

Blair

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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February 15, 2010

The Honorable Ben Nelson
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

We respectfully request your assistance during the Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriations process to support a \$250,000 Federal funding request by Boys Town.

The \$250,000 requested under the Labor Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations Bill, Department of Education are programmatic funds to integrate Boys Town's In-Home Family Services program with its Boys Town Day School program serving students in grades kindergarten through 12th grade who cannot receive appropriate education services in a public or alternative school setting due to behavioral/emotional problems or academic deficiencies. The Boys Town Day School uses the nationally disseminated Boys Town Education model that promotes values teaching, social skills training, and a strong academic educational program.

With the integration of these two programs (In-Home Family Services and the Boys Town Day School), the new program will encompass:

- Re-integration into a public or alternative school setting, with the primary focus on the resident school district of the parent.
- Families will have developed new skills to help their child achieve school success and can utilize these skills to navigate a larger school setting or school system.
- Interventions are individual to the families needs, are behaviorally based and of a practical nature
- Development of formal and informal supports for the family within their school and school district and connected to the family's community is a key component.

The correlation of family involvement and school success for a student has been well researched and documented. Family support and involvement increases chances of school completion and academic success (Ouellette, & Wilkerson, 2008). Increasing risk of substance abuse, criminal activity, unwanted pregnancy, and unemployment are associated with school failure (Richman, Bowen, & Woolley, 2004).

Nationally, Boys Town's continuum of programs now provide direct care to more than 21,500 children and their families and assists nearly 1.4 million children each year through its youth care and health care programs. Boys Town operates programs in a

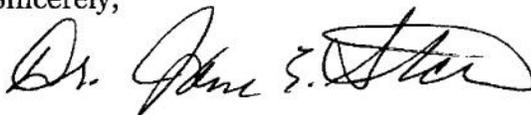
Recipient of 1989 U.S. Department of Education Secondary School Recognition Award
(W0017400:1)

Member North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

dozen states and the District of Columbia. These include: Treatment Family Programs (i.e. Family Home, Assessment and Short-Term Residential Services, Treatment Foster Family Services, Family Based Services, Common Sense Parenting® and National Hotline. Treatment modalities range from prevention to aftercare and include in- and out-of-home programs. The Boys Town model, the foundation for all Boys Town programs, has been recognized by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) as a "Promising Model" (OJJDP Model Programs Guide, 2006, www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/program/mpg.html). Boys Town's leadership in treatment and child care technology provide youth with a safe, caring, loving environment where they gain confidence to get better and learn skills to become productive citizens. With at least an 81% success rate, Boys Town alumni have gone on to become successful in all facets of life. This commitment to our nation's youth placed Boys Town on the list of the *100 Best Communities for Young People* as named by America's Promise Alliance in 2005, 2006, and 2007.

Thank you very much for your consideration and support. If you or your staff have any further questions or need additional information, I will be glad to help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Jane Stavem". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Dr. Jane Stavem, Superintendent
Blair Community Schools