each of these capacities she has performed ably, demonstrated good judgment, empathy for others and a commitment to excellence.

I recommend that she be seriously considered for appointment as judge on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. She is professionally competent, a good thinker and a good person. She would do well in a judicial position, make the administration proud and serve the community for many years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn B Lamm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Carolyn B. Lamm

CBL:js

cc: Melanne Verveer

WHITE & CASE

LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

601 THIRTEENTH STREET, N.W.

SUITE 600 SOUTH

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3807



Melanne Verveer
Office of the First Lady
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20515



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 4, 2000

Ambassador Philip Lader
US Embassy, London
24 Grosvenor Square
London W1A 1AE, U.K.

Dear Ambassador Lader: *Phil*

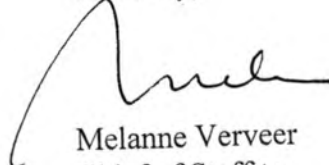
On behalf of the First Lady, thank you for your letter and the invitation for Mrs. Clinton to speak at the Fulbright Commission dinner in London during the first half of this year.

As I mentioned to you, Mrs. Clinton will not be able to accept the Commission's invitation, as her schedule will not permit a trip to London during the first part of this year. But please accept her appreciation for the Commission's vital work to support many important initiatives, along with her best wishes.

Thanks again for the good offices of the embassy and your and Linda's wonderful hospitality. May progress continue in Northern Ireland. As you may have deduced I delivered your views regarding a future visit to Belfast. Everyone concurred.

All the best.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



F A C S I M I L E

FACSIMILE TO

Patti Solis-Doyle
Office of the First Lady
The White House

FACSIMILE FROM

Glyn T. Davis
Deputy Chief of Mission
American Embassy
24 Grosvenor Square
London
W1A 1AE

TELEPHONE NUMBER

202-456-6266

FACSIMILE NUMBER

202-456-6244

TELEPHONE NUMBER

(0171) 499-9000 Extension 2225

FACSIMILE NUMBER

(0171) 495-7909

DATE

December 3, 1999

TIME

3:37 PM

NUMBER OF PAGES

(Including ⁴Cover Sheet)

SUBJECT

Confirming that FLOTUS will not attend Fulbright Fundraising event

MESSAGE COMMENTS

See attached. Please pass copy to Melanne Verveer

Glyn

Cc: Melanne

→ PSC

THE WHITE HOUSE

September 27, 1999

Honorable Philip Lader
American Ambassador – London
PSC 801
Box 40
FPO AE 09498-4040

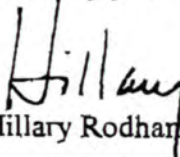
Dear Phil:

Thank you for your letter. It was good hearing from you again.

I appreciate your invitation to participate in The Fulbright Commission's gala dinner in London next year and I have forwarded a copy of your letter to my scheduling office for consideration. We will be sure to have an answer for you shortly. In the meantime, I hope my letter finds you, Linda and the girls well and I look forward to seeing you again soon.

With warm regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,


Hillary Rodham Clinton

cc: Patti Solis Doyle
Director of Scheduling

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
LONDON

September 13, 1999

The First Lady
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Hillary:

Your agenda must be filling up rapidly, but I have an additional proposal for you that I hope will be of some interest.

The Fulbright Commission here, of which I am Honorary Chairman, would like to invite you to speak at a gala dinner here sometime in the first half of the year 2000. Your stature would guarantee enormous success for this important venture, and, of course, your presence here would be a great pleasure for Linda and me and your friends in London.

The Fulbright Commission has done a spectacular job raising funds in the private sector to augment the essentially flat contributions of the two governments. The Commission mounted a gala dinner a few years ago featuring Bill Gates as speaker, and raised over \$200,000. There were nearly 900 guests, most of whom were high-visibility figures and CEOs from the major transatlantic corporations. We would expect the same sort of group and would organize the event in a grand venue. You could speak for 20 to 30 minutes on any subject of your choosing, and perhaps take a few selected questions at the end. We would not ask you to solicit contributions yourself, as this will be done -- with dignity -- by others; according to U.S. Information Agency legal counsel, your participation as a speaker in such an event would be fully consistent with federal ethics regulations.

While I appreciate the demands on your time, I dare suggest intruding with another request because I know that helping the Fulbright program would be very much in line with your priorities and interests. The Commission here would need about six months to organize the dinner, so it would be most helpful if it were possible to let us have a decision within the month.

Linda joins me in sending you, as always, our warmest wishes.

Sincerely,



Philip Lader
Ambassador

*Melanne -
I don't
see how this?
does Dan*

*P
Roger*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 7, 2000

Ms. Marie Locke
43 Cragmere Avenue
South Portland, ME 04106

Dear Ms. Locke:

On behalf of the First Lady, thank you for your letter and the copy of your beautiful and fascinating book, *Memories of a Maine Island*.

Please accept Mrs. Clinton's appreciation for your thoughtful gift, along with her best wishes for the New Year.

All the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

②

43 Cragmere Avenue
So. Portland, ME 04106
(207) 767-4606
(marielocke@yahoo.com)

November 24, 1999

Hillary Rodham Clinton
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Clinton,

My book, *Memories of a Maine Island* is one of the family history books featured in the National Endowment for the Humanities "My History is America's History" web site and guidebook.

I appreciate your support of the " My History" project. Perhaps my book will supply you with a little diversion on the campaign trail - good luck in New York.

Sincerely,

Marie Locke

Marie Locke

NEH Web Site (www.myhistory.org)

Memories of a Maine Island Book Web Site: (www.memoriesofmaine.com)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 3, 2000

Dr. Michael Litow
The Education Center
113 E. Van Buren
Naperville, IL 60540

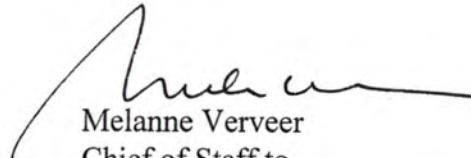
Dear Dr. Litow:

Thank you for the information about the Education Center, which I have shared with the First Lady.

Mrs. Clinton was very pleased to meet you at the conference on school safety. Please accept her appreciation for your vital work on behalf of children and teens.

Thank you for your leadership and all you do.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



wife Maria Litow

sons Vincent

+
David

Clinton Library Transfer Form

Case #, if applicable		Accession #		
Collection/Record Group	Clinton Presidential Records	Series/Staff Name	Verveer, Melanne	
Subgroup/Office of Origin	First Lady's Office	Subseries		
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Description of Item(s)	4" x 6" personal photo of HRC with Mike Litow at the White House Conference on School Safety on 10/15/1998.			

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Dear Ms. Marshall,

Please share the enclosed information
with Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton.
We met last year when I was
invited to attend The White House
conference on school safety.

Please extend happy holidays to
her and to you.

Sincerely yours,
Mike Litow

Mike Litow
V.

PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS FROM PARENTS AND TEACHERS

- * Give the gift of acceptance. Teach those around you that they are loved for what they are, not what they do or even how much they please you. Give this gift with a kiss.
- * Give the gift of self-confidence by helping them understand and accept that no one can be approved of all the time, and that when one encounters disapproval, he need not feel immobilized or upset, that he must trust himself, not the opinions of others. Give this gift with a hug.
- * Give the gift of possibilities. Don't let them label themselves intellectuals, athletes, little ladies, macho men or whatever. Give them an example of a person who is not slotted into any one compartment and tell them a boy or girl can sew or play football, can cry or be brave, can cut the grass or do the dishes. Give them the gift of the freedom to be anything rather than limit themselves in any way by nonsensical labels and roles. Give this gift with a smile.
- * Give them the gift of a life without needless fears by not being a worrier yourself. Show them that you can tackle problems but that you will not just sit around and fret about them. Encourage them to become doers as well. Give this gift with a laugh.
- * Give them the gift of being a person who has spark and an appreciation for all of life. Encourage them to be fully alive in every way. Allow them to have adventures, a chance for laughter, fun, creativity. Give them the supreme gift of being able to find happiness in virtually all circumstances. Give this gift as they go out the door.
- * All these gifts will last forever!

The Education Center

113 E. Van Buren • Naperville, Illinois 60540

630-420-7807



A kid's best friend

■ *Dr. Mike Litow does what parents should do with their children: He listens.*

Judging from responses to last week's column, a lot of people have given up on our kids.

I wrote that 14-year-old Garey Randle was expelled from Crete-Monee Middle School for an entire year for fighting. The school district, which happens to be in the throes of an economic crisis, can't pay for alternative programs. The mother, Gloria Yates, can't pay for an alternative or private school, either.

That leaves Garey on the street, heading down a path that leads straight to prison or an early grave. I argued that it would be better for our taxes to go for intervention now, rather than to pay for prisons later.

Boy, did I get an earful from readers.

"We have another example of a parent who, in my opinion, has not taken their role seriously and now wants the schools, teachers, taxpayers, etc. to FIX IT!" wrote Lauren Zaubi of Itasca.

"If we were all more responsible for our own children and stopped waiting for someone else to teach our kids, our society may not be facing the problem it is," said Burnard C. Taylor of Chicago.

And Mark Fearon of Chicago had this advice: "Get off your rump and take charge of your home life or a jury of your peers will do it for you."

As cold as this sounds, these sentiments accurately reflect the opinions of a lot of people. Thank goodness there are people around like Dr. Mike Litow.

Litow counsels kids like Garey and others who are deemed troublemakers or underachievers. He has been at it for 20 years, and says it is not enough to blame parents for the growing number of unruly kids.



Mary A.
MITCHELL

He ought to know. Litow flunked fourth grade, was found to have a learning disability, and for most of his school career was a teacher's worst nightmare. He now works with learning disabled kids at Sullivan Elementary School on the South Side, and runs a nonprofit counseling service, the Education Center of Developmental Resources. The center has offices in Naperville and Oak Park.

"I think everybody wants to point the finger of blame," he said during a recent interview at his Oak Park office. "But we live in a very violent society. I'm talking about a society where violence is almost an acceptable form of behavior. Kids emulate that kind of behavior."

His clients include the children of CEOs as well as those who live

in public housing. In a lot of instances, money doesn't matter.

"I see too many people who want to phone in their parenting. They spend more time in line to buy Beanie Babies than they will spend helping their kid with homework, or talking to their kid," he said.

There are also learning disabilities that are not detected by school officials. For example, a Naperville family turned to Litow after they got tired of hearing teachers say: "He's a great kid, but..."

Litow discovered the high school junior had attention deficit disorder.

"I can't say enough about Dr. Litow," said the mother, who asked for anonymity to protect her son's confidentiality.

"My son's problems stemmed from a lack of self-esteem due to an undiscovered learning disability. Mike was instrumental in pointing that out, and following up very closely with the counselors at school."

Litow goes even further. He reaches out to businesses in the area for donations so that parents who can't afford the fees won't be turned away. He also uses his business contacts to find mentors and jobs for the young people he counsels.

"I try to establish a relationship and trust," Litow said. "The kids trust me and we talk about everything that is going on in their lives. Adults will lecture, preach and sermonize. I listen."

"Our main thrust is to help kids stay away from gangs, drugs and from dropping out of school. We feel very strongly that if you can



RICH HEIN/SUN-TIMES

"Too many people... spend more time in line to buy Beanie Babies than they will spend helping their kid with homework," says Mike Litow.

give the kid the skills and self-confidence, that is a lot more effective than paying \$30,000 a year to lock them up."

He is absolutely right about that.

Parents seeking help, or those who want to help, can contact the

Education Center of Developmental Resources at (630) 420-7807.

Mary A. Mitchell is a member of the Sun-Times editorial board and writes a column in Sunday's Sun-Times. E-mail: marym@sun-times.com

The Education Center of Developmental Resources Inc.

113 E. Van Buren • Naperville, Illinois 60540 •



Celebrate the Tradition ~ 20 Years of Service 1979-1999 You can make the difference in the life of a child

Many community services are aimed at alleviating "problem kids", including vocational schools, drug treatment centers and juvenile correctional facilities. The Education Center offers a unique alternative that gives young people the chance to create and attain goals that will help insure their success in school, and in life.

In 1979, The Education Center was founded as a not for profit Illinois agency with the mission of providing counseling services for young people. The staff works tirelessly with thousands of children, youth and families each year. Help comes to those with learning disabilities, lack of study skills and serious school issues. Hope comes to those attracted to drug and gang affiliation, facing uncertainty about how to get a job, and turning to truancy, running away and suicide.

The at-risk young people who enter the doors of the Education Center are offered a second chance for success in school, and in life. The Education Center and its Executive Director Dr. Michael Litow have been honored nationally for the work of changing the lives of many of our communities "lost" children. We are asking for your help to join us in our effort to help children and children and young people gain skills that may save their lives. Be a friend to a kid that needs your love; help to place a student at your company- *with full support of The Education Center staff*; scholarship a student looking for direction; refer someone you know who needs a hand. Call 630-420-7807 or return the form below. Thank you.

