



Allegheny County Department of Human Services

RFP Response Form

RFP for Out-of-School Time Programs

PROPOSER INFORMATION

Proposer Name: Bible Center Church – The Maker’s Clubhouse

Authorized Representative Name & Title: Cynthia M Wallace, EdD

Address: 7238 Fleury Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: cwallace@bcpgh.org

Website: <https://www.makersclubhouse.com/>

Legal Status: For-Profit Corp. Nonprofit Corp. Sole Proprietor Partnership

Date Incorporated: June 27, 1977

Partners included in this Proposal: Pittsburgh Public Schools’ Faison Elementary and Lincoln Elementary, and Homewood Children’s Village

How did you hear about this RFP? *Please be specific.* Email announcements from DHS

Does your organization have a telecommunications device to accommodate individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing? Yes No

REQUIRED CONTACTS

	Name	Phone	Email
Chief Executive Officer	Dr. Cynthia Wallace	[REDACTED]	cwallace@bcpgh.org
Contract Processing Contact	Tony Holloway	[REDACTED]	aholloway@bcpgh.org
Chief Information Officer	Tony Holloway	[REDACTED]	aholloway@bcpgh.org
Chief Financial Officer	James Syre	[REDACTED]	jsyre@bcpgh.org
MPER Contact*	Tony Holloway	[REDACTED]	aholloway@bcpgh.org

* MPER is DHS’s provider and contract management system. Please list an administrative contact to update and manage this system for your agency.

RFP for Out-of-School Time Programs

BOARD INFORMATION

Provide a list of your board members as an attachment or in the space below.

Dana Booker, Vickie Davis, Frederick Douglas, Holly Douglas, Alberta Grate, Anthony Igwe, Purdie McGrath, Eunice Nelson, John Scarbrough, John Wallace, Jr., Romie Yates

Board Chairperson Name & Title: Dr. John M. Wallace

Board Chairperson Address: [REDACTED]

Board Chairperson Telephone: [REDACTED]

Board Chairperson Email: jwallace@bcpg.org

REFERENCES

Provide the name, affiliation and contact information [include email address and telephone number] for three references who are able to address relevant experience with your organization. *Please do not use employees of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services as references.*

Pamela Parks, Principal, Pittsburgh Public School, Lincoln PreK-5

Russell Patterson, Ph.D., Principal, Pittsburgh Public School, Faison K-5

Walter Lewis, President and CEO, Homewood Children's Village

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Date Submitted 3/2/2022

Amount Requested: \$688,200

CERTIFICATION

Please check the following before submitting your Proposal, as applicable:

I have read the standard County terms and conditions for County contracts and the requirements for DHS Cyber Security, EEOC/Non-Discrimination, HIPAA and Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know Law.

By submitting this Proposal, I certify and represent to the County that all submitted materials are true and accurate, and that I have not offered, conferred or agreed to confer any pecuniary benefit or other thing of value for the receipt of special treatment, advantaged information, recipient's decision, opinion, recommendation, vote or any other exercise of discretion concerning this RFP.

RFP for Out-of-School Time Programs

Choose one:

My Proposal contains information that is either a trade secret or confidential proprietary information and I have included a written statement signed by an authorized representative identifying those portions or parts of my Proposal and providing contact information.

OR

My Proposal does not contain information that is either a trade secret or confidential proprietary information.

ATTACHMENTS

Please submit the following attachments with your Response Form. These can be found at <http://www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/solicitations>.

- Partner commitment letters, if applicable
- MWDBE and VOSB documents
- Allegheny County Vendor Creation Form
- Audited financial reports or other financial documentation for the last three years
- W-9
- Completed budget template

REQUIREMENTS

Please respond to the following. The maximum score a Proposal can receive is 125 points. Your response to the following section should not exceed 6 pages. (Pages 1-3 are not included in the page count).

