



January 21, 2006

Susanne M. Foulk
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It has been my pleasure to have worked with and collaborated with Ms. Foulk over the past year. As the manager of the Early Start to Emancipation Preparation Tutoring Program, I have the opportunity to interface with many community leaders in the field of tutoring and mentoring youth. The ESTEP Tutoring program provides in-home skills-based therapeutic tutoring to over 500 youth in the foster care system each year; the model established has received national attention as the ESTEP Tutoring has been identified as an innovative program deserving of longitudinal evaluation through the Chafe Act. We are excitedly awaiting the initial outcome findings of this longitudinal study.

Ms. Foulk has the experience, skills and passion for youth to make a meaningful difference in the landscape of service delivery to youth in the foster care system. I have been immediately impressed with her penchant for teamwork and collaboration which is so critical to seamless service delivery within the complexity of community providers. She has awareness of what services are truly needed, and how to navigate systems to attain those needed goals. The projects which her organization has initiated, such as the tutoring/mentoring database are ideas which have been talked about, but which heretofore have had too many obstacles to implement's. Foulk's vision has truly "melted away" many of those obstacles; I feel certain that the power of her vision will lead to many future successful projects.

Ms. Foulk brings sound leadership, community awareness, and a passion for youth to her organization. She has the ability to combine these skills to create an organization that is truly committed to make a difference, both to our children and the social systems that support them. I am confident that with continued community support these goals will be attained.

Sincerely,

Peter Sibbison
Program Manager ESTEP Tutoring