_____ *Please cut here and return* _____

I would like to learn more about mentoring a student. Call me at _____

I may be able to help place a student at my company. Call me at _____

I want to help support the work of the program. Enclosed is my tax deductible gift.

Please call me about a young person that needs help: _____

Name: _____

City _____ State/Zip Code: _____

"Helping kids succeed not only in school but in life."

Opportunities

Education Center, SPYGLASS Partner for Kids

If you had met Jim when he was a freshman in high school, you probably would have dismissed him as a "problem" kid. In fact, Jim had problems with the law and at school. His grades were D's and F's. He informed his guidance counselor that when he came of legal age, he planned to drop out of school. His mother Kathy, a struggling single parent, had sent Jim to almost every counselor and social services agency in the area. Jim's life changed the day he walked into The Education Center, a nonprofit agency that helps students succeed in school and learn job skills through a unique Business Mentorship Program. Four years later, Jim is a high school senior getting B's and C's. He plans to go to college and says he owes his success to Dr. Michael Litow, Executive Director of The Education Center.

The Education Center assessed Jim's interests, helped build his self esteem, and eventually presented him with a job opportunity at SPYGLASS, Inc. in Naperville. Jim prepared a resume and interviewed with both Doug Colbeth, President and CEO of SPYGLASS and the department supervisor. Jim now works in the marketing department doing anything and everything and is clearly a favorite of the staff.

Jim is pleased to work at SPYGLASS and teases Colbeth about taking over the company when Colbeth retires. "They treat me like family," Jim said. "I've played on their softball team, gone to the company picnic and even have my own cubicle with a name plate."

SPYGLASS is also pleased with the Business Mentorship Program. This past year, the company employed young people in various departments and have worked in conjunction with the Naperville school districts. Each student works approximately 10-20 hours each week. "These kids are a tremendous value," Colbeth said. "One young man even built an internal Web site for our employees to make travel arrangements and do on-line expense reports."

Colbeth says other businesses who don't employ young people are missing out on a wonderful opportunity. "There's no better way to give back to the community than to invest in our youth."

Jim's outlook on his life has definitely changed since working with The Education Center and SPYGLASS. He's now considering studying business and computers in college. Jim's mother, Kathy (who volunteers at The Education Center in her spare time) says her life certainly wouldn't be the same had it not been for these two chamber members.

You, too, can make a difference in the lives of Naperville youth by starting a Business/Education Partnership. See the article about Business/Education Partnerships on page 5.

Attitude of life after school helps turn teen around

BY KARI ALLEN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Feb. 1998

Jim Trader epitomizes the phrase "attitude adjustment."

He remembers being a freshman at Naperville North High School just four years ago, thinking he knew everything.

Adults, of course, knew nothing.

He was always in the dean's office, always the class clown. And he always talked about dropping out so he could work full time.

Those who knew him back then barely recognize him now.

He's energetic, respectful to adults and dead-set on graduating from high school, going to college and getting a good job.

To get there, he's giving up his own cubicle, computer and name plate at Spyglass Inc. in Naperville.

For the time being, at least.

Michael Litow, founder and director of the Education Center of Developmental Resources Inc. in Naperville and Oak Park, helped Trader turn his life around.

"He talked to me like a normal person," Trader said. "The first day I met him, he gave me a business card; I still have it in my wallet now."

"It had his home number on it, too. How many counselors give out their home number?"

Trader doesn't think of Litow as a counselor any longer, but as his best friend.

A best friend who set up an interview for Trader with Douglas Colbeth, president and CEO of Spyglass, a company that provides Internet expertise, software and services to various companies.

Colbeth met with Trader and offered him a job as a clerk. Trader accepted and has been shipping, filing and faxing at Spyglass for about a year.

He's not alone. Litow meets with many troubled teens and tries to help them.

These teens often are termed "trouble-makers," "slackers" or potential "gang-bangers." Many do poorly in school.

They frequently are viewed by society as having little value or potential. Litow, however, sees something in these teens many others ignore: their strengths.

He discovers their interests, whether it be business, journalism or art, and finds mentors in these fields. These leaders talk to or even interview and hire teens referred to the Education Center.

"These kids tend to dwell on what they can't do. We try to develop their strengths."

— Michael Litow

TEEN: Center helps him get back on track

Continued from Page 1

do," Litow said. "We try to develop their strengths, to get them excited about life, about themselves."

The workplace often does just that, Litow said. When young people think they can't achieve anything, he said, they tend to not care about school, themselves or life. Until, that is, they find they can be successful.

Now, Trader jokes with Colbeth that he'll be back, after college, to take the CEO position. "I'd like to take Doug's chair," Trader said. "He's keeping it warm for me."

That wasn't how he felt when he first walked through the doors of Spyglass. He thought his co-workers would view him as an inexperienced kid who didn't know what he was doing. "The first couple days, I was scared ... But everyone has gone above and beyond to be nice to me," Trader said.

In return, Trader has simply blossomed, Colbeth said. "He's a wonderful kid and has so much positive energy," he said.

"Jim's one of the most favorite employees in the company."

And Trader doesn't want to stop at just doing his job well. He wants to give back, both to Litow and Colbeth.

He'd like to be on the volunteer board of the Education Center. He wants to come back and talk to teenagers who are struggling, letting them know they can change.



Above, Jim Trader, a senior at Naperville North High School, files memos at Spyglass Inc., an Internet special company. At left, Ryan Crockett, left, stops to chat with 18-year-old Trader, who is one of the company's most popular employees, according to president and CEO Douglas Colbeth.

"I have always felt that we need programs for prevention. We need to spend the money to establish relationships with young people."

■ Dr. Michael Litow
YOUTH COUNSELOR

A KNACK FOR SAVING KIDS

*Villages resident earns
national reputation
for work as counselor*

By Judy Buchenot
60504 CORRESPONDENT

Michael Litow knows what it's like to be a troubled child. He was one. For the past 30 years, he's been drawing on that experience to help kids as a youth counselor.

The Fox Valley Villages resident has become nationally renowned for his work with the Chicago Board of Education. He is the coordinator of Inclusive Education for Emotionally Disturbed Behavior Disorder Students in Chicago. He also operates counseling centers for youth in Naperville and Oak Park. He has gained a reputation of being able to reach troubled children.

He was among 125 experts invited by the president to a conference on at-risk youth last month in Washington, D.C. Litow was able to speak directly with the President and Mrs. Clinton during the conference.

"Part of the day was spent addressing the causes of violence in our schools," Litow said. The list of causes mentioned at the conference included changes in family structure, community problems spilling into the classrooms and abuse in homes.

"I think a major issue is that kids need someone they can go to and confide in. Kids get upset and angry and they want to show everyone how they feel. They act on

the impulse," he said, referring to the shootings that occurred last spring on school grounds.

"The bottom line at the conference was that there needs to be collaboration," Litow said. "Educators, mental health professionals, police, businesses and everyone need to collaborate."

"I have always felt that we need programs for prevention. We need to spend the money to establish relationships with young people. We can't keep building prisons to lock them up. Prevention and intervention is more cost effective than incarcerating a kid at \$33,000 a year."

At his counseling practice known as The Education Center, Litow pursues his own ideas of prevention and intervention. Among the many professionals who refer youths to Litow is DuPage County Juvenile Probation Officer Robin Blench.

"I have a number of kids on my caseload who I have referred to Mike," said Blench. "I often find that behavior and education problems are in the same package with the kids. Mike does a good job of looking at the whole picture. There are very few therapists that have the expertise to make the connection to help with both issues."

See Litow, Page 6

Litow

From Page 5

A kid goes to school six or seven hours a day and if they aren't experiencing success, their self-esteem takes a beating, Litow said. Michelle Donovan was a student who wasn't experiencing success when she was a sophomore at Waubesa Valley High School. She went to Litow for some skill development but gained much more.

"He helped me with my test-taking skills, but he also understood what a kid goes through in high school. I had no direction in my life and he just kept working with me until I saw what I needed to do. It's been five years since I saw him and I'm working and a full-time student at COD. I never would have thought that I could have done this when I was a sophomore," Donovan said.

Jim Guleserian, a Wheaton North senior, also made a connection with Litow. "I was having big problems in school. I wasn't on track to go anywhere. When I went to Mike, I felt that he genuinely cared," Jim said. "If you do something wrong, he doesn't make you feel bad. You just want him to trust you and you wouldn't even think of lying to him. I'm applying to colleges now and I know I can do well."

One way that Litow is able to help kids feel successful is to find them a job. Although he makes the arrangements for a job, the phone call to secure the interview needs to be made by the youth.

Mrs. C., a parent of a troubled Waubesa Valley High School student, thought that no one would ever be able to reach her son. (To protect his identity, his real name will not be used.) "Jack turned from a great little kid into a delinquent," his mom said. "He got into a crowd of kids who went around giving the world the middle finger. He stopped attending school and started using drugs. I just didn't know what to do.

The probation office sent us to

Mike and Mike talked his language. They were really able to connect. He changed Jack's attitude. Jack used to be so unhappy and angry and now, he's happy and laughing again. He's going to go to the College of DuPage in the spring. I did everything I could do. It was Mike who finally connected with Jack."

Although he has turned many lives around, Litow knows he can't save everyone. Before accepting a student into his center, Litow completes a free assessment. He does not accept students with severe depression, advanced drug habits or other situations which can't be handled in his practice. Although some students are not accepted, it is never due to monetary issues, noted Blench.

"Mike has never turned away a kid for financial reasons. He reduces the fee, finds a scholarship or does it for free and believe me, this is not done frequently in the counseling world," Blench said.

Most of Litow's clients meet with him for about nine weeks.

"This is not dance lessons," Litow said. "I want them to become independent and self-reliant." After the formal counseling ends, Litow often checks in with clients who are on their own.

Mrs. C. said he made visits to her son in the youth home when he was no longer being paid for his time.

Although Blench admires Litow's ability to connect with students, he sees a greater strength in the relationships that are formed.

"Perhaps the main reason that he is so highly effective is that he has a very clear vision that not only do these kids need emotional support but they need accountability. He shows them that they need to be accountable for their actions."

The conference in Washington was an opportunity for Litow to share his ideas about making positive connections with youth.

"Parents need to love their own children but they also need to love all children. They need to give guidance and support wherever they can. Relationships to kids are as important as location is to real estate."

Youth expert: Suburban kids need guidance, too

By Bonnie R. Kohout
Senior Staff Writer

Juvenile violence has so permeated the news in recent years that the shock value is wearing off.

Two boys in Arkansas opened fire in an Arkansas schoolyard. A group of teens bludgeoned to death a boy riding his bicycle in Chicago. The male suspects in the recent slaying of a 12-year-old Chicago girl are just 7 and 8 years old.

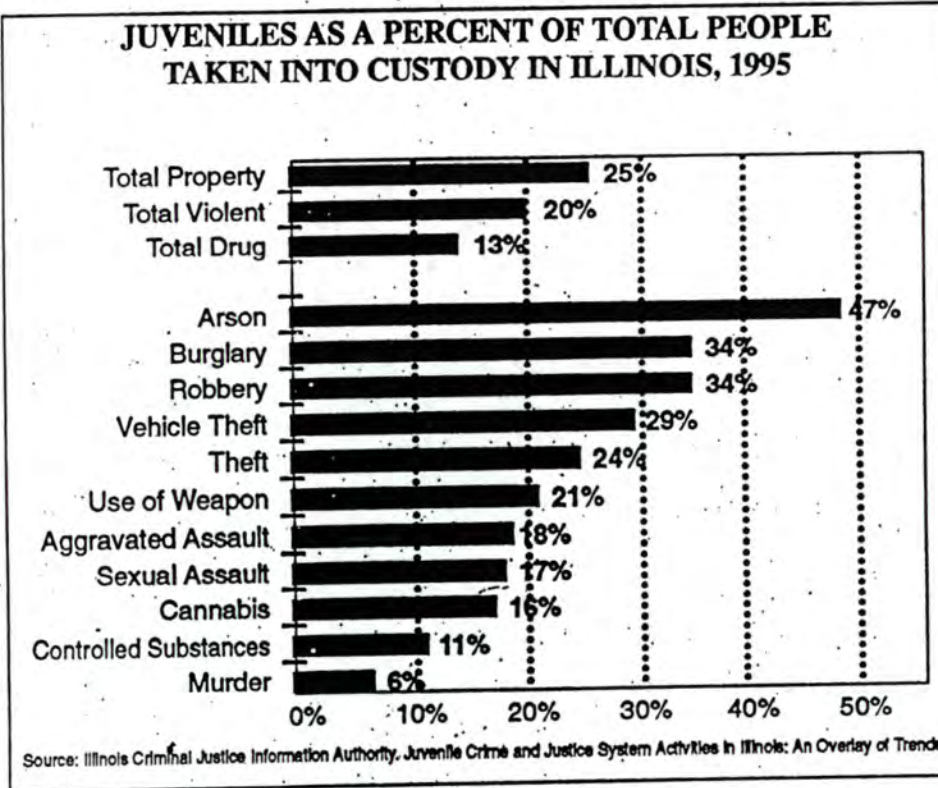
"Society is more violent," said Michael Litow, a nationally recognized authority on troubled children and teenagers. "Kids see it, live it, learn and experience it," he said. "Violence becomes acceptable behavior — a way to respond."