RFP for Out-of-School Time Programs

Organizational Experience (15 points possible)

1. Describe your organizational experience providing OST Programming or programming that works with youth and families.

Bible Center Church - The Oasis Project (BCC-TOP) provides high-quality out-of-school-time programming for school-aged children in Homewood and nearby neighborhoods. TOP's four foci are Education, Employment, Entrepreneurship, and the built Environment.

The year-round education programs at TOP are The Maker's Clubhouse (TMC) and Oasis Farm and Fishery (OFF). TMC is a high-quality after-school program that offers students in grades K-5 daily homework help/tutoring, a meal, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, and Math) enrichment activities. TMC also hosts community science days, Dream STEAM each January and Green STEAM each April, to give children a full day of science enrichment on two school vacation days. TMC also sponsors STEAM-focused assemblies for the entire school body at both Faison and Lincoln Elementary Schools. OFF is an educational urban farm located in Homewood that incorporates traditional agriculture with hydroponics and aquaponics. OFF offers community groups and schools educational tours and workshop programs that teach participants the importance of food literacy, nutrition, cooking skills, and urban gardening basics. OFF's Better Food Better Me (BFBM) program teaches school-aged children where their food comes from, and how to grow, harvest, and prepare fresh produce for healthy meals and snacks. In addition, the two programs coordinate to hold a 7-week summer camp entitled Green STEAM & Play, which combines outdoor activities including gardening with engaging academic units to help ameliorate summer learning loss.

BCC-TOP has operated afterschool and summer programming for over a decade in the Homewood community. Our afterschool program, The Maker's Clubhouse (TMC), began eleven years ago at Pittsburgh Public School's (PPS) Faison Elementary. We expanded the program to PPS's Lincoln Elementary school three years ago. The annual summer camp, Green STEAM and Play (GS&P) has been in operation for seven years.

Cynthia Wallace EdD earned her doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh and serves as the Executive Director of The Oasis Project. She works closely with program staff, schools, and partners to maintain and develop responsive and high-quality programming. India Harris, BA is the manager of Bible Center's educational programs. She has extensive experience in school-age and early childhood programs and holds a State of Pennsylvania Director's Credential.

2. Describe your organizational experience working in high-need communities, especially the community(ies) you are proposing to serve.

Bible Center Church (BCC) was founded and led by Ralph and Bernice Groce from 1956 to 2003. In 2004, the Groce's grandson, Dr. John Wallace returned to Pittsburgh, and with his wife, Dr. Cynthia Wallace, assumed leadership of BCC. Beginning in 2008, they helped to launch, and/or lead, several prominent initiatives focused on the economic mobility of low-income children and families in and around Homewood (i.e., Homewood Children's Village, Operation Better Block, Pitt Assisted Communities and Schools, Homewood Community Ministries, the Everyday Café, Pitt's Homewood Community Engagement Center, and the Own Our Own Entrepreneurial Center). They launched The Oasis Project (TOP), the community and economic development division of BCC, in 2011 to promote the positive development of Homewood and to address the tremendous disparities in opportunities and outcomes for young people that exist in the city of Pittsburgh.

RFP for Out-of-School Time Programs

TOP's mission is to create oases—places of peace, safety, and happiness in the midst of difficulty. TOP uses education, employment, entrepreneurship, and improvements in the physical environment to promote the economic mobility of low-income people. TOP's vision is that all people in its target communities will have the opportunity to flourish.

Since 2011 we have focused our education work on our after-school and summer programs through The Maker's Clubhouse and Oasis Farm and Fishery. Each provides high-quality STEAM-focused programs that simultaneously educate elementary school students, employ and train young adults, and support working families.

Program Design (40 points possible)

3. Provide an overall description of your proposed OST Programming:

- Describe how you will provide youth with a physically and emotionally safe space to spend time and how you will ensure that they and their parents/caregivers feel safe. Provide a brief description of current or proposed safety policies and procedures. Describe the physical location you intend to use.
- Describe how you will provide opportunities for youth to engage in enriching activities and how the activities align with the Programmatic Content expectations outlined in Section to of the RFP. Provide an example of a week's schedule of activities.
- Describe how you will provide participants with opportunities to make positive connections with peers, adults and their community. Provide a brief description of your organization's code of conduct for staff, staff training expectations, and policies and procedures.
- Describe the community(ies) in which you intend to locate your OST Programming. Why did you select those community(ies)? How will you tailor your Programming to respond to the unique needs of the community(ies) you are serving?

