



To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to introduce you to Youth Opportunities Development, a new Pittsburgh-based non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring peaceful, prosperous communities through the mentoring, education and empowerment of youth. Youth Opportunities Development (Y.O.D.), officially incorporated in 2012, originated as a result of a need to more fully address the root causes of violence in Pittsburgh. Y.O.D. merges the practical knowledge and experiences of Mr. Taili Thompson and myself, as well as research and evaluation experience through Dr. Joseph Johnson in an effort to build effective methods in successfully addressing violence. Working together for several years, and after many discussions, we came to a similar consensus that the effective methods in successfully addressing violence in the Pittsburgh area needed to be more preventative than intervention-based. Furthermore, any effective violence prevention model also needed to be closely tied with data collection and an ongoing evaluation of its own methods and model. And, as of 2012, Y.O.D. includes in its model the following components: Community Outreach, School-Based Services, After-School Programming, Mentoring and Consulting/Training services.

We have decided that, due to our many previous connections with the community of Clairton, we wish to continue our involvement in the area. We have two events planned for the summer of 2012. First, we are conducting a free youth basketball camp at the Clairton Park on July 10th and 11th from 10am-3:30pm. Secondly, we are in the process of planning a Back-to-School Picnic for Clairton students in mid-August. This picnic will be held in Perryopolis, Pa and will feature food, music, games, prizes, and a kayak trip. In order to conduct this event, we are in need of support from local organizations and businesses. We are looking for contributions of school items as well as monetary donations to help cover the cost of transportation and food. If you, or anyone you know are interested in making material or monetary donations, or if you are interested in knowing more about our organization, please feel free to contact me at 412-551-8077.

Sincerely,

Brandon Ziats

Director of Programming