



MONONGALIA COUNTY SCHOOLS

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October 26, 2004

Ms. Susie Vanderlip
Legacy of Hope
3128 E. Chapman Ave. #112
Orange, CA 92869

Dear Susie,

Thank you so much for the absolutely marvelous week you spent with all our middle and high school students, service personnel, elementary and secondary staff, as well as parents while you were in Monongalia County, West Virginia. Your audiences during the week exceeded 6,000 persons, and the responses from both students and adults have been very, very positive. Also, I am finding that the level of support for addressing school-based mental health issues has been enhanced significantly as a result of the entire school district being made aware of the needs in our midst.

You can be sure your performances served as a catalyst to mobilize the community-at-large as well as the school community to strengthen the support system for lots of youth in our community. We appreciate your suggestion that students complete a survey after your performances. The survey results have substantiated the need for us to organize more support groups for students who are struggling with the kinds of social concerns you so capably and creatively portrayed on stage. We have already established a Task Force made up of community and school staff to begin planning ways to offer additional support groups for students who have expressed interest.

I have pondered the question of why your "Legacy of Hope" performance so successfully touches the minds and hearts of all age-levels. I believe content is one of the reasons, artistic presentation is another, and perhaps the most significant is the "heart and soul" of the performer—your audiences become totally convinced of your passion for helping persons find ways to cope or to support others. You not only help your viewers better understand human struggles and how they happen, but you also help many know there are others who share their difficult issues. And, then in such a convincing, genuine manner, you convey hope—not only to those needing support to deal with their struggles, but also hope for staff who sometimes think the problems are too pervasive to address.

On behalf of students, staff, and parents in Monongalia County, thank you so very much for your energized, thought-provoking, artistic performances. Your work with us far exceeded our expectations. We will remember fondly the week you shared with us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice B. Christopher".

Janice B. Christopher, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services