Bible Center Church - The Oasis Project (BCC-TOP) provides high-quality out-of-school-time programming for school-aged children in Homewood and nearby neighborhoods through afterschool programs at PPS's Faison and Lincoln elementary and a seven-week summer day camp featuring environmental and STEAM learning.

Providing a safe space for students is a priority and a measured objective of our out-of-school-time programming. We have prioritized social-emotional learning lessons in our curriculum and for the past few years have had masters-level social work interns work with students and parents in our program. TOP's education staff handbook addresses creating a safe space and staff regularly review best practices for interacting with children and metrics for assessing the children's level of security. TOP program staff recognize that establishing a culture of possibilities among the students is imperative to ensuring a safe environment for the children to explore and grow. TMC staff follow PPS building policies to ensure a safe afterschool environment. Green STEAM and Play and day-long enrichment programs are held on the Bible Center campus where building security and safety guidelines are well established and followed. TOP out-of-school-time programs are focused on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, agriculture, and math, and incorporate social-emotional learning (SEL). We highlight agriculture (as opposed to the traditional 'art') because the skills and knowledge are life-sustaining and empowering. Agricultural education is also readily accessible because of our farm and fishery. We partner with several different organizations to supplement our STEAM learning, diversify our SEL offerings, and offer different curricula such as environmental activities or physical

RFP for Out-of-School Time Programs

fitness and healthy eating lessons. The choice to be STEAM-focused was in part a response to an assessment that science classes were limited at Faison elementary. In addition, the STEAM career fields are and will continue to be extremely important in our society, and our goal is to ensure the children from Homewood have equitable access to these opportunities. SEL was incorporated because it is important for children to have strong self-esteem, an understanding of their emotions, skills to problem solve and express their feelings. Some children in our program have experienced trauma and challenges in their community and/or home-life, so teaching skills and providing tools to work through and understand their emotions is critical to positively impacting their life trajectory. Students are surveyed about their interest in various content, and our program managers and staff create the curriculum by accessing a variety of open-source materials.

The afterschool program has two grade groups (i.e., K-2nd and 3rd -5th). In addition to homework help and other activities, the students have a weekly lesson with STEM Coding Lab, a STEAM lesson and lab, Better Food-Better Me, and social-emotional learning. We began a partnership with Sylvan Learning Center in the summer of 2021 with the goal begin for all children to have targeting tutoring weekly.

The program curriculum aims to develop an atmosphere of positive connections among all participants (students, staff, and partners). SEL lessons prioritize positive interactions between a student and their peers, and with other community members. Additionally, as a majority of the STEAM-based activities are group-focused, students have ample opportunity to work with others.

TOP staff participate in professional development (PD) multiple times throughout the year in order to establish a strong understanding of the program's policies and procedures. During the school year, staff participate in one week of PD before the start of the term programming in September and January. In addition to the two PD weeks, various training sessions are held on days that PPS is not open. Over the summer, staff participate in one week of PD before the start of GS&P. These opportunities ensure staff are aware of the expectations for all aspects of the program. Additionally, these trainings help develop staff abilities to have positive interactions with the students. Students are surveyed about their positive connections with the staff, and any lack of connection. These data inform staff training and program development pertaining to students' connection and culture-building techniques.

Students that live and learn in Homewood and surrounding neighborhoods are the primary beneficiaries of BCC-TOP out-of-school-time programs. Students who attend Faison and Lincoln Elementary are eligible to attend The Maker's Clubhouse afterschool program. These students are in grades kindergarten through 5th and between the ages of 5 and 11. These schools are considered Pittsburgh's most racially segregated (97% African American population) and economically challenged (86% free/reduced-price lunch) per PPS enrollment data.

