



February 25, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of endorsement for the members of the 100 Black Men who volunteer each week to work on literacy skills with youth in the *We Read Together* Program at Miles Elementary. I have witnessed first-hand the difference these men have made both directly and indirectly at the school. To consistently have concerned intelligent black men walk through the front door of the school is a welcomed sight in an environment where women make up the more than half of the staff and the absentee dad syndrome is woefully the norm.

The men move with a purpose and a plan, and their assigned students look forward to their arrival with great anticipation. These valuable volunteers listen to the children read, talk about story elements, support fluency skills, provide incentives for students and their families, and more importantly motivate students to begin thinking about the act of reading as fun and rewarding. Reluctant readers become thoroughly engaged and walk away from their small group sessions empowered.

I am the organizer of Miles' drama program called the Broadway Babies sponsored by the same Community Sparkplug grant that was a part of the initial seed money for the *We Read Together Program*. Several of students in these arts enrichment activities are beneficiaries of the 100 Black Men's sacrifice. There is a demonstrable difference in the way these young thespians approach their scripts and song lyrics, as well as, a rise in their confidence on stage and in the classroom.

The 100 Black Men of South Metro are making an indelible mark in the academic and social progress of Miles' students, and we hope that they will continue to volunteer their time and talents for years to come.

Sincerely,

Pamela-Faith Jackson, Founder
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