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G. Dennis O'Brien  
*Founder*

James Piper Bond  
*President & CEO*



December 16, 2016

Ms. Patricia Child  
2220 Saint Paul Street  
Baltimore, MD 21218

Dear Patricia,

As 2016 comes to a close, Living Classrooms Foundation is looking back on an exciting year that brought significant expansion of facilities and services. This has given us the opportunity to increase our capacity to serve children, youth, and families in Baltimore, Washington, DC, and the surrounding metropolitan areas. We continue to provide hope and opportunity to families suffering from extreme economic hardship, unemployment, lack of education, or difficulty returning to the community from incarceration, through strengthening communities and inspiring people to achieve their potential through hands-on education and job-training, using urban, natural, and maritime resources as "living classrooms." There is more need for program funding than ever before, and we need your support.

In Baltimore, we have amplified our efforts to disrupt the cycle of poverty within the Baltimore Target Investment Zone. The UA House at Fayette operated by Living Classrooms reopened after major expansion/renovations and is providing hundreds of East Baltimore residents with a vibrant space for youth academic enrichment programming, workforce development and entrepreneurial opportunities for unemployed adults and returning citizens, and a first-class community athletic facility. A new solar job-training initiative combines our roots as an environmental education provider with sustainable workforce development training at three of our community hubs. In the spring, we opened the Ed St. John Learning and Teaching Center, a dynamic learning environment for our top-performing Crossroads School—a public charter middle school that serves students who overcome significant obstacles to achieve academic success. At our other Target Investment Zone sites, including the POWER House in the Perkins Homes community, we are strengthening services for at-risk high school students while continuing programs for children and senior citizens. The Patterson Park Youth Sports and Education Center has expanded our free fitness programs for community members, and engages youth and teens with empowering out-of-school time programming that keeps kids off the street and focuses on health and wellness.

In Washington, DC, our education and job-training programs provide an effective intervention for poverty, and help create systemic solutions to effect much-needed change in Wards 6, 7, and 8, and surrounding Prince George's County. Our hands-on shipboard and environmental education programs educate youth around the region, and encourage students to collaboratively solve 21<sup>st</sup> century environmental issues.

Living Classrooms' innovative programs are critically needed. High school graduation rates nationwide have risen to a record high of 83%, but Baltimore and Washington still struggle at 69%, and Baltimore's drop-out rate is increasing. Baltimore City's unemployment rate continues to be twice the state and national rate. Increased gun violence in both cities has underscored the need for our violence prevention programs, Safe Streets in Baltimore and Safe Neighborhoods in Prince George's County, which successfully work to facilitate mediations of disputes that would otherwise lead to violence.

The services and facilities that provide solutions for our struggling communities and hope for residents would not be possible without your help. As we build our programs to scale, Living Classrooms requires your financial support to grow and sustain our effective initiatives. We hope that you will consider an end of year gift to help us meet our goals of transforming lives and the community. Thank you very much, and best wishes for a joyous holiday season!

Sincerely yours,



J. Scott Wilfong  
Board Chair



James Piper Bond  
President & CEO

*Thank you for  
your  
important  
support  
at this  
crucial  
time!*