In addition to offering TMC during the school year, we offer Green STEAM & Play for 7 weeks in the summer. This program is offered to students enrolled in The Maker's Clubhouse, but also to elementary and middle school students in Homewood and surrounding neighborhoods. The students enrolled in GS&P are predominantly African American. Students at the camp mostly come from Homewood or the neighborhoods nearby including Larmier, Lincoln-Lemington, and East Hills. Homewood is 92% African American according to the 2010 Census so the majority of students enrolled in the program are as well.

BCC-TOP is located in Homewood and serves Homewood and nearby communities to create opportunities for economic mobility for marginalized and underserved children and families.

RFP for Out-of-School Time Programs

Providing high-quality out-of-school-time programs in and for these communities is a key method to changing the life trajectory for these children.

Youth and Parent Experience (10 points)

4. Why do you think youth will want to participate in your OST Programming? Provide specific methods you will use to ensure that they remain engaged and interested in your Programming. Student voice is a key component of our program. We give students interest surveys and conduct focus groups in each program session to determine what program participants are interested in and would like to do in our program. In addition, specific programming like our Better Food Better Me program administered by Oasis Farm and Fishery conducts pre-and post-testing. Student responses and results help staff understand the student experience, and assess the interest in the topic based on subject retention. Students rate their feelings on a scale of 1 (not agree) to 5 (always agree). Two key questions are 1)“I feel like I am learning new things at TMC” and 2)“I feel like it is easy to pay attention to the activities”. Recent survey results for these two questions have average rates of 4.33 and 4.03 respectively. At the start of the 2021-2022 school year, students were asked who in their life they feel they can turn to talk about emotions or things going on in their life. TMC staff members were listed in many of the responses as primary or secondary persons.

Frequent surveys ensure the quality of our programs remains high and meets TOP goals. If aggregated results indicate students are not having a positive experience, TMC staff will reflect, seek programming guidance through research or mentorship and implement programmatic adjustments.

5. Describe your approach to communicating with parents/caregivers. Provide specific methods you will use to ensure that parents/caregivers feel comfortable with your OST Programming and confident that their child is safe and well cared for.

It is a high priority of TMC to ensure that our program is accessible to parents/caregivers as greater parental/caregiver involvement and confidence are proven to positively impact the student’s experience. Therefore, a clear line of communication with the students’ parents/caregivers is critical to achieving our programmatic goals around student achievement. We use multiple communications methods to engage parents/caregivers. We conduct a pre-start date orientation for students and their parents/caregivers. This allows the families to meet the staff and learn the program guidelines, policies, and expectations. Staff gain a better understanding of some of the challenges the families might be facing and how they prefer to communicate. Site managers share their professional contact information with the parents/caregivers to help with child-specific questions. During the afterschool programming period (i.e. school-year) we utilize TextinChurch software to send broadcast messages to include program highlights, reminders, and closure notifications. We also have family-focused social media on Facebook and Instagram where we share childcare and educational insights and news about happenings (@makersclubhouse). Professional Development sessions review these methods and make updates according to new technology and parent/caregiver feedback. Staff and program interns also conduct wellness checks with families at least monthly to receive program feedback and also to determine if there are family needs or barriers to school attendance or achievement.

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Operations (20 points)

6. Describe how you will market your Programming and open referral pathways. Provide a description of how you will build and sustain relationships with schools.

For afterschool programming, we work with school leadership and faculty at our partner schools for referrals and to engage families in our program. The summer Green Steam & Play program is promoted to local schools, churches, and community organizations. We utilize flyers, websites (www.makersclubhouse.com), and social media advertising, in addition to a strong word-of-mouth network. Dr. Wallace, our program manager, and staff maintain consistent relationships with school leaders via email, visits, and other networking opportunities.

7. Describe how you will staff your Programming and the strategies you will use to recruit, hire and retain racially diverse staff, staff with relevant lived experience and staff that reflect the population served.

