



To whom it may concern,

I'm writing in on behalf of Junior Achievement of Chicago who has worked with Moving Everest Charter School in the past several years bringing their students a free financial literacy service. At Junior Achievement, we are committed to being the world's largest organization dedicated to inspiring and preparing young people to succeed in a global economy. We do this by pairing a company that is focused on bringing change through either work readiness or business and entrepreneurship lessons that are provided through Junior Achievement. In the past, we've had the pleasure of partnering with Moving Everest Charter School where we've found our program extremely helpful for the students and staff. The students of Moving Everest are able to take what the volunteers have taught them and apply their knowledge to real life situations as well as prepare them for their future college experience. Every time Moving Everest opens their door to Junior Achievement, we are able to give as much as we can to the future leaders of our world. I really hope that we are able to continue our partnership with the staff and students of Moving Everest Charter School and the additional add-on building, as it would be a disservice to not be able to install as much of this free information as we can into the students.

Best,
Simone Gillon
Operations Manager
Junior Achievement of Chicago
sgillon@jachicago.org

To Whom it May Concern,

I live on the 2200 block of N Kildare, about a mile from the proposed new school. I have lived here my entire life and I'm raising my family in this neighborhood. I have 3 children, it may sound crazy but I have each one of them enrolled in a different school. As a parent, I believe in school choice and it's important to me to find the school that best fits the individual needs of each one of my children. Each of my children is unique! When I heard about the Moving Everest School model, I was thrilled - My youngest child is the right age for the new school and it would be a wonderful option for our family as well as many of the families in our neighborhood.

My son loves technology, is really active and curious. I can see him thriving with the personalized learning model and all the ways that technology is used in the classroom. The partnership with By The Hand Club brings games and activities that I know he will love, especially the idea of a community center with gymnasium and opportunities for kids to safely play indoors (would be wonderful especially during long Chicago winters and is something we have to go outside of the neighborhood for!).

I have actually worked as a paraprofessional for students with disabilities. I loved my job working in the school, but I've had to put my family first and have been a stay at home parent the last 5 years. Between my 3 boys and elderly mother I could not meet the required working hours without logistical and financial complications for childcare. Additionally, Illinois added qualifications for paraprofessionals that would require me to go back to school to keep my role. At the time, this was just something I couldn't do.

I am planning when my children are all full time in school to get my paraprofessional license and return to work, the idea that my sons could be at a school learning, surrounded by teachers who care about them as an individual while I pursue a career to bring more financial stability is so exciting.

Given my background in education and long standing ties in the neighborhood - Moving Everest approached me to look for employment opportunities when the new school is opened, they talked to me about working in the office or other support positions until I get my paraprofessional license. I am so excited about the possibility to work where my children go to school and get back in education which is my calling.

I am a part of many different groups in the Northwest Side – Hermosa Neighborhood Association, parent groups etc. Although many of these neighborhood groups are anti-charter, the parents who actually live in our neighborhood are looking for a school like this. I fully support Moving Everest 2 opening. I know it could really benefit my family, even change our lives – I can't imagine what it could do for others!

Sincerely,



Brenda Carmona-Tinoco

Dear Chicago Public Schools,

My name is Tiffany Perez, I am a parent and member of Grace and Peace Community Church. I have two children that are the right ages to go to Moving Everest 2 when it opens and I am in full support!

We need a school like this in our community. My current job is 6 days a week, and I am making time to go out and collect petitions and get enrollment forms! That is how strongly I believe in making this happen for my family. With a 6 day a week job I am always concerned about arranging everything so my kids feel safe and secure when I'm at work, it's a constant stress. The model that emphasized each child is something as a parent I really care about, I want my children to do well in school and be seen as individuals.

I have considered so many different school options for my kids from other charters to private schools, and for a school to be on the same lot as my church, to know my kids can get consistent, stable and loving 7:30-6:30 care is just mind blowing and so exciting!

Please let me know what I can do to make this happen, I'm happy to talk to anyone at CPS, my cell is 708-490-4886

Thank you,



Tiffany Perez



GAP COMMUNITY CENTER

Unlocking the potential in and with our community.

Dear Office of Innovation and Incubation
At Chicago Public Schools,

My name is Esperanza N. Rosario I am a community outreach director at a nearby community center and serving it in this capacity for about 12 years. I am passionate about the expansion of Moving Everest because of their mission, vision and the educational opportunities available for students. Their capacity and willingness to work with other agencies to positively impact their students and families is phenomenal.

