

South Side Presbyterian Church
1926 Sarah Street (South 20th and Sarah Streets)
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
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412-431-0118

March 30, 2016

Mark Rauterkus
Executive Swim & Water Polo Coach
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation
c/o 108 South 12th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203-1226

Dear Mark:

Greetings!

It has been very good to talk with you about your proposal, Play.CLOH.org, and how South Side Presbyterian Church might be of assistance or partnership in the effort with youth.

Our board and I would like to wholeheartedly give our support for this positive endeavor! It encourages youth to grow, learn, and excel in important areas in life for their success as well as good community citizenship and involvement. And your proposal to utilize computer technology and digital badges sounds great, both to appeal to youth and to help them gain excellence in this significant mode of communication.

Our Church was founded in 1851 here in Pittsburgh's South Side. We have a long and rich history, which has always included a holistic concern for people's well-being and community service. Our Church built and opened the South Side Community Center as a wing of our Church in 1914 with the first gym open to the public in the South Side. It was a real need in this then very densely populated and industrial neighborhood. With regular renovations, our gym is still serving area youth and adults today.

Currently, we encourage, teach, and work with youth in a variety of ways: youth Sunday School, a weekly Co-Creators Youth Club of varied activities (faith and life discussions, action songs, art, gym recreation, and service opportunities) which also involves older youth in volunteering, and our monthly Open Mic Coffee House welcomes both youth and adults to share something they have prepared on our stage. Last year we had a year-long career exploration and planning program for youth we called Youth For A Future: Pathway to Your Career, and we appreciated your input on ideas for youth who were interested in a career in athletics.

As we discussed concerning your proposal, youth could earn digital badges with public speaking or some other public presentation at the Open Mic, which sounds like a very helpful

experience for them. As the Play.CLOH.org project develops, we may come up with some additional ideas for opportunities also.

We support your proposal and hope and pray that this receives the funding requested. And we look forward to working with you further.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks so much!

Blessings to you,

Kathy Hamilton-Vargo

Pastor

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