BCC-TOP posts open positions on job boards (i.e., Indeed and Non-Profit Talent, Handshake) and our social media pages across our five programs and the Bible Center. We also share openings with partner organizations and schools, and our parents/caregivers. As a result, we have consistently had a diverse staff with a significant number of people who look like the children in our program. We prioritize professional development and competitive wages as we believe that this contributes to staff retention as individuals see that they are valued and how their role contributes to the overall mission of the organization.

8. Provide the hours and days you expect your OST program to operate during the school year and summer.

TMC afterschool will operate from September 12, 2022, to May 31, 2023. The program operates Monday through Friday from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. We follow Pittsburgh Public School's schedule which may have delayed starts or closures that affect afterschool programming. We expect to operate our program 144 school days.

Green STEAM & Play summer session is from June 27 to August 12, 2022. The program is Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The program will operate for 7-weeks (34 days).

9. Describe your plan for storing and providing healthy snacks and meals during the school year and summer.

TMC afterschool is provided with refrigerators at both elementary schools where we operate. The school staff are responsible for managing the snacks and meals. TMC staff distribute and count the number of meals and snacks consumed each day. The summer program has two reach-in refrigerators and a milk cooler on-site at Bible Center. The three refrigerators hold multiple days' worth of student meals and snacks.

Implementation Challenges (20 points possible)

10. If your Program experiences low attendance, how will you engage more youth?

We review student surveys, parent feedback, and pre-/post- testing data to inform enhancements to programs. This might include expanded transportation services, additional tutoring time, new program providers, or more featured lessons.

RFP for Out-of-School Time Programs

If we experience low attendance in the afterschool program we will consult with the school leadership to assess possible scheduling challenges or to assist us in promoting the program to new families.

In the summer program, we promote the program to reach capacity enrollment prior to the start date. If attendance drops off, we will assess external and internal conditions that may be affecting attendance and work to resolve programming and access issues.

11. If a youth in your Program experiences behavioral or mental health issues, what will you do? Maintaining open lines of communication with the students, their parents/caregivers, and the school counselor and social worker is key to addressing behavioral and mental health issues. We encourage the children to talk with our staff about issues affecting their wellbeing. If an instance occurs or concerning behavior is observed we work with school leadership, our faculty, and families to support the child's wellness. Our staff is trained to identify signs of trauma and will abide by mandated reporter laws if appropriate.

12. If the results of the bi-annual parent survey indicate that parents are not satisfied with the experience of their children in your Program, what will you do? The initial response will be to analyze the data to determine if there are specific areas where the majority of parents/caregivers are dissatisfied. If this is the case, we can look at possible program modifications. For example, in the early years of our program, we did not offer Homework help. Our parents complained that their children arrived home late and that starting homework was difficult. We modified our program to offer Homework help. If there are individual parents who express dissatisfaction, individual calls or meetings are scheduled to address concerns and hopefully resolve the issue. If survey results do not include adequate feedback to fully understand where we are not meeting their satisfaction, every effort will be made to gain more insight into the issues. These methods might include follow-up/more proactive surveys, parent/caregiver group meetings, and one-on-one communications.

13. If a parent of a child in your Program expresses a transportation issue, what will you do? We provide door-to-door transportation for students in our afterschool program at Faison Elementary and our summer program. Lincoln Elementary, currently, provides afterschool students with an activities bus. If this service is suspended we will work with the school to begin providing transportation. If a family has a need that none of these options can resolve we will work with that family to research additional options.

Financial Management and Budget (20 points)

14. Using the budget template available on our website, provide a detailed one-year, line-item budget that reflects a realistic estimate of the costs associated with implementing and sustaining the Programming. Please include any other funding sources that would contribute to OST Programming, including fees to families. The budget template file attachment will not count toward page limits. Please note:

- Indicate the number of children you expect to serve, with DHS funding, during the school year at a \$27 rate and during the summer at a \$40 rate. Please also share the total number

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of children you expect to attend afterschool and during the summer (include other seats that will be paid for through other funding streams).

