



July 27, 2022

Dr. Tammy Butler, Executive Director
House of Mercy
285 Ormond Street
Rochester, New York, 14605

Dear Mr. Condliffe,

On behalf of House of Mercy and the UCAN collaborative, I am pleased to write this Letter of Support to Center for Community Alternatives (CCA) in support of the proposal, Promoting A Community Transformation (PACT: Nonviolence Project).

The PACT: Nonviolence Project is part of a collaborative effort between Center for Community Alternatives and Rise Up Rochester to provide wraparound reentry, transition advocacy, and violence prevention services in Rochester for high-risk youth in Rochester NY to positively address the gun violence problem facing our community.

CCA and Rise Up Rochester's PACT: Nonviolence Project focuses on youth age 10-20 at high risk of gun violence or violence victimization and their families in three ways. It will:

- 1) Provide safe housing to families experiencing gun violence;
- 2) Offer Transition Advocacy services for youth facing long-term suspensions in the Rochester City School District, and
- 3) Create a Justice Peer program for court-involved youth that pairs them with an adult Justice Peer Mentor who has lived experience in the juvenile legal system and has overcome obstacles.

Similarly, as House of Mercy works with many clients who have themselves been victimized by violence, we are well placed to make referrals to the Safe Housing component of PACT: Nonviolence Project for gun violence victims. Importantly, since House of Mercy proposes to offer peer support to adults, we may also receive referrals from the PACT: Nonviolence Project when adults need to access peer mentor services we hope to provide.

All of us are safer when these at-risk families and children have access to peer support services needed to succeed and grow, and we look forward to working with Center for Community Alternatives and Rise Up Rochester.

The House of Mercy and the UCAN collaborative strongly supports this application to Monroe County for ARPA funding. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions regarding our support of this project.

Best Regards,

Dr. Tammy Butler

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House of Mercy

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