



United Way of Kankakee County

657 EAST COURT STREET • KANKAKEE, ILLINOIS 60901
Telephone 815 932-7476

December 18, 1989

Mr. Charles Betterton
Economic & Community Development
385 East Oak Street
Kankakee, IL 60901

Dear Charles:

The United Way of Kankakee County is pleased to support your application for an economic development grant from The Joyce Foundation to continue your community-based development initiatives.

We share your commitment to facilitating personal, organizational, and community empowerment in an overall strategy of expanding the capacity of individuals, organizations, and communities to identify local problems and opportunities. This co-creative participatory process is essential to the successful realization of our mutual objectives of improving the economic vitality of the area and increasing opportunities for low income residents to play a meaningful role in determining the future of our community.

Your successes over the past few years in providing greater opportunities for citizen participation in community and economic development and in educating elected officials regarding the significance of upward mobility programs is to be commended. It is through initiatives like those you have launched that our society must begin to address root causes of our problems rather than continuing to treat symptoms. The fact that the Illinois Community Development Society and Community Education Association will be holding their 1991 conference in Kankakee to showcase your community-based development programs is indicative of the significance of your accomplishments.

I have been impressed by the individuals you have brought into our community to help us learn how to follow the successful examples of other communities and organizations which have overcome the types of social, racial, economic, and political problems we have experienced throughout the county.

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As you are aware, the United Way has indicated a willingness to consider program grants for the various community development initiatives being undertaken with your direction. In addition, the United Way will be pleased to continue to join with you in helping to shape and build a broad-based local community development process.

If additional information is required to assist in the review of your grant application, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

UNITED WAY OF KANKAKEE COUNTY