- If you intend to administer programming at multiple sites, please provide the number of youth you plan to serve by site both during the summer and during the school year.
- Include any other funding sources that would contribute to OST Programming, including fees to families.

15. In the space below, provide a budget narrative that clearly explains and justifies all line items in your proposed line-item budget.

Salaries, Taxes, Fringe	All full-time salaries are divided between sites and are represented .25 in our summer program budget Program Manager Assistant Manager Administrator/Data Manager Urban Agriculture Program Manager Public Ally Part-time program staff Taxes and benefits calculated at .0765
Program Supplies	Learning Supplies - \$100 per student per year Curriculum Supplies(SEL and supplemental materials) Equipment (consumable and replacement) Insurance Partnership fees - (Sylvan Learning Center, STEM Coding Lab, Carnegie Science Center, Assemble, Better Food Better Me) Food - daily snacks and meals, for food for learning celebrations
Transportation	\$410 per day - 2 buses, 2 vans, 144 afterschool days at Faison: \$410 per day - 2 buses, 2 vans, 35 summer program days, one field trip weekly at \$410
Utilities	Office Utilities (water, heat, electricity, internet) - \$400 per month Facility daily cleaning with Covid protocols - \$400 per week
Admin (clearances)	Clearances and Professional Development
<i>Indirects</i>	<i>Accounting, Human Resources, Communication</i>

16. Describe the funding model of your proposed OST Program (i.e., do you have a mixed model of private pay, subsidy and free spots, only free spots?).

All of our spots and associated transportation services are free to the students and their families.

The Maker's Clubhouse - Lincoln Elementary

Please populate only the green cells. If you are proposing to have locations at multiple sites, please complete a tab for each site. If you are proposing to provide over 3 sites, please copy and paste onto new tabs. Assistant mgr budget fully here

	total # of children requesting funding for**	rate	days	total
Afterschool	75	\$27	144	291600
Summer		\$40		0
				291600

**DHS funding if for free programming, so children funded through private pay and subsidy should not be included in this request
 **Funding can be requested for a subset of total number of children served

Afterschool	Expense
Personnel	207,361
Salaries, Taxes, Fringe	207,361
Operations (supplies, rent)	67,659
Program Supplies	59,959
Utilities	3,600
Transportation	4,100
Other	2,000
Clearances	2,000
Indirects	14,580
	*Total:
	291,600

Total funding request based on seats 291600

*Total should = total funding request based on seats

Variance Under 0

Green, STEAM & Play Summer Camp

Please populate only the green cells. If you are proposing to have locations at multiple sites, please complete a tab for each site. If you are proposing to provide over 3 sites, please copy and paste onto new tabs.

	total # of children requesting funding for**	rate	days	total
Afterschool		\$27		0
Summer	75	\$40	35	105000
				105000

**DHS funding if for free programming, so children funded through private pay and subsidy should not be included in this request

**Funding can be requested for a subset of total number of children served

Summer	Expense
<i>Personnel</i>	63,729
Sal, Taxes, Fringe	63,729
<i>Operations (supplies, rent)</i>	41,271
Program Supplies	20,451
Utilities	3,600
Transportation	17,220
Other	0
Clearances	0
	0
	0
<i>Indirects</i>	
*Total:	105,000

Total funding request based on seats 105000

*Total should = total funding request based on seats

Overage 0



February 23, 2022

DHS Review Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Homewood Children's Village in support of Bible Center Church's proposal to the Department of Human Services to support their OST programming.

HCV has partnered with Bible Center Church (BC) in many different ways since 2012 and their OST programming has become an integral part of our "Cradle to Career" pipeline for Homewood youth. BC and Maker's Clubhouse staff participate in our community schools partner meetings for both Faison and Lincoln and contribute to the goals for each school. Additionally, BC has always been involved in collaborative OST work in Homewood, at one time even co-leading HOST (Homewood Out of School Time) meetings with HCV for several years.