Litow spoke Thursday before the La Grange Kiwanis Club. He pointed to television, movies and some video games as highly negative influences.

"Everywhere you look there's violence," Litow said. "You could write a handbook on violence just from TV. There are graphic examples of rape, molestations and killings. Kids see thousands of hours of this. Some kids can't distinguish fantasy from reality and that number is growing."

Litow dispels the notion that juvenile crime is confined to cities. As the executive director of The Education Center Inc., with offices in Naperville and Oak Park, he sees many suburban children with serious behavioral problems.

"Many are impulsive," he said. "They're not good at making decisions. They go ballistic and have temper



Juveniles account for a large percentage of statewide crime. This graph shows the percentage of crimes that were committed by those younger than 17. In general, juvenile males are responsible for a higher percentage of these crimes.

tantrums when things don't go the way they want."

Parents promoting the "good life" for their children — by giving them money, expensive toys and clothing — often attempt to overcompensate with material things instead of time, Litow said. Youngsters who don't hear parents say "no" once in a while grow up believing they'll always get their way, he said.

"These kids lack the ability to cope.

They want instant gratification. Their attitude is, 'I want it. I deserve it,' " Litow said.

So what can be done?

For schools, Litow recommends getting tough with students causing serious problems. Install metal detectors in buildings and suspend or expel anyone caught with a weapon, he said.

He'd also like to see more schools establishing conflict resolution pro-

grams where students learn to resolve disagreements without turning to violence. Schools should identify youths who exhibit early signs of behavioral or emotional problems, he said.

Peer mediation programs have been started at Hinsdale Central, Hinsdale South and Lyons Township high schools. Peer mediators are trained to help deal with student conflicts. If more assistance is needed, students may be referred to the school's guidance department, social workers or deans.

Such programs are not a panacea, said Dave Franzen, Hinsdale Central's assistant principal for student services. The programs work well when there's two willing participants, he said.

Litow offers this advice to teachers: Before you teach the kid, reach the kid.

"Be accessible," he said. "Get to know each one of the students. Get to know what makes them tick. Don't just look at a collective group of 30 kids. Be sensitive."

Litow says parents must make their children feel loved, wanted and needed.

"Spend some time with them," he said. "Talk to them. Listen to them. Don't condemn or judge them."

As for business community members, Litow recommends that they act as mentors to youths, getting involved with school and community programs.

"Take a kid under your wing," he said. "There are all kinds of kids who need positive direction. Work with them and teach them personal responsibility, accountability and integrity. Give kids skills and training to be productive members of society."

Family - Chicago Tribune 3-28-99



Tribune photo by Ed Wagner

"Once kids experience success, you see a lot of negative behavior disappear," Michael Littow says.

Getting the message

Psychologist Michael Littow's life is connecting with teens

By Candace Purdom
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

The cozy two-story, white frame house in downtown Naperville welcomes guests with its wide front porch. The Education Center is the kind of safe, homey place where cross-stitched "Home Sweet Home" samplers would seem appropriate.

But here, the sentiments would likely be, "Before you try to learn, you've got to learn to try," "Look ahead and prepare, or look behind and regret," or "Life can throw you a curve — but life's life!"

These are among Michael Littow's favorite messages, and the teens he counsels hear them often. Since 1987, they have made their way to Littow's office, upstairs in the old frame house, to solve problems and aim for goals.

"I see a lot of kids from [inner city neighborhoods] who basically deal with day-to-day survival: how to make it to school without getting your butt kicked, or your gym shoes ripped off, or catching a bullet," says Littow, who 20 years ago opened, and still operates, the original Education Center in Oak Park. "And then I see kids out here who are basically great kids, but many of them are overindulged and have difficulty coping with disappointment because everything's given to them."

The range keeps Littow on his toes. Because he has worked with thousands of young people, nothing surprises him. "When I think I've heard it all, something else comes up," says the psychologist, who also has been affiliated with the Chicago Board of Education for 30 years, as a teacher, coordinator, assistant principal and consultant. "Whatever I do hear, we just deal with."

From Annie (not her real name), Littow has heard plenty over the past 18 months. The 16-year-old DuPage County girl is surviving an abusive background, her parents' bitter divorce and difficult financial straits. Despite a high IQ, the girl's grades and spirits plummeted last year. Miserable, Annie dreaded school.

According to her worried mother, Annie was bent on failure. "It came on gradually and just never picked up," says the mother. "I thought it was just something she was going through emotionally. So I waited it out a little bit, but then I had her evaluated."

The medical facility recommended that Annie see Littow. Within months, there was a positive difference in Annie that has continued.

"I go to a huge high school, and we don't have one-on-one relationships with our teachers. So I didn't feel they were interested enough," Annie says. "Dr. Littow's more caring. He doesn't give advice unless you ask for it, which is nice because you go to any adult and they say, 'Well you should do this and that.'"

Annie responded to what she terms Littow's "incredibly positive attitude." Today, she has her heart set on college and a career in environmental studies and is raising her grades to get there. So grateful is Annie's mother that she says, "Mike's on my prayer list every night."

Endorsements, and support, come from the business community as well. Over the years, Littow has been a ferocious letter-writer, contacting celebrities and professionals of all kinds to serve as mentors, among them the late Bears owner George Halas; Sam Skinner, former chief of staff for President Reagan; and broadcaster Joan Esposito.

Three years ago, such a letter attracted Douglas Colbeth, president and CEO of Naperville's Spyglass Inc. "I was absolutely compelled to help Mike out," explains Colbeth, who has since hired several of Littow's young clients at his software firm. "Mike has a tremendous combination of toughness and compassion. ... He gets kids open to helping themselves."

Littow describes his process as finding and tapping each student's talents.

"You can talk about self-esteem until you're blue in the face, but once kids experience success, you see a lot of negative behavior disappear," Littow says. "For many of them, school has been a punitive experience. They're left asking, 'Why can't I get this? What's wrong with me?' And that leads to other problems."

Littow speaks from experience. He flunked 4th grade. At Chicago's Mather High School, Littow, Class of '64, wore a leather jacket and a ducktail haircut and was more or less a "Happy Days" Fonzie-type.

"I vacillated between two groups, the juvenile delinquents and the kids who were going to college," Littow notes. "But I decided I wanted to do something with my life."

Littow says the critical work is still with those kids: the ones on the fence, the ones many DuPage area schools refer to him.

For parents, Littow prescribes the tried and true: Love your children for who they are. Spend time with them. Be supportive and encouraging. Don't be too quick with judgment or advice. Listen.

It's what Littow practices at the old frame house, where he stresses to every client one last message: "Failure is not an option."

The Education Center: Creating Brighter Futures

On call 24 hours a day, Dr. Michael Litow does what most others can't: inspiring at-risk children to turn their lives around and create brighter futures. This nationally recognized and honored educator and counselor has an exceptional gift for bringing out and developing the good in kids society is all too quick to label "bad."

After earning a bachelor's degree in business, a master's in special education, and a Ph.D. in educational psychology, he worked with the Chicago Board of Education as a teacher, coordinator and assistant principal. He is also the founder and director of The Education Center, which first opened in Oak Park in 1979 and later expanded to Naperville in 1987. His success derives from his unique part-motivational part "street tough" approach. This center provides counseling services for thousands of families and young people involving issues like learning disabilities, physical and sexual abuse, drug and gang affiliation, lack of employment skills, truancy, homelessness and suicide. The

overall focus is not on the child's weaknesses, but on their strengths.

Being labeled as incorrigible and learning disabled, school was tough for Dr. Litow. Growing up, he vacillated between the tough guys and those more motivated to learn. He recalls saying to himself: "I'm not sure what I want, but I know what I don't want." He relates easily to the kids, because he is not just an expert who has researched the problems, but has experienced many of the same struggles.

"Everyone has a responsibility. I do, the parents do and so does the kid. If everyone works in a collaborative effort then we will see results," Dr. Litow explained. He is a firm believer that you have to reach the kid to teach the kid. One of the biggest challenges Dr. Litow faces includes getting the kids to become willing to change. Parents come to the Education Center frustrated from past experiences at other clinics that have failed to get their children talking. "They talk to me," Dr. Litow said.

Among the many letters of appreciation Dr. Litow receives, one mother writes: "I truly believe that when (my son) was at a crossroads in his life, you ultimately saved him from taking the wrong path." A young girl explained how the Center helped her; "I was not lectured or looked down upon. I was listened to and decisions were made according to my individual needs."

Dr. Litow describes his relationship with the kids as one built on pure respect and trust. Honest, and objective is how he answers their questions, which leads to good friendships and positive feedback. "I have a passion for what I do, I think it comes across. It is very satisfying but can also be very frustrating," Dr. Litow added. He has taken the stigma out of therapy, and kids see him as a coach not a shrink.

Devoting himself to motivate these children, Dr. Litow receives support from resources in business, politics, sports, and entertainment. Well known professionals such as Joan Esposito give kids a chance not just to be told what they can do in the

future, but learn what it takes to get there from someone who did. Scholarship funds are donated to lower or eliminate costs depending on the need and willingness of the parents and kids.

Examining the entire spectrum of the child's thoughts, feelings, and environment is not easy. It demands optimism, patience, understanding, and of course people like Dr. Michael Litow determined to turn dead ends into open doors of opportunity. Regarding learning disabilities, Dr. Litow says, "You don't fail because of them, you succeed in spite of them."

If you would like additional information or would like to speak to Dr. Litow, please call 630-420-7807.

The Education Center, Inc.

- Oak Park
- Naperville

630-420-7807

A kid's best friend

■ Dr. Mike Litow
does what parents
should do with their
children: He listens.

Judging from responses to last week's column, a lot of people have given up on our kids.

I wrote that 14-year-old Garey Randle was expelled from Crete-Monee Middle School for an entire year for fighting. The school district, which happens to be in the throes of an economic crisis, can't pay for alternative programs. The mother, Gloria Yates, can't pay for an alternative or private school, either.

That leaves Garey on the street, heading down a path that leads straight to prison or an early grave. I argued that it would be better for our taxes to go for intervention now, rather than to pay for prisons later.

Boy, did I get an earful from readers.

"We have another example of a parent who, in my opinion, has not taken their role seriously and now wants the schools, teachers, taxpayers, etc. to FIX IT!" wrote Lauren Zaubi of Itasca.

"If we were all more responsible for our own children and stopped waiting for someone else to teach our kids, our society may not be facing the problem it is," said Burnard C. Taylor of Chicago.

And Mark Fearon of Chicago had this advice: "Get off your rump and take charge of your home life or a jury of your peers will do it for you."

As cold as this sounds, these sentiments accurately reflect the opinions of a lot of people. Thank goodness there are people around like Dr. Mike Litow.

Litow counsels kids like Garey and others who are deemed troublemakers or underachievers. He has been at it for 20 years, and says it is not enough to blame parents for the growing number of unruly kids.



Mary A.
MITCHELL

He ought to know. Litow flunked fourth grade, was found to have a learning disability, and for most of his school career was a teacher's worst nightmare. He now works with learning disabled kids at Sullivan Elementary School on the South Side, and runs a nonprofit counseling service, the Education Center of Developmental Resources. The center has offices in Naperville and Oak Park.

His clients include the children of CEOs as well as those who live

"I think everybody wants to point the finger of blame," he said during a recent interview at his Oak Park office. "But we live in a very violent society. I'm talking about a society where violence is almost an acceptable form of behavior. Kids emulate that kind of behavior."

in public housing. In a lot of instances, money doesn't matter.

"I see too many people who want to phone in their parenting. They spend more time in line to buy Beanie Babies than they will spend helping their kid with homework, or talking to their kid," he said.

There are also learning disabilities that are not detected by school officials. For example, a Naperville family turned to Litow after they got tired of hearing teachers say: "He's a great kid, but..."

Litow discovered the high school junior had attention deficit disorder.

