



April 29, 2009

Re: California Endowment Planning Grant for City Heights

The Resounding Joy (RJoy) mission is to promote emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual well being through supportive music. Resounding Joy brings together community- and faith-based organizations to train, equip, and mentor volunteers to provide supportive music and recreational music-making services.

In our work, we provide supportive music services in both group and individual settings, through:

- Music making/drumming, utilizing a wide variety of world instruments
- Creative arts to music, facilitating creativity and insight
- Relaxation to music, engaging the voice, promoting body awareness
- Lyric/analysis and song writing, using client-preferred selections/artists

Since our inception in 2004, we have served over 13,000 people—from infants to seniors throughout San Diego County. These individuals include but are not limited to:

- Participants in *Sound Minds*, an early-intervention program for teen parents and their children,
- Homeless individuals served by Third Avenue Charitable Organization,
- Children and adults homebound by illness or physical disability,
- Older adults enrolled in eldercare program and senior centers,
- Teens at-risk for/recovering from addiction,
- Well children/adolescents/adults through community drumming,
- Women in transition from homelessness at the YWCA,
- Survivors of torture, trafficking, and
- Children recovering from cardiac surgery in Cambodia.

In addition to the programs described above, we accept referrals from the public at large. We have structured ourselves to be extremely responsive to community need. RJoy sends volunteers (*Joy Givers*) to individual homes to serve homebound people such as those recovering from accidents, recently widowed, or needing companionship. The groups we serve—from the homeless to teenage parents to the elderly—are considered "at risk." At Resounding Joy®, a public-benefit 501(c)(3), we provide highly individualized services that produce real improvement in quality of life and health for a relatively low cost.

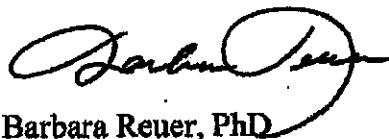


Our programs directly align with the California Endowment Initiative's 6th & 7th Outcomes: (6) *Communities support healthy youth development, and (7) Neighborhood and school environments support improved health and healthy behaviors.*

Although relatively new to the City Heights Coalition, in collaboration with coalition members, within the last year, we have provided three community drumming experiences for children/adolescents and are working quickly towards other joint efforts. Additionally, we have made a commitment to attend the meetings and build partnerships with coalition members. To that end, we recently provided an experiential in-service, engaging coalition members in a community drumming experience. We are very excited about this initiative and are committed to participating in this nine-month planning process and beyond. We feel we can bring unique intergenerational and highly accessible music-centered wellness ideas to the table.

Thank you for your interest in our work. We look forward to the opportunity to participate in this exciting project. If you need more information regarding our organization, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Barbara Reuer, PhD
Executive Director