I believe that the expansion of the school will have a transforming impact on the community in need of quality education. Many of our families in our community don't financially have the capacity to address the personalized need of their children who may not be at the level educationally that they should be. There are children who thrived in their zoned/district's school, but this isn't true for every child. We know every child is different and Moving Everest School Community's personalized education is what would be the most beneficial to address these needs and offer parents in our community the opportunity to choose an alternative that would be the most advantageous for them.

Thank you for providing this opportunity for the many families I serve and for the opportunity of choice of Moving Everest for their family.

Sincerely,

Esperanza N. Rosario

Printed Full Name

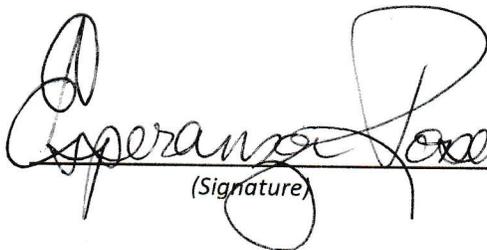
2100 N. Kildare Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60639

Address: Street

City

State

Zip


(Signature)

07/12/2018
(Date)



Dear Chicago Public Schools Office of Innovation and Incubation,

When many hear of the Chicago neighborhood of Austin, images of poverty and violence are brought to mind. As a lifelong resident of the Northwest Side and Senior Pastor of Grace and Peace Community Church, I have dedicated my life to building a different narrative. There is no doubt that we as a community have many obstacles hindering us from fully thriving. In the 25th District (North Austin), we have seen a 57% increase in our murder rate from 2014-2018, in the 60639 zip code unemployment is nearly 35% higher than the rest of the state of Illinois, and our per person household income rate is 55% lower than individuals throughout the rest of the state. Despite these challenges, we have set forward a bold community vision to ensure our children thrive and find both academic and personal success far beyond their school age years. A huge piece of this vision is our partnership with Moving Everest Charter School. We have moved our church to the former Glidden Paint Factory site at 1860 N LeClaire. We as a community church have a bold plan for this site to be a beacon in the community. The site, the Revive Center, will offer a holistic education option, healthcare, temporary and affordable housing and a community center which will include a meeting space, gymnasium, fitness options, classes for families and parents etc.

The model of Moving Everest is unprecedented and fits the needs of our community and the vision for the Revive Center. The partnership with By the Hand Club will remove significant barriers for our families – allowing them to pursue gainful employment or receive higher education. Additionally, the academic model offered by the school will prepare our children for the future. Personalized learning that meet's each child where they are at, access to technology and highly qualified staff is what we know we will receive by welcoming Moving Everest into our community.

Most importantly, Moving Everest and By the Hand Club care about the people our children become - through an emphasis on character development in their model. The vast majority of all homicides in Chicago are committed by minority youth ages 17-25. These children don't just wake up one day and decide to commit a homicide. There are years of warning signs that often go unheard. Many children can comply by classroom rules but employers and work places need people with social emotional skills. Moving Everest teaches those unspoken qualities so desperately needed - wisdom, respect, gratitude, self-control, perseverance, courage, encouragement, compassion, and integrity. When our youth are loved and supported to become contributors in their own communities I am confident we will see a transformation in throughout the city and a new story for the Austin Neighborhood. Expanding Moving Everest makes us a step closer to that reality.

The leaders at Moving Everest School and By the Hand Club, Mike Rogers and Donnita Travis, are beyond qualified individuals of vision, passion and a track record of results.

As a pastor, resident, and leader on the Northwest Side I cannot more highly recommend Moving Everest's expansion.

Sincerely,

Rev. Pastor John Zayas
Senior Pastor
Grace and Peace Community Church

NEW MOMS

July 16, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of New Moms, I am writing in support of a second location of Moving Everest Charter School.

New Moms has served young families in Chicago for 35 years and for the past five years have had our headquarters located in the Austin neighborhood, near By the Hand Club and Moving Everest Charter School. During this time Moving Everest has demonstrated a deep commitment to ensuring all children receive a high quality and holistic education. The success they have had meeting the needs of children in their first location and the demand for their school now necessitates the opening of a second location of Moving Everest Charter School.

At New Moms we share a commitment with Moving Everest to ensuring all children receive high quality and comprehensive education and support so they can reach their fullest potential. Because of this we support the second location of Moving Everest.

