



**County of Los Angeles**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**  
Education Initiative Program  
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June 24, 2003

Suzanne Foulk  
817 Orange Grove Place  
South Pasadena, CA 91030

Dear Suzanne,

I would like to lend my support and encouragement to you to expand the Edelman Children's Court Shelter Care Literacy Program serving foster youth.

The original program established in 2000 was based on the need for foster youth to be engaged in interesting and challenging educational opportunities while awaiting their court hearings. An outgrowth of the program was that with one-to-one intervention, children with outstanding educational deficits could be identified and reported to the court to request assessment testing and/or tutoring resources. The adolescents were more receptive to participating in educational services based on the interaction with a trained Literacy Specialist.

Suzanne, you took a concept and created a program.

You inspired adolescents to not play computer games, but to write poetry or design a greeting card. You identified the needs of foster youth and partnered with community programs to bring college and vocational training center representatives and information resources to the adolescents, which included computer college entrance testing preparation software programs. You created an environment of discovery by providing a wide range of written materials and showing Discovery Channel and National Geographic videos, opening an amazing world.

To the younger children, you provided storytime, which is foundational to literacy development. You provided a means of enjoyment, learning, and inspiration to the child to learn to read or expand his/her current reading levels. You opened the computer and provided many young children their first hands-on computer experience.

Susanne, the integration of puppets, dramatic play, and art enhanced many children's literacy skills.

You ably interacted with professional staff to foster literacy development on behalf of the children. You provided the benefits of your academic knowledge, teaching experience, assessment skills, and program development throughout the court building.

You understood and utilized the concept of care and the need for educational development to touch the needs of foster youth that are experiencing multiple changes and disruptions in their lives. You provided the avenues of reading and writing to express their inner feelings, which with each interaction strengthened their skill levels. The effects of a day can and often do last far beyond ...

You have my support in securing funding to further the experiences you gained from the Edelman Children's Court Shelter Care Literacy Program to continue to reach the foster care population with literacy development.

Sincerely,



Gail McFarlane-Sosa  
Education Initiative Program  
Interim Director

Cc: Edward Windsor  
Michael Olenick