While there are many afterschool and summer programs, not many are able to effectively balance the academic and educational enrichment with kids' need for play, joy, social-emotional development and an overall caring environment. The Maker's Clubhouse and Green STEAM and Play strike that balance. We consistently hear positive feedback from youth and parents about the program and often make referrals to new families looking for programming.

HCV is committed to improving the lives of Homewood's children and reweaving the fabric of the community. We believe that it takes a village to create such change, and Bible Center and its OST programs are a critical part of that village.


There remains a huge need for high quality OST programming in our community. BC has been a leader in the space and with continued support from DHS, we hope to see them continue to serve Homewood youth for years to come.

Sincerely,

Walter Lewis
President and CEO

It takes a village.

Expect
great
things.

 Pittsburgh
Public Schools



**Pittsburgh
Lincoln PreK-5**
A Technology and
Pre-Engineering Academy with
STEAM Emphasis

Pamela Parks, Principal
Chris Dedes, Assistant Principal
328 Lincoln Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Stay Connected & Informed:
Website:
<http://discoverpps.org/Lincoln>

Facebook: Pittsburgh Lincoln
STEAM Academy PreK-5



Twitter: @pghlincolnsteam



Instagram: @pghlincolnsteam



Phone: [REDACTED]
Fax: 412-665-4959

Parent Hotline:
412-529-HELP (4357)
discoverpps.org/lincoln

To Whom It May Concern,

As the principal of Pittsburgh Lincoln Elementary School, it is my pleasure to submit a letter of support regarding the continued work of The Maker's Clubhouse. This program has been an integral part in the achievement of our students. Within the 3 years of partnership with The Maker's Clubhouse and their implementation of methods to increase the academic standard at Lincoln, the following has been evident:

Social Strengths

*The program works to strengthen student relations through group activities and other lesson related projects. Through the cooking component of the program, the students learn to cook meals made from the vegetables obtained from the community gardens that the students help to maintain.

Increased Scores

*With the help of the program we have seen a 23.1% increase in Science scores and a 15.8% increase in Math Scores.

STEAM Growth

*Students' involvement in STEAM related activities and research has heightened their interest and awareness in STEAM.

As the guardian of a Pittsburgh Lincoln Elementary School student who attends The Maker's Clubhouse program after school, I am extremely appreciative of the outcomes that we are experiencing. My nephew, Chance has become a more confident and outgoing individual. Specifically, as a result of the STEAM activities, his love for exploration has grown and he is learning to make sound hypothesis. He is also grasping that mistakes are acceptable as they make for a good scientist in the long run. His conversation now includes long term goals to attend a STEAM college.

I wholeheartedly support the endeavors of the The Maker's Clubhouse going forward as they have undoubtedly enriched the atmosphere here at Pittsburgh Lincoln Elementary School.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Parks



**Pittsburgh Faison K-5,
A Community School**

Dr. Russell Patterson, Principal

7430 Tioga Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15208

Stay Connected & Informed:

Website: <http://discoverpps.org/faison>

Facebook: Pittsburgh Faison



Twitter: @PPSFaison



Instagram: @PittsburghFaison



Phone: 412-529-2306
Fax: 412-247-0105


Parent Hotline:
412-529-HELP (4357)
discoverpps.org/faison

February 23, 2022

To whom it may concern,

I am in full support of the afterschool programming that the Maker's Clubhouse offers our scholars that attend Pittsburgh Faison. The community of Homewood has been devastated by the pandemic in several ways. As educators, we feel the effects of the pandemic from our scholars not being able to attend a brick and mortar school. There are several studies that point to the powerful impact of rich learning experiences that occur in a school building. The programming/activities that the Maker's Clubhouse provides, helps us to accelerate the learning of all of the scholars that participate. Our students participate in a wide range of STEAM activities and the learning that occurs bubbles into their classroom experiences. We (the Pittsburgh Faison family) are excited to partner with our Maker's Clubhouse family in an effort to enhance the lives of all of the scholars at Pittsburgh Faison.\