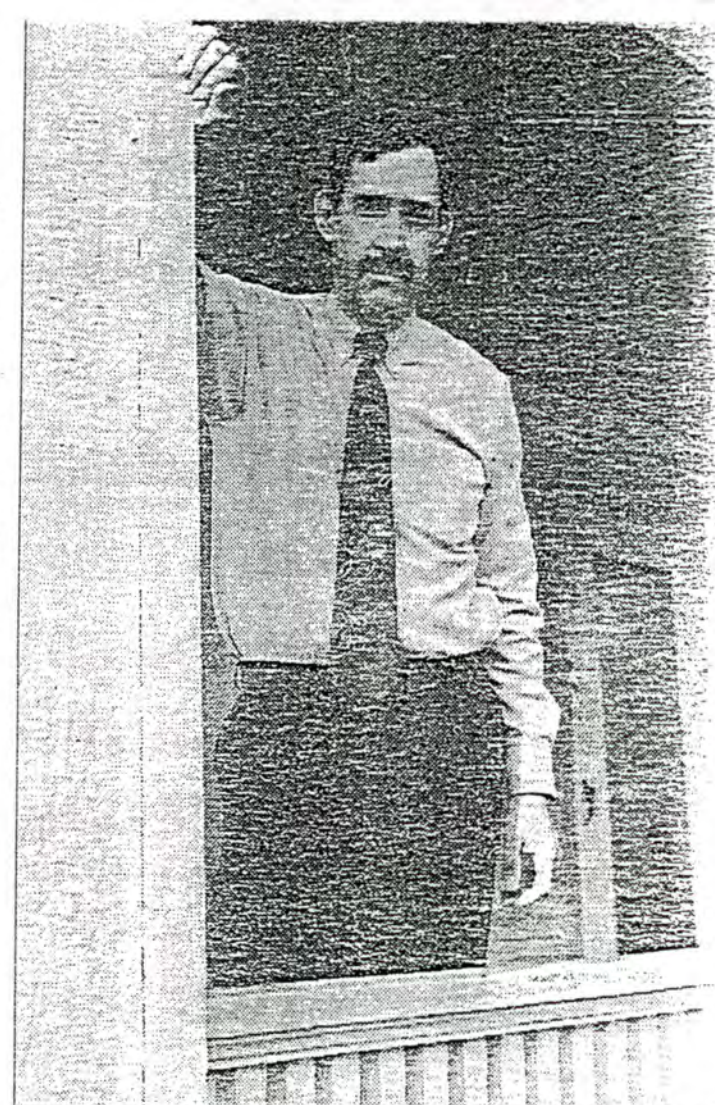
"I can't say enough about Dr. Litow," said the mother, who asked for anonymity to protect her son's confidentiality.

"My son's problems stemmed from a lack of self-esteem due to an undiscovered learning disability. Mike was instrumental in pointing that out, and following up very closely with the counselors at school."

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"I try to establish a relationship and trust," Litow said. "The kids trust me and we talk about everything that is going on in their lives. Adults will lecture, preach and sermonize. I listen."

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RICH HEIN/SUN

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He is absolutely right about that.

Parents seeking help, or those who want to help, can contact the

Education Center of Developmental Resources at (630) 420-7500.

Mary A. Mitchell is a member of the Sun-Times editorial board and writes a column in Sun-Times. E-mail: marym@times.com

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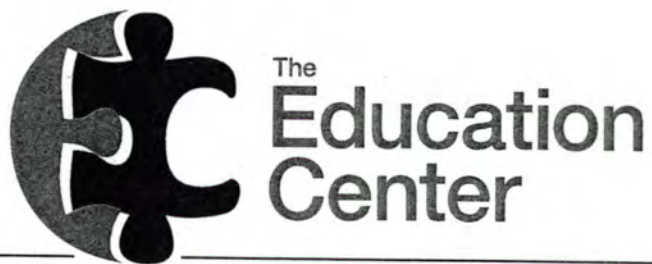
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Helping kids succeed in school and in life



Helping kids succeed in school and in life

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Dr. Michael Litow Biography

Dr. Michael Litow is the founder and executive director of The Education Center, where he provides a non-traditional form of counseling – *life coaching* – that helps kids find that which is capable and good in themselves and thereby gain self-confidence, independence and skills to last a lifetime.

Dr. Litow has been successful in helping turn around the lives of kids because he has a simple, no-nonsense approach that kids respond to. He helps kids see that they have talents and capabilities, and that once they start to achieve things ... no matter how small ... they will start to feel good about themselves. He helps kids understand that they are ultimately responsible for their lives, no matter what emotional hits they may have taken in the past, it's up to them to move forward and not let these things hold them back.

Dr. Litow knows how to help children achieve in school and life because he grew up street-smart on Chicago's West Side in the 1950's. Classified as "incorrigible" and "learning disabled," he flunked the fourth grade. But thanks to the help of loving and supportive parents, as well as the positive influence of friends, teachers and coaches, he turned things around and overcame his problems. He went on to graduate from Mather High School in Chicago, receive his Bachelor's degree in business from the University of Miami, a Master's degree in special education from Chicago State University and a Ph.D. in educational psychology.

Since 1968, Dr. Litow has worked for the Chicago Public Schools as a teacher, education specialist and assistant principal. He has earned a reputation for tenacity, employing whatever tactics necessary to hammer home the message of education's importance and not giving up on troubled children. Dr. Litow is frequently a panelist at forums focusing on education and youth violence.

Seeing the need for special attention and direction in young people's lives, Dr. Litow founded The Education Center in Oak Park in 1979 to provide one-on-one counseling and mentoring to at-risk kids to help them succeed in school and in life. A second center was opened in Naperville in 1987. In 1999, The Education Center marks its twentieth anniversary.

Through The Education Center, Dr. Litow has worked with more 1,000 young people and their families on such issues as learning disabilities, physical and sexual abuse, violence, drugs and gangs, unemployment, truancy and running away, homelessness and suicide. His work has earned him awards of recognition from several local institutions, as well as the admiration of students and parents alike.

Mike and his wife Marva have two sons, ages 15 and 20. Marva, a former model, is a school bus driver with Naperville school district 203. She has worked with many young people, particularly girls, on self-esteem issues.

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An Interview with Dr. Michael Litow

Q. What is the Education Center?

A. The Education Center is a counseling and referral center that provides young people with a one-on-one non-traditional form of counseling – *life coaching* – that helps children and teens find that which is capable and good in themselves, gain self-confidence, independence and skills needed to succeed in school and life. It's open to all young people ages 4 –20.

Q. Why did you open the Education Center?

A. I have a passion for what I do. I think it comes across in my interactions with students, parents and the community. It's very satisfying work to sit down with a kid help them to realize that where they're at in life is not the end of the world, and that there are a lot of great options and positive experiences waiting for them if they make the effort for themselves.

For me, the feeling is indescribable when I witness a turn around in a student's life and hear a 'thank you' from a kid or their parents. I saw the chance to make a difference in kids' lives, that's why I opened the Center.

Q. What types of kids do you typically work with?

A. I see a lot of kids from inner city neighborhoods who basically deal with day to day survival; how to make it in school without getting your butt kicked or your gym shoes ripped off, or catching a bullet. They don't see many positive options or role models in their lives and many of them have already been in trouble or are on the road to it.

And then I see kids out in the suburbs that are basically great kids, but many of them are overindulged and have difficulty coping with disappointment because everything's given to them. These kids have trouble fitting in and doing well in school and they often feel like they're not understood because mom and dad work all the time.

Basically, I see all types of young people that are going through a rough patch in their lives and haven't found anyone who can listen, understand and is willing to make the commitment to believe in them and give them a hand to make things better.

Q. Can anyone attend the Education Center? How long is the program? How many kids are enrolled at any one time? How much does it cost?

A. Absolutely anybody can attend The Education Center. Parents have to initiate enrollment. Once we do the intake, I'll generally work for 8-10 weeks with a child one-on-one, once or twice a week, during evenings and weekends. Then we'll see where we're at and where we should go. We work with the young person's whole community - parents, teachers, religious leaders, employers and youth officers - to help the kid out.

Typically we have 5-10 students enrolled at any one time, though we're looking to expand the number of counselors and mentors working with us in order to work with more young people.

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professionals I've met with over the years had to overcome great adversity to arrive at success. These people don't lecture kids, but they show them by example.

We're always looking for new mentors for kids, from all levels of society with all different types of backgrounds and experiences. Just as kids are all uniquely valuable and talented so too are all mentors. The Center provides training and orientation to make sure a good match is made and monitoring to see that things go well. If we all work together we can change a kids' life.

Q. How are kids and childhood different today then they were when you were growing up?

A. Children and teens are forced to grow up a lot faster today then they were before. There's a far greater pressure on them to succeed and far more serious obstacles for them to overcome.

Drug abuse is a major difference, but so too is the amount of violence occurring in our society on a daily basis. Community in many places is just a foreign concept. Young people too often become isolated and can fall prey to negative influences without anyone noticing the problem until it's too late.

Q. Why do you think kids are so drawn to violence these days?

A. I think everybody wants to point the finger of blame, but we live in a violent society. I'm talking about a society where violence is almost an acceptable form of behavior. Young people emulate that behavior.

Kids need to feel included in society so they don't feel excluded from the world around them and act out against it. By the time a kid has been drawn in to violent behavior a whole lot of people have missed understanding that kid and creating positive influence in his or her life.

Q. What signs should parents, teachers and adults look for that a kid's in trouble?

A. Parents, teachers and adults need to look and listen. If you're doing all the talking to a young person you're missing the point of what they're saying to you. Obviously, underachieving in school, getting involved in drug and alcohol abuse or law enforcement are big red flags. But so too are signs of low self-esteem and lack of confidence, these are tell-tale signs of isolation and insecurity.

Q. What methods do you prescribe to parents to deal with their children and their troubles?

A. Love their children for who they are. Spend time with them. Be supportive and encouraging. Don't be too quick with judgment or advice. Parents need to love their own kids, but they also need to love all children. They need to give guidance and support wherever they can. Relationships to kids are as important as location is in real estate.

Q. What approaches that you take with kids at The Education Center do you think could be applied in the school? In the home?

A. The Center's approach is one-on-one listening and sharing of advice. Above all, young people need a lot of support and attention, from both parents and teachers. We don't give dance lessons. Our approach to each child is different and based upon each one's needs. I don't think parents or schools can have just one set of rigid rules or guidelines for dealing with kids either. They need to be flexible and open-minded. I think parents need to turn off the television and get involved in their children's lives. The remote

Q. Is there a difference in the programs offered in Oak Park and Naperville?

A. Only the locations and faces change. The Center's philosophy is and has always been the same: every kid needs a chance to succeed in life.

Q. What makes The Education Center's approach unique?

A. I tell parents that I don't lecture, I don't preach, I don't sermonize – but I do listen. That I'll look at the whole picture and tell it like it is to them and to their children. I don't sit across from kids and do the old clinical thing where I say 'what's your problem?' Why would a young person listen to me if I say the same things as mom and dad? I try to establish a relationship and trust.

Our uniqueness comes in building trust and respect with kids. Once they get here, they get to try things they may not normally try, like doing homework and jobs. A lot of these young people are not risk-takers. We get them to feel self-confident in school and in holding down jobs. If you're feeling good about your yourself, you will get better at life.

Q. How do you help kids deal with self-esteem, academic or job-training issues? What programs do you offer?

A. You can talk about self-esteem until you're blue in the face, but once kids experience success, you see a lot of negative behavior disappear. For many of them, school has been a punitive experience. They're left asking, "Why can't I get this? What's wrong with me?" and that leads to other problems.

Our programs help kids see what's been giving them a hard time in the first place; that their problems belong to them, but so do their solutions. We do this by providing diagnostic testing and referrals to determine specific learning problems. We also provide preventative alcohol and drug abuse counseling, academic tutoring and individual and group counseling for kids and their families.

We also provide the opportunity for young people to be mentored by a positive role model in the community to gain real world experience. We've had CEOs showing kids what it takes to make it in business, companies giving kids job training and a chance to advance, and meetings with sports or entertainment personalities to hear how they got to where they're at. Other times, mentoring kids has meant someone committing to spending time with a kid, getting to know what they're all about and exposing the kid to new things. We tailor-make programs that suit where kids are coming from and where they want to go.

Q. How does working with a mentor help kids?

A. Mentors help young people see the real-world applications of what they're learning in school, and gives them a sense of their purpose and value in the world. This can focus a kid's direction in school, provide them with valuable job skills and contacts, as well as serve to help get kids feeling good about themselves through positive interactions.

Q. Where do you find the mentors to work with kids from The Education Center?

A. I utilize resources in the community. Anyone can help, from business people to athletes, politicians to anyone else willing to take the time to talk to children. This is how I got to where I'm at now. Many

control switch can't instill values, confidence or educate, but parents can. Teachers and administrators should work together to make school feel more like a place where kids aren't just passing through for eight hours a day. They should make sure that the school is the center of the community and that kids can express themselves freely, and not get lost in the shuffle.

