

The Brotherhood



SisterSol

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March 8, 2007

Dear Mr. Koen:

We wanted to write to you to thank you for your recent work for The Brotherhood/Sister Sol. The pro-bono assistance of DLA Piper in general, but your work specifically, has meant a tremendous amount to the organization. Your efforts have helped us to purchase the land that sits next to our existing brownstone, ensuring the long-term stability of our organization and securing the space to expand and to thus better serve our existing members and future children in our community.


The Brotherhood/Sister Sol (BHSS) provides comprehensive services to Black and Latino youth, 200 young people, who range in age from six to eighteen. We are recognized as a leader in providing holistic and long-term support for youth. Our full time staff of sixteen provides the support, guidance and resources that all youth need. We focus on issues such as leadership development and educational achievement, bias reduction, sexual responsibility, sexism and misogyny, political education, community service and responsibility, and global awareness. We offer a four to six year intensive rites of passage program where members define what it means to be men/women, brothers/sisters, and leaders in their community. We provide thorough five day a week after school care, school and home counseling, summer camps, job training, college preparation, employment opportunities, activist training, a community garden stewards program, and free legal representation. We continually seek to expose our young people to new opportunities through wilderness retreats, cultural performances, college tours, and month long intensive study programs to Ghana, South Africa, Egypt, Mexico, Morocco, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Brazil.

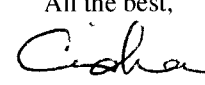
We have earned national recognition for our model. We were featured on the Oprah Winfrey show and awarded the *Oprah Winfrey's Angel Network Use Your Life Award*; last year we were awarded the national *Ford Foundation's Leadership for a Changing World Award*; the *Fund for the City of New York's Union Square Award*; the *Abyssinian Development Corporation Harlem Renaissance Award*; and received *Brown University's inaugural Alumni Association Young Public Service Award*. An array of individuals have offered their words of support for BHSS' approach, words that cross fields and speak to our reach. Oprah Winfrey has stated that we are "using our passion to uplift and inspire a next generation" though "extraordinary work that creates leaders and a sanctuary for children" where they can "develop a higher vision for themselves." Congressman Charles B. Rangel has stated that BHSS "plays a critically important role working with the youth who are most at risk." The Honorable Ruth Messinger, President of the *American Jewish World Service*, observes that she "knows well of the work of this organization and sees it as providing an invaluable assist to young people of color."

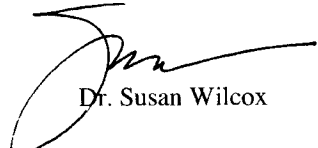
Our alumni outcomes are documented: 96% have graduated from high school or received their GEDs with 86% graduated from high school, 81% were accepted to college, 93% are working full time or enrolled in college, 0% are incarcerated, only 3% had a child before graduating from high school, and only 2% of our male alumni under 21 have a child.

Your efforts have supported us in this work. The enclosed calendar and collection of our youth's writings are a token of thanks for your effort on behalf of The Brotherhood/Sister Sol.

Jason Warwin
Co-Founder (On Leave)


Khary Lazarre-White

All the best,

Cidra Sebastien


Dr. Susan Wilcox