Sincerely,



Laura Zumdahl, Ph.D.
President & CEO



Dear Chicago Public Schools Office of Innovation and Incubation,

This letter is written in support for the expansion of Moving Everest School to the North Austin Community. As the founder and Executive Director of the Grace and Peace (GAP) Community center in Hermosa, I submit this letter on behalf of our organization but also as a lifelong resident of the Northwest Side. Supporting my community has been my life's work and passion, and do not take lightly to new services entering our neighborhood. Our vision at GAP is to: Unlock the potential in and with our community by providing services to the greater Chicago area through education, health awareness, advocacy, and community linked services that build on individual, family and community strengths and develop the individuals' and families' capacity to thrive.

The families we serve have children in need of individualized support, social emotional support, and a continuum of care that are often outside the family's reach. Moving Everest removes these barriers that plague our most vulnerable families. We know of existing Moving Everest parents who have been able to obtain gainful employment or pursue higher education due to the option of enrolling in By The Hand Club For Kids afterschool as well as their staff's resilient commitment to support students who display difficult behavior that are trademarks of childhood trauma.

Moving Everest has spoken with the families who participate in our various programs from summer camp to our food pantry and the response from families is that of excitement and support. The most consistent feedback is for more grade levels sooner!

Additionally, the school is a part of a larger vision for the 1800 Block of N LeClaire. We plan to create a neighborhood hub/beacon at the site. We envision Moving Everest School, a health service provider, affordable and temporary housing options, GAP community center and Grace and Peace Church existing on the block working together in partnership. We have sought out Moving Everest to be our partner in creating this community vision and acting as the education provider on the site.

In my lifetime in Chicago I have seen violence becoming the norm in our neighborhood, huge population increases in Belmont-Cragin and Hermosa and population decline in many blocks of the Austin neighborhood. This vision for the 1800 Block of LeClaire is to bring much needed stabilization and services to an underserved area of our city. It is with the utmost confidence that I feel Moving Everest is the right partner to move forward in this neighborhood work.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,
Angelina Iliana Zayas, CEO and Founder
GAP Community Center

Office of Innovation and Incubation
42 W. Madison St
Chicago, IL 60602

July 25, 2018

To whom it may concern,

I write you today to let you know that in my 30 year career I have not worked with a more worthy organization than the Moving Everest Charter School (ME). I have had the privilege of working with various charities over the years and was excited when we first learned of ME, and were able to attend their ribbon cutting ceremony along with so many community leaders, and are even more impressed each year as we see the visible impact this school is having in the Austin neighborhood.

XR Trading started partnering with ME in 2015 to provide financial support, host special events for the students and to supplement the resources of the school. Since then and including our efforts planned this August, we have provided 5 sets of uniforms to over 1,250 ME students. We are proud to partner with ME and other local vendors like Zemsky's Clothing Store to ensure each student arrives daily proudly in their ME school uniform. XR volunteers also work with artists and performers to bring hands on activities to the students throughout the school year.

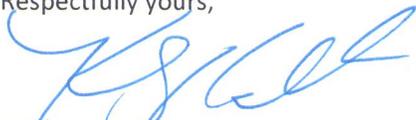
As you likely know, Austin is considered Chicago's most violent neighborhood with an overall crime rate 89% higher than the national average. The Chicago Tribune reported that in 2016, 172 violent crimes, 226 property crimes and 275 quality-of-life crimes were committed in Austin during a single 30 day period. Can you imagine growing up with that amount of violence and crime?

ME is making a difference. ME is of course educating hundreds of students every day, but the impact of this neighborhood institution is so much more. It is a beacon of hope for every student, their family and member of the community. As this area sees more and more of its own children rising up to their potential, I believe others will see a better path for themselves, the students and the neighborhood as a whole.

We believe that expanding the ME school and impacting more students with the life changing gift of an education and equally as important a belief in themselves, would be another catalyst for even greater impact in this neighborhood. ME is certainly a place of hope, but more importantly it is an organization with results - positive, lasting, life-changing results. Anything this impactful should be expanded and invested in so that even more children and an even larger part of this neighborhood can enjoy the benefits of this community centerpiece.

I would be happy to meet with any one on your team to further express the impact ME has had, and continues to have in support of expanding their impact.

Respectfully yours,



Kimberly Kolb
Head of Human Resource & Recruiting
XR Trading
Kimberly.kolb@xrtrading.com