Q. How many kids have participated in The Education Center's programs?

A. In twenty years, the Center has helped more than a thousand kids and thousands more parents, family members, police, community members and business leaders.

Q. Who has the responsibility to change a kid's life?

A. Everyone has a responsibility. I do, the parents do and so does the kid. If everyone works in a collaborative effort then we will see results. It makes more sense to give young people the skills they need now then to lock them up and pay \$30,000 a year for their maintenance. But some people would sooner build more and more prisons than help kids make a go of it in life.

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Litowisms

Dr. Michael Litow, founder of The Education Center, has helped kids for over 20 years to take charge of their lives, increase their self-esteem and get on the right track.

What's made him successful is his straightforward, no-nonsense approach. He doesn't sugarcoat things and kids respond to that. Dr. Litow just tells it like it is:

"Before you try to learn you have to learn to try"

"Look ahead and prepare or look behind and regret."

"A kid should feel good about what he can do, not anxious about what he cannot do."

"Freedom is the right to be wrong, not do wrong"

"Parents have to work at their relationships with their kids; they have to be there for them, they cannot phone or fax it in."

"Discipline without freedom is tyranny; freedom without discipline is chaos."

"If one child feels threatened, alone or disconnected, then all children are not safe."

"It's time to think outside of the box, to give up our notions of remote control. Children and adolescents should do instead of being done to."

"We don't want to remind kids about their baggage. We want to help them understand that if they want to move forward in life, they must pick up their baggage and carry it with them."

"You do what you need to do. I'll go to the wall for a kid."

"All kids can succeed and learn, but not all on the same day in the same way."

"Always try a different approach with kids because all kids are different."

"Relationships to young people are as important as location is to real estate."

"Life can throw you a curve, but life's life."

"It is much more cost effective to give a young person the skills, training and self-confidence to become a productive, tax-paying citizen then to lock them up at \$33,000 a year!"

"You've got to work with what you have and make it work for you."

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Thursday, May 7, 1998

COMMENTARY

www.suntimes.com

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He ought to know. Litow flunked fourth grade, was found to have a learning disability, and for most of his school career was a teacher's worst nightmare. He now works with learning disabled kids at Sullivan Elementary School on the South Side, and runs a nonprofit counseling service, the Education Center of Developmental Resources. The center has offices in Naperville and Oak Park.

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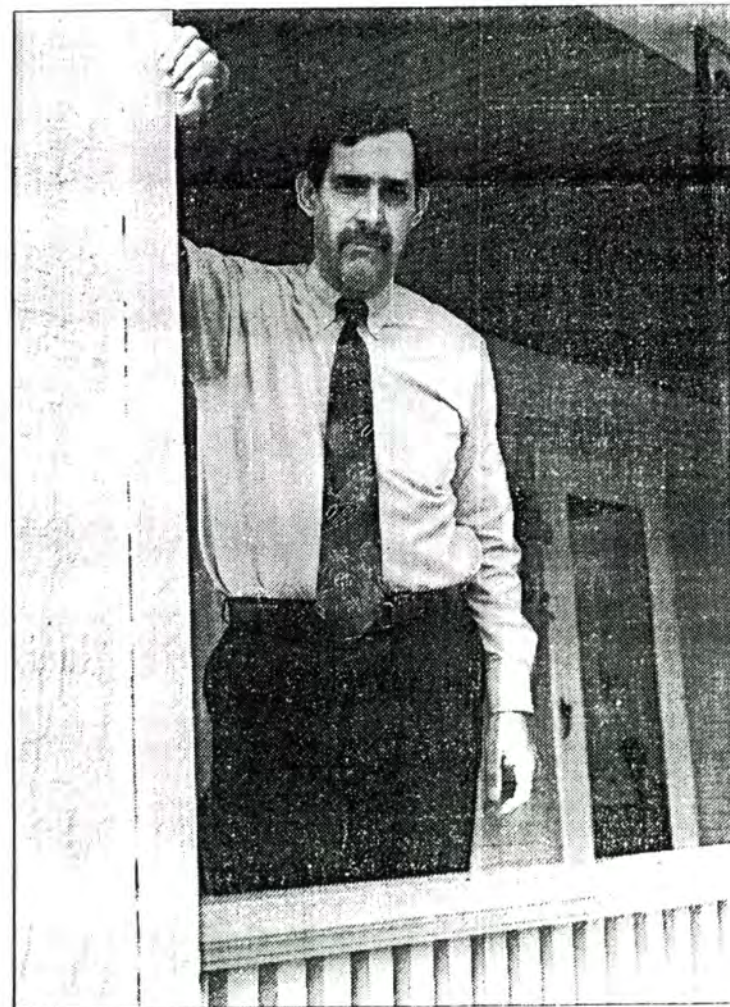
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RICH HEIN/SUN-TIMES

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Mary A. Mitchell is a member of the Sun-Times editorial board and writes a column in Sunday's Sun-Times. E-mail: marym@suntimes.com



Tribune photo by Ed Wagner

"Once kids experience success, you see a lot of negative behavior disappear," Michael Littow says.

Getting the message

Psychologist Michael Littow's life is connecting with teens

By Candace Purdom
SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

The cozy two-story, white frame house in downtown Naperville welcomes guests with its wide front porch. The Education Center is the kind of safe, homey place where cross-stitched "Home Sweet Home" samplers would seem appropriate.

But here, the sentiments would likely be, "Before you try to learn, you've got to learn to try." "Look ahead and prepare, or look behind and regret," or "Life can throw you a curve — but life's life!"

These are among Michael Littow's favorite messages, and the teens he counsels hear them often. Since 1987, they have made their way to Littow's office, upstairs in the old frame house, to solve problems and aim for goals.

"I see a lot of kids from [inner city neighborhoods] who basically deal with day-to-day survival: how to make it to school without getting your butt kicked, or your gym shoes ripped off, or catching a bullet," says Littow, who 20 years ago opened, and still operates, the original Education Center in Oak Park. "And then I see kids out here who are basically great kids, but many of them are overindulged and have difficulty coping with disappointment because everything's given to them."

The range keeps Littow on his toes. Because he has worked with thousands of young people, nothing surprises him. "When I think I've heard it all, something else comes up," says the psychologist, who also has been affiliated with the Chicago Board of Education for 30 years, as a teacher, coordinator, assistant principal and consultant. "Whatever I do hear, we just deal with."

From Annie (not her real name), Littow has heard plenty over the past 18 months. The 16-year-old DuPage County girl is surviving an abusive background, her parents' bitter divorce and difficult financial straits. Despite a high IQ, the girl's grades and spirits plummeted last year. Miserable, Annie dreaded school.

According to her worried mother, Annie was bent on failure. "It came on gradually and just never picked up," says the mother. "I thought it was just something she was going through emotionally. So I waited it out a little bit, but then I had her evaluated."

The medical facility recommended that Annie see Littow. Within months, there was a positive difference in Annie that has continued.

"I go to a huge high school, and we don't have one-on-one relationships with our teachers. So I didn't feel they were interested enough," Annie says. "Dr. Littow's more caring. He doesn't give advice unless you ask for it, which is nice because you go to any adult and they say, 'Well you should do this and that.'"

Annie responded to what she terms Littow's "incredibly positive attitude." Today, she has her heart set on college and a career in environmental studies and is raising her grades to get there. So grateful is Annie's mother that she says, "Mike's on my prayer list every night."

Endorsements, and support, come from the business community as well. Over the years, Littow has been a ferocious letter-writer, contacting celebrities and professionals of all kinds to serve as mentors, among them the late Bears owner George Halas; Sam Skinner, former chief of staff for President Reagan; and broadcaster Joan Esposito.

Three years ago, such a letter attracted Douglas Colbeth, president and CEO of Naperville's Spyglass Inc. "I was absolutely compelled to help Mike out," explains Colbeth, who has since hired several of Littow's young clients at his software firm. "Mike has a tremendous combination of toughness and compassion. ... He gets kids open to helping themselves."

Littow describes his process as finding and tapping each student's talents.

"You can talk about self-esteem until you're blue in the face, but once kids experience success, you see a lot of negative behavior disappear," Littow says. "For many of them, school has been a punitive experience. They're left asking, 'Why can't I get this? What's wrong with me?' And that leads to other problems."

Littow speaks from experience. He flunked 4th grade. At Chicago's Mather High School, Littow, Class of '64, wore a leather jacket and a ducktail haircut and was more or less a "Happy Days" Fonzie-type.

"I vacillated between two groups, the juvenile delinquents and the kids who were going to college," Littow notes. "But I decided I wanted to do something with my life."

Littow says the critical work is still with those kids: the ones on the fence, the ones many DuPage area schools refer to him.

For parents, Littow prescribes the tried and true: Love your children for who they are. Spend time with them. Be supportive and encouraging. Don't be too quick with judgment or advice. Listen.

It's what Littow practices at the old frame house, where he stresses to every client one last message: "Failure is not an option."

Taste of life after school helps turn teen around

By KARI ALLEN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Feb. 1998

Jim Trader epitomizes the phrase "attitude adjustment."

He remembers being a freshman at Naperville North High School just four years ago, thinking he knew everything.

Adults, of course, knew nothing.

He was always in the dean's office, always the class clown. And he always talked about dropping out so he could work full time.

Those who knew him back then barely recognize him now.

He's energetic, respectful to adults and dead-set on graduating from high school, going to college and getting a good job.

To get there, he's giving up his own cubicle, computer and name plate at Spyglass Inc. in Naperville.

For the time being, at least.

Michael Litow, founder and director of the Education Center of Developmental Resources Inc. in Naperville and Oak Park, helped Trader turn his life around.

"He talked to me like a normal person," Trader said. "The first day I met him, he gave me a business card; I still have it in my wallet now."

"It had his home number on it, too. How many counselors give out their home number?"

Trader doesn't think of Litow as a counselor any longer, but as his best friend.

A best friend who set up an interview for Trader with Douglas Colbeth, president and CEO of Spyglass, a company that provides Internet expertise, software and services to various companies.

Colbeth met with Trader and offered him a job as a clerk. Trader accepted and has been shipping, filing and faxing at Spyglass for about a year.

He's not alone. Litow meets with many troubled teens and tries to help them.

These teens often are termed "trouble-makers," "slackers" or potential "gang-bangers." Many do poorly in school.

They frequently are viewed by society as having little value or potential. Litow, however, sees something in these teens many others ignore: their strengths.

He discovers their interests, whether it be business, journalism or art, and finds mentors in these fields. These leaders talk to or even interview and hire teens referred to the Education Center.

"These kids tend to dwell on what they can't

TEEN: Center helps him get back on track

Continued from Page 1

do," Litow said. "We try to develop their strengths, to get them excited about life, about themselves."

The workplace often does just that, Litow said. When young people think they can't achieve anything, he said, "they tend to not care about school, themselves or life. Until, that is, they find they can be successful."

Now, Trader jokes with Colbeth that he'll be back, after college, to take the CEO position. "I'd like to take Doug's chair," Trader said. "He's keeping it warm for me."

That wasn't how he felt when he first walked through the doors of Spyglass. He thought his co-workers would view him as an inexperienced kid who didn't know what he was doing. "The first couple days, I was scared ... But everyone has gone above and beyond to be nice to me," Trader said.

In return, Trader has simply blossomed, Colbeth said. "He's a wonderful kid and has so much positive energy," he said.

"Jim's one of the most favorite employees in the company."

And Trader doesn't want to stop at just doing his job well. He wants to give back, both to Litow and Colbeth.

He'd like to be on the volunteer board of the Education Center. He wants to come back and talk to teenagers who are struggling, letting them know they can change.



Above, Jim Trader, a senior at Naperville North High School, files memos at Spyglass Inc., an Internet specialty company. At left, Ryan Crockett, left, stops to chat with 18-year-old Trader, who is one of the company's most popular employees, according to president and CEO Douglas Colbeth.

Daily Herald Photos
Paul Michie

See TEEN on Page 3

Images

NEIGHBORS, FAMILY HEALTH

AND BETTER LIVING

25

Pioneer Press
OAK LEAVES
Jan. 28, 1998



Michael Litow counsels troubled teen-agers from his Education Center offices in Oak Park. Luai Mahmud/Pioneer Press

A different kind of education

By TODD SHIELDS
STAFF WRITER

The Rev. Jesse Jackson and retired U.S. Army Gen. Colin Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are advocates of motivating young people by pairing them with accomplished adults.

But Michael Litow, an Oak Park educator recognized in Illinois and Chicago for his youth counseling programs, says he was promoting teen-adult mentoring more than 20 years ago, long before those two notables.

