



Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District

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October 4, 2019

Dear Richmond Selectboard,

Please accept this letter an enthusiastic letter of support for Our Community Cares Camp (OCCC), a non-profit that has been enriching the lives of students in our District for the past 10 years. This organization was founded and run by Marie Thomas, a pillar in our communities, who by her good will and dedication essentially served as a volunteer Executive Director during her time at OCCC.

I am keenly aware of the need to be diligent and strategic in funding community resources as well as the constraints on municipal budgets. However, I am asking the town to consider funding Our Community Cares Camp through this transitional period so that we can serve our children and provide them with what they need during the summer: food, enrichment, educational opportunities and adult support.

I have seen the impact this program has on our children first-hand. I witnessed students building with blocks and legos, reading and listening to books, playing board games, painting, drawing, playing instruments and listening to music. All of these activities were supervised by well trained and supportive adults. Recent studies and research indicate programs like OCCC are supplying some of the most vulnerable students with options and programming that are helpful in eliminating or reducing “the summer slide” and closing the achievement gap between economically disadvantaged students and non-economically disadvantaged students. OCCC is a great investment in our youth and in Mt. Mansfield’s member communities.

By funding the request proposed by board members of OCCC, you will be investing in the future of our children and our community. Without a paid Executive Director and supporting fundraising staff, the organization will no longer be able to exist. I know that with the towns and the community behind them, this can be a successful transition in a time of organizational growth that will benefit our children and families for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John R. Alberghini
Mt. Mansfield Unified Union School District, Superintendent