



May 1, 2021

Kristin Harrington
Executive Director
Youth Solutions Inc.
330 West Main Street
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Dear Ms. Harrington,

On behalf of the Cornerstone Alliance I am writing to express support for the Inspiring Futures: Benton Harbor effort and its work to bring together a robust collection of local leaders, including our own expert Zach Vaughn (Project Manager). As an integral member of the Benton Harbor community we understand the need to design a cross-sector collaborative for this type of work. The Cornerstone Alliance is excited to play our part in engaging area employers in order to create seamless high-quality student programming resulting in long-term career success.

Cornerstone Alliance is a non-profit, investor-governed economic development organization primarily focused on increasing employment opportunities, private sector capital investments and the local tax base in Michigan's Great Southwest. Located in downtown Benton Harbor with specialized business services offered in economically distressed areas we are committed to the city. In short, we know the work that the collaborative group is undertaking.

The Inspiring Futures: Benton Harbor project will focus directly on programs targeting youth that have been disenfranchised and need new educational opportunities for future success. Aligning these programs into a network that includes the right interventions, at the right times, with the right partners will create lasting, meaningful, and substantive opportunities for all students of the region. These goals directly align with the mission of the Cornerstone Alliance, and we are eager to be a collaborative voice in this most important work. In short, it is my pleasure to whole-heartedly endorse the Inspiring Futures: Benton Harbor project and commit to its success.

Sincerely,

Rob Cleveland
President & CEO, Cornerstone Alliance
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