That's an assertive statement from a former West Chicago kid who flunked fourth grade, who teachers considered incorrigible, who was a street tough and who was learning disabled.

"I utilize resources in the community. Business people, athletes, politicians and anyone taking the time to talk to them. They tell troubled kids, 'This is how I got to where I'm at.'"

On a gloomy Monday morning in downtown Oak Park, Litow could be home enjoying the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, but he is eager to talk about his talent — helping troubled children and teen-agers.

"Many, many professionals I have met over the years overcame great adversity to arrive at success. These people don't lecture these kids, but show by example."

A choice

The mentors, especially those in business who hire teens, receive something solid in return, explains Litow.

"Business people see what they

are getting for their money; they can put a pulse on their efforts. Would you rather help kids become productive, tax-paying citizens or pay \$33,000 a year to keep one in jail?"

In 1979, Litow founded and remains executive director of the Education Center, a non-profit, referral agency that offers counseling to young people ages 4 to 20 years old with problems with family or in school.

Extra help

Special attention is given to underachieving students who may have emotional problems or special education needs. Failing grades, lack of classroom organization and poor peer relations also are symptoms that Litow handles.

Litow's offices are in Oak Park and Naperville, and he has two youth counselors on staff. The Education Center also provides diagnostic testing, preventative drug and alcohol abuse counseling, academic tutoring and group sessions for youths and their families.

Litow, who has a doctorate's degree in educational psychology and a master's in special education, says establishing trust with at-risk teens is his main strategy.

"The Education Center's uniqueness comes in building trust and respect with kids. Yet, once they get here, they must try things they may not normally try, like doing homework and jobs. A lot of these young people are not risk-takers," he says.

"We get them to feel self-confident in school and in holding down jobs. If you're feeling good about yourself, you will get better

(Continued on page 26)

Would you rather help kids become productive, tax-paying citizens or pay \$33,000 a year to keep one in jail?

Fact Sheet

The Education Center is a counseling and referral center that provides a non-traditional form of counseling – *life coaching* – that helps children and teens find that which is capable and good in themselves, gain self-confidence, independence and skills to last a lifetime. Through an individualized step-by-step approach of listening and mentoring, The Education Center focuses kids from ages 4-20 on overcoming negative situations and influences, getting on the right track in school and gaining the self-esteem vital to realizing their dreams.

- Founded in Oak Park, in 1979, with a second office in Naperville, The Education Center has counseled more than 1,000 kids with a broad spectrum of problems and needs from all social, cultural and economic backgrounds. Soon after, Developmental Resources was formed as The Education Center's not-for-profit component in order to work with children and families that can not afford to pay the standard fees. No individual or family is ever turned away for financial reasons. Student referrals come from school officials, juvenile justice officials as well as from parents and former students.
- The Education Center provides diagnostic testing and referrals to determine specific learning problems, preventative alcohol and drug abuse counseling, academic tutoring, teaching of auditory and comprehensive skills and individual and group counseling for youths and their families.
- Every child is treated as an individual at The Education Center. Through one-on-one counseling sessions, children are listened to without sermons or prejudice. The child's total life picture is reviewed to determine where problems come from and how best to solve them. Kids are challenged to learn, create and grow in their own way at their own pace.
- Going into the community and tapping business and civic leaders to provide internship, mentoring and job opportunities is another way The Education Center sets itself apart from traditional forms of counseling. Education Center mentors have included such luminaries as late Chicago Bears owner George Halas; former Chicago Bear and broadcaster Johnny Morris; former chief of staff for President Reagan Sam Skinner; former U.S. Senator Paul Simon; Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White; newspaper columnist Irv Kupcinet; and broadcasters Joan Esposito and Tim Weigel.
- Education Center Founder/Executive Director Dr. Michael Litow has been affiliated for 30 years with the Chicago Public Schools as a teacher, coordinator, assistant principal and consultant. A nationally acclaimed educator and counselor, he has been recognized by several institutions and organizations including the Chicago Jaycees, Chicago area law enforcement agencies, Illinois House of Representatives, Professional Women's Club, the Chicago field office of Phi Delta Kappa, the U.S. Department of Justice and the White House Conference on School Safety.
- The Education Center is an independent, privately funded agency. For more information, contact the Center at (630) 420-7807.

113 E. Van Buren

Naperville, IL 60540

1100 W. Lake St., Suite 250

Oak Park, IL 60301

www.theeducationcenter.org

Phone (630) 420-7807

Fax (630) 820-6897

Programs and Services

The Education Center offers a variety of programs and services aimed at helping youth develop their self-esteem and self-confidence.

Our services are designed to help children who have one or more of the following problems:

- **Failing Grades**
- **Lack of Organization**
- **Inability to Complete Assignments**
- **Lack of Motivation**
- **Poor Peer Relationships**
- **Poor Auditory and Comprehension Skills**

All of The Education Center's programs are open to *any* child ages 4 through 20. No individual or family is ever turned away based on financial need.

- **One-on-One Counseling**--Students are welcomed into a comfortable, stress-free environment where they are able to speak openly and gain exposure to new mechanisms of dealing with crises and hard times in a positive manner.
- **Motivational Group Counseling Program for Students**--Students are encouraged to participate in group counseling and learning activities helping to build peer trust, understanding and social skills.
- **Diagnostic Testing and Referrals to Determine Specific Learning Problems**--School difficulties can be the result of diagnosable learning or social disorders. The Education Center can diagnose, or refer for diagnosis, learning problems and then work with students to overcome the difficulties related to them.
- **Preventative Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counseling**--The Education Center works with students on drug and alcohol issues helping them to face up to peer pressure and stressful times in their lives without falling into destructive patterns of substance abuse. The Center also helps students that have already begun experimenting with drugs and alcohol to turn things around.
- **Structured Time of Homework Tutoring**--The Education Center provides academic tutoring in a variety of subjects and works with students on prioritizing their schedules and committing to a structured study time.

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- **Mentoring Program**--Students' interests and skills are used to connect them with community leaders who serve as a role models and inspirational mentors in vocational and recreational fields. This provides students with a unique opportunity for specialized training and experience.
- **Employment Training, Interviewing and Placement Program**--Students receive employment counseling focusing on how to fill out an application, how to write a resume, how to contact an employer, how to network, how to prepare for an interview and how to find a job. The Education Center can also provide job placement for qualified students.
- **Social Activities Program**--The Education Center works with students to identify interests and reintegrate them into social and community activities. This can include gaining involvement in sporting or after-school groups, the arts or other areas that promote socialization and learning for students.
- **Follow-up and Evaluation**--The Education Center is open 24 hours a day 365 days a year. Once a student completes the program they are followed up on throughout school to make sure they continue and build on progress made.

###

What People Are Saying About The Education Center

Students

"I was having big problems in school. I wasn't on the right track to go anywhere. When I went to Mike, I felt that he genuinely cared. If you do something wrong, he doesn't make you feel bad. You just want him to trust you and you wouldn't even think of lying to him. I'm applying to college now and I know I'm going to do well."

Jim Gulesarian, Wheaton

"I was heading downward, and you helped me get rid of most of my rage... I went to other counselors, but never did I get the same help... I feel that you had a big effect in my life."

Brian Sparbanie, Naperville

"School was always difficult for me. From kindergarten on I had feelings of inadequacy, lacked self-confidence and above all frustration. Dr. Litow and The Education Center taught me that my troubles in school were not consequences of my study habits. I was not lectured or looked down upon. I was listened to and decisions were made according to my individual needs. Listening was the key."

Krista Gauer, Westmont

Parents

"You are the only adult male in his [John's] life. He opens up to you and he listens to you. I know that he also cares about what you think of him. I've seen a major change in him for the better this year... thanks to you."

Mary Donnelly, Aurora

"My family and I want to express our appreciation for your part in the tremendous attitude change and subsequent accomplishments made by our son... Six months ago we couldn't get him to go to class!!... Recently he was named math student of the month."

Mrs. D. Malloy, Naperville

"When Terrence, my grandson, came to you, he had no friends in church or any other places... now I can say he has friends with other boys... You have given Terrence confidence in himself to play in the band and go places by himself... You have given him confidence that he can tackle any job."

O'Neal M. Rayford, Chicago

113 E. Van Buren

Naperville, IL 60540

1100 W. Lake St., Suite 250

Oak Park, IL 60301

www.theeducationcenter.org

Phone (630) 420-7807

Fax (630) 820-6897

"There were times that Meredith did not want to listen to us nor talk to us. 'We knew nothing.' You reaffirmed our value as parents to her... She knew she could count on you...She said, 'Mike was always very influential in my life. He helped me to realize that my life was up to me...' [Now she says] 'I have to do this myself. It is my life, and I have to make the decision.' That is progress."

Christie Rice, Naperville

Others

"I commend you for the important work you are doing with young people and their families. The Attorney General shares your views that we can make a difference in young people's lives by working together... She appreciates... your efforts to help America's children."

*Harri J. Kramer, Director Office of Congressional and Public Affairs
U.S. Department of Justice - Office of Justice Programs, Washington, D.C.*

"If Michael Jordan was born to play basketball, than Michael Litow was born to work with young people. His work with kids is legendary, and his success rate is remarkable... The list of participants to The Education Center truly crosses all ethnic and social lines... I believe that he is truly making a difference in both the suburbs and Chicago with our at-risk youth... giving [them] a second chance in school and in life."

*Cynthia L. Schmidt, Resource Development
The Association House of Chicago*

"Mike Litow is more than a teacher. He started The Education Center to address the problems of youth who are underachievers, or who have special emotional problems. His success rate is phenomenal."

*George Munoz, Former Chairman of the Chicago Board of Education
Current Director, Overseas Private Investment Corp., Washington, D.C.*

"Sullivan Elementary School has a unique program designed to integrate severely emotionally disturbed and/or behaviorally disordered students into a regular classroom setting. The program has been a resounding success. Without him [Dr. Litow], continuing success would be impossible... [Mike's] work is superior."

*Dr. Robert Esenberg, Principal
W. K. Sullivan Elementary School - Chicago*

###

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 21, 2000

Her Excellency Antonina Lucinschi
First Lady of Moldova
Republic of Moldova
Chisinau, MD, 2012
Str. Maria Cebotari, 16

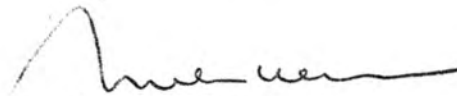
Dear Mrs. Lucinschi:

On behalf of Mrs. Clinton, thank you for your letter and information about Brândușele Speranței's many important initiatives.

Ensuring all children, especially poor children have the opportunity to be healthy, to get a good education, and to benefit from the arts is very important. Please accept Mrs. Clinton's admiration and appreciation for all you are doing to teach and encourage children, along with her best wishes to you and your colleagues.

You have the great satisfaction of knowing your leadership and vital work truly matters to so many. Thank you for all you do and best wishes for a happy New Year

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a stylized, flowing script.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



Embassy of the Republic of Moldova

2101 S Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20008

Tel: (202) 667 1130; Fax: (202) 667 1204

E-mail: moldova@dgs.dgsys.com

Home Page: www.moldova.org

Attn.: Jamie

Fax: (202) 456.6244

**Here is the address of the First Lady of the Republic of Moldova,
Mrs. Antonina Lucinschi:**

Republic of Moldova

Chisinau, MD, 2012

Str. Maria Cebotari, 16

Mihaela Cebotari

Social Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely belonging to Mihaela Cebotari.

January 10, 2000

Her Excellency Antonina Lucinschi
First Lady of Moldova
Republic of Moldova
Chisinau, MD, 2012
Str. Maria Cebotari, 16

We'll get it.

*Jamie,
pls call the
Embassy of Moldova
at 202-667-1130
and get a good address
for Antonina
Lucinschi,
their First Lady.*

Dear Mrs. Lucinschi:

On behalf of Mrs. Clinton, thank you for your letter and information about Brândușele Speranței's many important initiatives.

Ensuring all children have the opportunity to be creative and learn through the arts is important for so many reasons. Please accept Mrs. Clinton's admiration and appreciation for all you are doing to teach and encourage children, along with her best wishes to you and your colleagues.

especially for children,

*healthy, to get a good
education and
to benefit from
the arts.*

You have the great satisfaction of knowing your leadership and vital work truly matters to so many. Thank you for all you do.

*and best wishes for a
happy New Year.*

Sincerely,

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



BRÂNDUȘELE
SPERANȚEI

FONDUL DE BINEFACERE

CC Melonae
R

R

Dear Mrs. Hilary Clinton,

I thank you and International Child Art Foundation for opportunity to be an Honorary Millennium Committee Member, I gave my agreement and I appreciate your confidence. I'll try to do the best in order to develop the programs.

