

UNIQUE FEATURES

BOB SHAYE
Principal

June 6, 2013

Name
Address

Dear name,

I am writing to tell you of some excellent Detroit news and let you know about an organization that is doing remarkable work every day to catalyze the kids of our city. As a Mumford alumnus, in particular, I am writing because it is from Mumford that the InsideOut Literary Arts Project (iO) was born.

We are proud to have helped iO achieve so much, validated through national awards and community recognition, including a Coming Up Taller award from the White House in 2009 and a Closing the Gap Award from New Detroit in 2012. From humble beginnings in a handful of classrooms in 1995, iO has grown to become one of the premier writers-in-schools programs in the nation with service to over 5,000 Detroit children and youth in 30 K-12 schools per year. Its Citywide Poets, a thriving after school performance poetry program for teens, is also nationally recognized. Despite financial challenges and an ever-changing educational landscape, iO has steadily built its reputation for caring, excellence, and innovation, earning the support of loyal followers and the gratitude of students, alumni, teachers, parents, and principals.

The founding director of iO, educator and poet Terry Blackhawk, sometimes refers to herself as the organization's "fairy godmother," and there is magic in looking back on how it all happened. I met Dr. Blackhawk in the Mumford library one day in the late 1980s when I had come to town for a premiere of a film I directed. The Mumford English department where Terry taught creative writing was embarking on a literary magazine of student writing and art. As its sponsor she asked me for our support, which I was happy to organize. First published in 1989, *Style!* was an elegant showcase of a year of literary efforts, as students got to know remarkable guest poets who inspired them and, importantly, for the first time saw their work, chosen by their peers, in print.

In 1994, having returned to teaching following a year's sabbatical, Terry asked me to support a similar project among students at her new Detroit school, Communication and Media Arts. I suggested she write a funding proposal to take the work citywide – and that was how an organization that has now profoundly touched thousands of youngsters and enriched the life of our city was born. I am proud that a grant to iO from the Four Friends Foundation has born such rich and remarkable fruit. Neither Terry nor I envisioned eighteen years ago how far we

could come. It's a proud legacy of astonishing accomplishment, as the enclosed case statement demonstrates.

iO's tireless, creative staff make magic happen in a myriad of ways, in schools and out, year in and year out, on a very modest budget, with over 80% of funds going to programming at ca. \$125 per student served. iO has produced amazing growth. Our vital goal today is to raise \$300,000 by September 2013 to nourish and ensure growth and stability for years to come.

As the enclosed letter by Shirley Bolden shows, iO's impact strengthens a young person's inner confidence and resolve, notwithstanding the challenging circumstances in the world around them. The Four Friends Foundation will continue its support. Your tax deductible contribution can do the same. The time is now to step up in whatever generous way you are able. As iO alumni show us time and again, a student who finds his or her voice and learns to believe in themselves, will support a brighter future for us all.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Shaye', is positioned below the 'Thank you,' text.

Bob Shaye