Sincerely


Russell Patterson, PhD
PRINCIPAL



Reading Is FUNdamental Pittsburgh

To provide children with the resources, motivation, and opportunities to develop a life-long love of reading

February 17, 2022

Board of Directors

Francis X Solano MD FACP
Board Chair

Kevin Acklin

Jordan Blask

Perry Colosimo

MaCalus Hogan MD MBA

Vincent O'Sullivan

Sylvia Owusu-Ansah MD MPH

Florri Ladov
Executive Director

Letter of Support for The Maker's Clubhouse

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of The Maker's Clubhouse application for funding to support their after school and summer program. The Maker's Clubhouse program is designed to help reduce educational and opportunity disparities between children in Pittsburgh. The work of Reading is Fundamental (RIF) Pittsburgh is well aligned with their mission as we are focused on eliminating the literacy and achievement gaps for children in communities like Homewood. RIF has partnered with The Maker's Clubhouse for several years in both their after-school programs and their summer camp and are in support of their application to the Department of Human Services for funding.

I appreciate your consideration of their request as our continued partnership will greatly benefit the youth in our community. Please reach out if you have any questions or would like any additional information about our collective work.

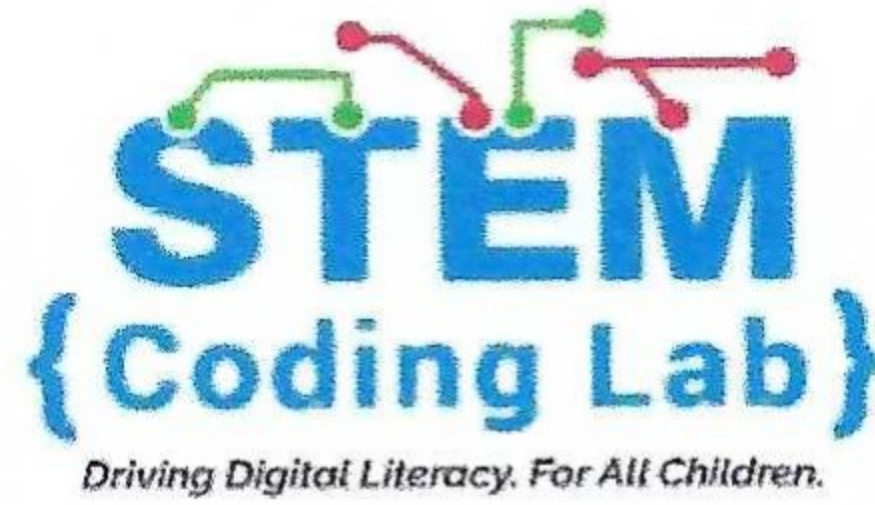
Sincerely,

Florri Ladov
Executive Director

RIF Pittsburgh

10 Children's Way, Suite 300, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Phone: [REDACTED] – Fax: [REDACTED] – www.rifpittsburgh.org



February 10, 2022

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of STEM Coding Lab, I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for the work of Bible Center Church (BCC) and the Makers Clubhouse. For the past two years, STEM Coding Lab has been proud to partner with the Bible Center Church by offering students enrolled in the Makers Clubhouse with computer science education courses, designed to pique youth interest in the topic.

At every stage of our partnership, the BCC has been an engaged, caring, and effective partner. The relationships STEM Coding Lab has been able to establish and sustain with students at both Faison K-5 and Lincoln PreK-5 are entirely thanks to the work of BCC and the community they have galvanized through their efforts.

I am of the sentiment that “we all do better when we all do better,” and few groups represent that ideology better than the BCC. These past few months and years have been challenging for all of us, but they have been made infinitely less challenging because of the BCC’s commitment to under-resourced kids and families throughout Pittsburgh.

STEM Coding Lab is honored to call the BCC a partner, and we are wholly committed to doing all that is necessary in order for our collaboration to grow in the coming years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Casey Mindlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Casey Mindlin
Executive Director
STEM Coding Lab