Children, women and their problems make the greatest part of my activity. That why I am leading of the children's Charitable Foundation "Brândușele Speranței" (The Sprouts of hope) and I am the honorable President of International women club of Moldova. The Fund has the following tasks: to assist children, families and government in order to solve social problems. It works on 5 programs – "The sprouts of hope", "Healthy children – healthy society", "Children and cultural education", "Help to children from families of scanty means", "Organization of services of psychological support of family and children". Our activity is also focused on gifted children with international appreciation in art and scientific areas. There are a lot of such children with average or below average material opportunities and the Foundation helps them. This year the Foundation has given 102 special scholarships to gifted pupils.

Orphans the number of which growth based on different factors represent an important sphere of our activity. They complete boarding schools, orphanages. Besides this there are a lot of sick children and the Foundation promotes medical attendance and rehabilitation. We assist families, hospitals and special children organization.

An important part of our activity is dedicated to cultural programs. In critical economic situation of our country, we try to promote development of children's abilities and creativity. We familiarize children from families of scanty means with the achievements of art, by the way of concerts, performances and exhibitions.

Traditional became the concerts of spiritual music in Easter week, charitable concerts on the occasion of the national holiday "Mărțișor", Christmas and New Year holidays, "President's tree" and charitable ball for children and adults on the Children's Day.

Please, let me wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,

A. Lucinschi
the First Lady of
the Republic of Moldova

A. Lucinseki

IX. ICAF Millennium Committee Members

The ICAF Millennium Committee oversees and provides direction to the ICAF Millennium Program. The committee members are the hands united around the world to carry the message about the importance of children's creativity and art to every corner of the earth and into the next millennium.

Honorary Members

H. E. Alma Adamkiene, First Lady of Lithuania
H. E. Mairam Akaeva, First Lady of the Kyrgyz Republic
H. H. Sheikha Mozah Nasser Al Misnad, First Lady of Qatar
H. E. Beverley Arthur, First Lady of Barbados
Mrs. Rosalynn Carter, Former First Lady of the United States
H. E. Lilla Irene Clerides, First Lady of Cyprus
Mrs. Elizabeth B. Ford, Former First Lady of the United States
Mrs. Alice Foster, First Lady of Louisiana
H. E. Nasreena M. A. Gayoom, First Lady of Maldives
H. E. Dilbar Gulamova, Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan
H. E. Keiko Sofia Fujimori Higuchi, First Lady of Peru
H. E. Jewel Howard-Taylor, First Lady of Liberia
H.E. Zineb Yahya Jammeh, First Lady of The Gambia
H.E. Antonina Lucinschi, First Lady of Moldova
H.E. Marguerite Midjo-Kerekou, First Lady of Benin
Ms. Sharon A. Kitzhaber, First Lady of Oregon
H. E. Lidra Karagjozi Meidani, First Lady of Albania
H. E. Sara Alpisovna Nazarbayeva, First Lady of Kazakhstan
The Honorable and Mrs. Tom J. Ridge, Governor and First Lady of Pennsylvania
H. E. Lorena Clare De Rodriguez, First Lady of Costa Rica
Mrs. Irma Margarita Nevares de Rosselló, First Lady of Puerto Rico
The Honorable and Mrs. Frank O'Bannon, Governor and First Lady of Indiana
The Honorable George E. Pataki, Governor of State of New York
H. E. Gloria Williams, First Lady of Grenada

Advisory Members

Mr. Chuck Close, Artist, New York City
Professor Mark F. Cooper, Boston College, Boston
Professor Albo Folarin, Artist, Nigeria
Ms. Harriet Mayor Fulbright, President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities,
Washington, DC
Ms. Betty Jane J. Gerber, Nation's Capital Bicentennial Celebration, Washington, DC
Ms. Catherine Martens, President, Capital Children's Museum, Washington, DC
The Honorable L. William Seidman, Former Chairman, FDIC and RTC
Dr. Prabha Sahasrabudhe, Teachers College Columbia University, New York
Mr. Peter Tichansky, President, Business Council for International Understanding,
New York
Mr. Chen Yifei, Artist, China



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Tel./fax: 01/224 19 78; 224 27 48
Foto © FOTOKUNST VERLAG GROH
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

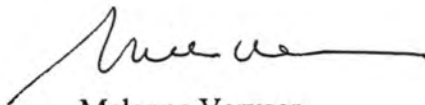
June 26, 2000

His Excellency Hong-Koo Lee
Embassy of the Republic of Korea
2450 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ambassador Lee:

Enclosed are photos from Mrs. Clinton and Mrs. Kim
Dae Jung's meeting in February. Please convey the photos with
Mrs. Clinton's very best wishes.

All the best,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

1c

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 26, 2000

Mike Lenaghan
Social Studies Dept.
Miami-Dade Community College
11380 N.W. 27 Avenue
Miami, FL 33167-3495

Dear Mike:

It is wonderful to hear from you after all these years.
Thank you for letting us know about Anita's interest in
working in the First Lady's Office as she starts at Georgetown
this Fall.

Unfortunately, government regulations make it difficult
for non-U.S. citizens to intern or volunteer at the White House.
But please do forward Anita's information to us. If an
interesting opportunity becomes available, we will reach out to
her.

Very best wishes and hope all is well with you.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

Social Sciences Department
11380 N.W. 27 Avenue
Miami, FL 33167-3495
N 1722C



May 22, 2000

Hon. Melanne S. Verveer
Domestic Policy Adviser
The White House
1600 pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006

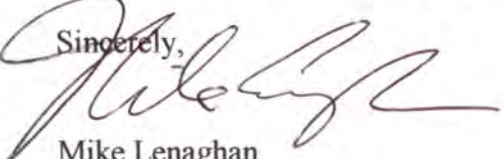
Dear Melanne:

I have an MDCC alumna who is about to embark on her transfer undergraduate career at Georgetown University in the fall of 2000. And I wanted to explore the possibility of her as a possible part time colleague at the The White House, if circumstances there could benefit from this opportunity. She will enter the McDonough School of Business in late August.

Anita is from Nepal, having been educated in India, served in the airline industry and now graduated from MDCC's honors program. She was recently chief delegate of our National Model UN Delegation in New York City where her 6-month leadership and research management initiatives paid off handsomely. She will be scholarship student at Georgetown, thereby necessitating some parallel employment/internship/subsistence opportunity to be generated. Anita is bright, articulate, hard working, inter-personally astute and imaginative.

Consider the possibility. A resume will follow. I anticipate a global leader, intellectual entrepreneur and futurist here. Best she should meet with the brightest and best at The White House!

I hope you are doing superlatively. If not, I will help write the copy.

Sincerely,

Mike Lenaghan

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 7, 2000

Ms. Geraldine Laybourne
Chairman and CEO
Oxygen Media
1370 Avenue of the Americas, 22nd floor
New York, NY 10019

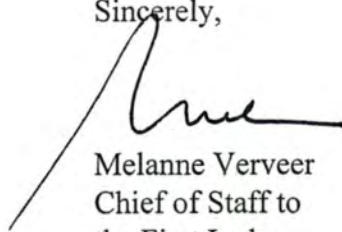
Dear Gerry:

From all of us in the First Lady's office, congratulations on the birth of Oxygen's network.

I regret that I couldn't join you for the party but please know we are all thrilled for you and the Oxygen family. And of course, we're so pleased that Cheryl Mills is with you, even though we miss her here.

All the best.

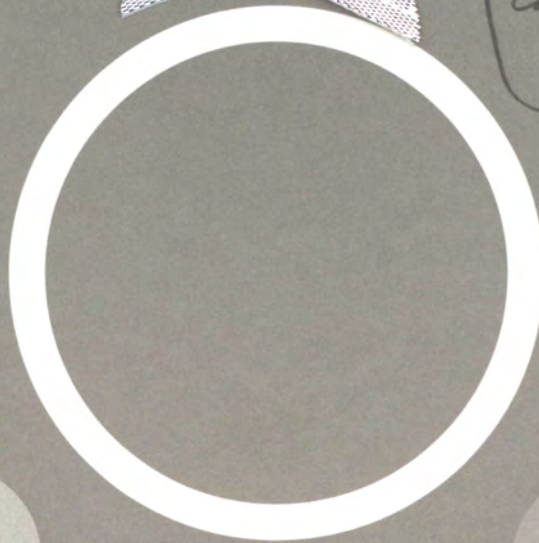
Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



Let's do
a
congrat'n



It's a Network!

Name:

(oxygen)

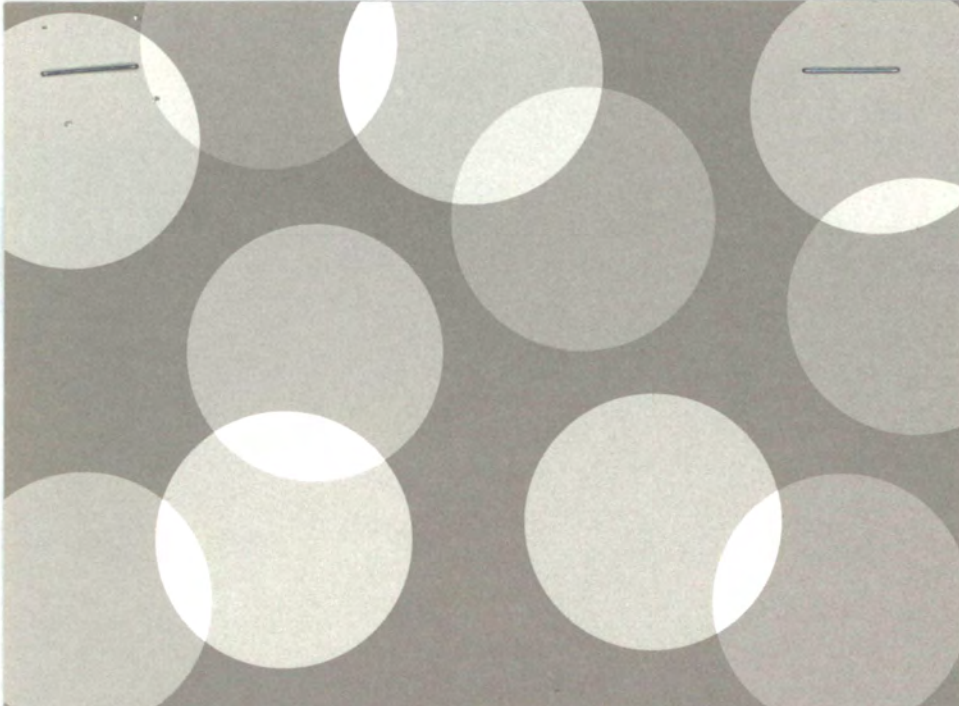
Date: 02.02.2000

Proud Parents: 560 employees in New York, San Francisco,
Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago and Burlington, VT

Location: On-air and online

Size: Millions of women

Weight: It doesn't really matter, now does it?



Come help us launch her into the world!

02.02.2000

Chelsea Market
459 West 15th Street
New York City

6:30 p.m. VIP Studio Tours
7:00 p.m. Launch Party

rsvp: 212.941.7474

oxygen.com

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 7, 2000

Mr. Charles J. Lyons
President
U.S. Fund for UNICEF
333 East 38th Street
New York, NY 10016

Dear Chuck:

Thank you for your letter and the update about the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. You should take great satisfaction in knowing that you and your colleague's work is truly making a difference to so many.

All the best, for the challenge is great. Stay in touch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the left.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



R

333 East 38th Street • New York, New York 10016
Tel 212-686-5522 • Fax 212-779-1679 • www.unicefusa.org

February 1, 2000

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Office of the First Lady
Room 200
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Melanne:

The start of the New Year gives me the chance to wish you good health and good fortune and to thank you for sharing UNICEF's vision of a better world for children everywhere. It also provides the opportunity to make an important and exciting announcement.

After more than 50 years of working for the survival, protection, and development of children as the U.S. Committee for UNICEF, we're beginning the new millennium with a new identity. On January 1, we became the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. Our mission is the same: "Saving Children's Lives, Building Children's Futures." And our new logo sends a straightforward message about who we are and what we do.

This change came about after careful research and evaluation, when a consensus emerged that the "U.S. Fund for UNICEF" more accurately conveys to the public what our organization's work and its mission in the new millennium are all about, including the importance of our fund-raising role. We are focused on expanding support for UNICEF's agenda and substantially increasing the resources for UNICEF to meet new goals and challenges for children.

With HIV/AIDS, war, and poverty presenting ever more serious challenges to the efforts of UNICEF and its partners to improve the status and conditions of women and children, the need for funds from the private sector, individuals, and foundations has become more critical than ever.

The need for leadership is equally important -- the kind of leadership that has been demonstrated by members of our national and chapter Boards, enabling us to record the best financial results we've had in our fifty-two years of service to the world's children. And the kind of leadership shown by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, from which the U.S. Fund for UNICEF recently received the largest donation in our history -- a record-breaking \$26 million to help eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus around the world. The grant follows a \$17 million donation from BD (Becton Dickinson) to fight this preventable disease, which, in 1998 alone, took the lives of nearly 250,000 newborns and young mothers.

BD and the Gates Foundation have given the global immunization initiative a significant boost and have placed the dream of eliminating maternal and neonatal tetanus by 2005 truly within reach; they have also issued a serious challenge to all of us to do much more.

But the leadership that is needed for the next century doesn't rely on any one person or group. It depends on individuals from every single sector of society to make change happen and create a powerful partnership that is a real force for saving children's lives and building their futures. That's why your support, friendship, and involvement have all of us here excited about the lifesaving accomplishments we can continue to achieve together.

On behalf of the children we all serve, thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CJ Lyons'.

Charles J. Lyons
President

all the best. Let me know
if I can help with anything.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 17, 2000

Ms. Bonnie Lipton
National President
Hadassah
50 West 58th Street
New York, NY 10019-2500

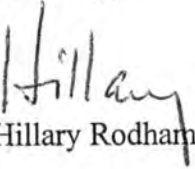
Dear Bonnie,

I have been apprised of Hadassah's application for special consultative status at the U.N. Economic and Social Council. I agree that Hadassah's application should be acted upon favorably and my office has communicated my views to U.S. Ambassador Richard Holbrooke. I know he will make every effort to be of assistance.

Hadassah has a long and illustrious record on critical humanitarian issues ranging from women's and children's rights to health and education. Hadassah's voice, as enhanced through ECOSOC consultative status, would contribute significantly to the advancement of the issues that are critically important to human progress.

As you observe Passover this week, you have my prayerful good wishes.

Sincerely,


Hillary Rodham Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 5, 2000

Ms. Wendy Lazarus
Director
The Children's Partnership
1351 3rd St. Promenade, Suite 206
Santa Monica, CA 90401-1321

Dear Wendy:

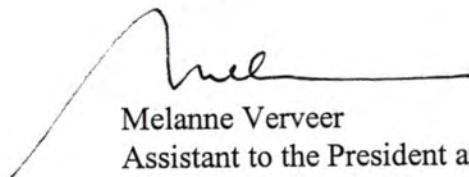
Thank you for your letter and the update about the Children's Partnership, which I've shared with the First Lady.

The Partnership has done a terrific job and you should take great satisfaction in knowing that your vital work is truly making a difference for so many. Please accept Hillary's appreciation for all you and your colleagues are doing to help children and families, along with her best wishes. We are trying to finish up here as she makes her transition. You can be sure she'll be a dependable ally on the issues that will ensure a better future for our children.

I haven't had a minute to think about what I'll do next, but let's stay in touch.

All the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mel', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and
Chief of Staff to the First Lady

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 4, 2000

Ms. Wendy Lazarus
Director
The Children's Partnership
1351 3rd St. Promenade, Suite 206
Santa Monica, CA 90401-1321

Dear Wendy:

Thank you for your letter and the update about the Children's Partnership, which I've shared with the First Lady.

on / The Partnership has done a terrific job and you should take great satisfaction in knowing that your vital work is truly making a difference for so many. Please accept Hillary's appreciation for all you and your colleagues are doing to help children and families, along with her best wishes. We are trying to finish up here as she makes her transition. You can be sure she'll be a dependable ally for the issues that will ensure a better future for our children.

I haven't had a minute to think about what I'll do next, but let's stay in touch.

All the best.

Sincerely,

Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and
Chief of Staff to the First Lady

December 2, 2000

Ms. Wendy Lazarus
Director
The Children's Partnership
1351 3rd St. Promenade, Suite 206
Santa Monica, CA 90401-1321

Dear Wendy:

Thank you for your letter and the update about the Children's Partnership, which I've shared with my colleagues.

The Partnership has been a terrific job and you
~~It is heartening to know that the Partnership is engaged in so many important initiatives. You should take great satisfaction in knowing that your vital work is truly making a difference for so many. Please accept Mrs. Clinton's appreciation for all you and your colleagues' are doing to help children and families, along with her best wishes.~~

All the best.

Sincerely,

We are trying to finish up here as the mother her transition. You can be sure she'll be a dependable ally for the

Hillary's

Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and
Chief of Staff to the First Lady

158 issues for that was a priority for us

more or better fathers from children

I haven't had a minute to think about what I'll do next, but let's stay in touch.



The Children's Partnership

DIRECTORS

Wendy Lazarus
Laurie Lipper

November 3, 2000

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Rm 100
Washington, DC 20500-0003

Dear Melanne:

Year-end greetings! 2000 has been a landmark year for The Children's Partnership and for our advocacy efforts for children and families. Some highlights include:

AMERICAN FAMILIES IN THE DIGITAL AGE INITIATIVE

- ✓ **Groundbreaking Research.** Our report *Online Content for Low-Income and Underserved Americans: The Digital Divide's New Frontier* helped place a new issue affecting more than 50 million Americans on the public agenda, and has spurred new efforts to create relevant Internet content for underserved communities. (See the attached *New York Times* article.)
- ✓ **Innovative Partnerships.** Our California partnership with 11 community technology centers, The California Wellness Foundation and other groups has resulted in job training in technology skills for 18,000 low-income residents and a strong replicable model of local technology access for communities across the country. (See www.ciof.org.)
- ✓ **Promoting Good Public Policy.** Our Toolkit for Action, ready to go out to Governors and legislators soon after the election, defines a policy agenda and provides the research (including 50 state factsheets) for policymakers to shape legislation aimed at building community technology access. (Watch for it on our Web site at www.childrenspartnership.org in December.)
- ✓ **Showcasing What Works.** The Parents Online section of our Web site highlights tools for parents and kids plus "models of local initiatives" that engage parents with technology in ways that benefit their children and their communities. (Visit www.childrenspartnership.org/prnt/prnt.html.)

AMERICA'S CHILDREN & THE CHANGING HEALTH MARKETPLACE

- ✓ **Public Policy Development and Advocacy.** Using a strategy we developed called Express Lane Eligibility, we are prodding California public officials to fast-track an estimated 700,000 eligible but uninsured children into health insurance programs for which they are eligible. (Options for moving ahead will be presented to the Legislature by February 1.)
- ✓ **Outreach and Technical Support.** Through a new "how-to" manual, we are assisting states that want to build an Express Lane into health insurance programs for up to eight million of the nation's uninsured children. (This manual is scheduled for release in mid-November.)

M - Congrats to Hillary, you & the whole next team. What I ask keep for you touch and share with Hillary appropriate.

1351 3rd Street Promenade
Suite 206
Santa Monica, CA 90401-1321
TEL: 310-260-1220
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Marlene Canter
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Founder, Action for
Children's Television
Cambridge, MA
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A project of the Tides Center

- ✓ **Building Models That Can be Replicated.** With our nutrition colleagues in WIC programs, we are developing practical steps through which local agencies can help enroll into health care the roughly 50% of infants, children and women enrolled in WIC who today go without health insurance (half a million in California alone). (See What's New at www.childrenspartnership.org.)
- ✓ **Partnering for Reform.** We have modeled how three children's advocacy organizations (The Children's Partnership, Children's Defense Fund and Children Now, through a collaborative effort called the 100% Campaign) with other state-based allies pushed to simplify the health care eligibility maze for roughly five million low-income children and their parents. (Visit www.100percentcampaign.org.)

BUILDING OUR ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

- ✓ **New Talent.** Linda Bettis Akli, a systems engineer, software developer, and social entrepreneur, and Wilma Brooks, formerly with World Vision and the Marshall Heights Community Development Organization, recently joined our east coast team. Larissa Mohamadi, a health policy specialist previously with Health Systems Research in Washington, DC, and Herson Mojica, who coordinated the volunteer program at the California Science Center, round out the west coast team.
- ✓ **New Office Space.** Our growing office in Washington, DC is moving into new space. Please note the enclosed card for the new address and phone number.

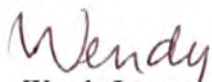
LOOKING AHEAD

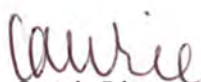
You can look to us in 2001 to keep expanding our reach so that greater numbers of young people and their families will reap the benefits of both the information age and health insurance. And we will continue to target cutting edge issues so we can develop tools that leaders for children can use to do their part for kids. Please follow our work at www.childrenspartnership.org.

Thank you to you and the many others who have made this progress possible by joining our venture --- as an Advisor, partner, colleague, or financial supporter. You provide the spark for our ideas, the sounding board as we move them forward, the networks through which change comes about, and the financial resources that enable these good things. We are truly grateful to our long-time supporters as well as the new friends and institutions who have joined on as supporters during the past year.

We wish you and your family a healthy and fulfilling holiday season.

Yours sincerely,


Wendy Lazarus
Founder & Director


Laurie Lipper
Founder & Director

Study Finds Gaps in Internet Content

By KATIE HAFNER

THE past year has seen no shortage of studies that try to describe, explain and propose fixes for the digital divide, the gulf that lies between those who have computers and access to the Internet and those who do not.

Two recent additions — from the Children's Partnership, a nonprofit organization based in Santa Monica, Calif., and from the Conference Board, a business research group in

New York — make valuable contributions to the growing canon.

The Children's Partnership released a study last week that found "severe gaps" in Internet content geared to the needs of low-income and immigrant groups in America, although those groups are gaining access in increasing numbers to the Internet.

The report, which analyzed the availability, quality and appeal of Internet content for low-income Americans, found a dearth of local and community-based information, especially on local jobs and housing.

Wendy Lazarus, co-founder and co-director of the Children's Partnership, said her organization set out to answer the following questions: "Once more people go online, what is the value to them? What content are they looking for? What begins to give them what they want, and what needs to be done if two years from now there is going to be relevant content that pulls in the 50 million Americans who are on the other side of the content gap?"

Ms. Lazarus said the study done by the Children's Partnership found that "low-income folks see the Web

as a way for self-improvement and for job opportunities, which makes the practical content all the more important."

The study is said to be the first systematic look at the kinds of things underserved communities want and need online.

It recommended that several steps be taken, including additional investment in community technology centers that can help produce content that is relevant to people living in low-income communities, as well as technical training for low-income users.

The Conference Board report, released at the end of January, called on the private sector, specifically the computer industry, to make the in-

y D5

vestments necessary to close the gap.

The report stated that as the percentage of homes with a computer steadily rises, an increasing proportion of machines are bought as replacements or additional computers. Only 40 percent of sales, according to the report, are being made to households purchasing a computer for the first time.

"There's a powerful case for trying to get as much of the population hooked into the Internet as possible," said Tom Cavanagh, a senior research associate at the conference board and author of the report. "You add those two things together and you conclude that business will have to reach out to lower-income commu-

nities if we're going to get anywhere near universal connectivity."

Mr. Cavanagh said he agreed with findings like those of the Children's Partnership — that content is critical.

"This is where a lot of the discussion on the digital divide is going to head," Mr. Cavanagh said. "In a way, the concentration on the digital divide may be peaking and moving into these new issues about content."

"Also, what does connectivity mean as content moves to audio and video streaming? It's not just whether you're connected, but the kind of connection you have which is going to affect the kind of experience you have."



The Children's Partnership's East Coast Office has moved!

Our new DC contact information is:

2000 P Street, NW, Suite 330

Washington, DC 20036

(202) 429-0033 (202) 429-0974 fax

(Effective 11/20/00)

Our California contact information remains the same:

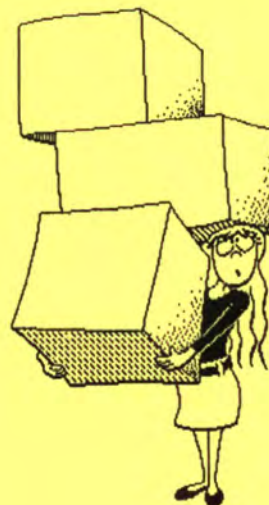
1351 3rd Street Promenade, Suite 206

Santa Monica, CA 90401

(310) 260-1220 (310) 260-1921 fax

I-Net: www.childrenspartnership.org

E-mail: frontdoor@childrenspartnership.org



The Children's Partnership
2000 P Street, NW, Suite 330
Washington, DC 20036

From:



Development Department
The Children's Partnership
1351 Third Street Promenade, Suite 206
Santa Monica, CA 90401

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION



**The Children's
Partnership**

*All contributions and
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For questions, please contact Carrie Spencer at 310.260.1220.

***Thank you for your support.
Your contribution will be put to swift
and effective use advocating for
America's children***

*For more information about The Children's Partnership,
please visit our Web site at <http://www.childrenspartnership.org>.*