



October 21, 2009

To Whom It My Concern:

My name is Gail Patton. I am the Executive Director of Unlimited Future, Inc. (UFI), a microenterprise development organization in the Fairfield neighborhood of Huntington, WV. UFI was established as a 501(c)3 non profit in 1993. The mission of Unlimited Future is to provide, for start-up and emerging businesses, a not for profit business development center which creates an environment for entrepreneurial success by providing a physical facility, education, and operational support, including the expertise of a network of advisors. The center is designed to assist participating businesses, especially minority businesses, in their efforts to reduce overhead expenses, compete effectively in markets, and create jobs. There are over 130 successful businesses operating in the tri-state area today that have taken advantage of UFI's programs in some form or another. These businesses employ over three hundred people, and many have been in operation for over five years. It is exciting to think about the contribution UFI has made to local economic development efforts through the years as well as its potential contribution in years to come.

I have been aware of the development of the Huntington Community Gardens project for some time now. Because of the success to date of this important community project and the opportunities inherent in offering youth the skills which will help them meet their most basic needs, our organization is excited to be a part of the West Virginia State University/ Huntington Community Gardens programming proposed in the CYFAR grant.

We are committed to helping the people in our region develop skills which will empower them to be self-sufficient, healthy, productive citizens. We, at Unlimited Futures, Inc., feel that we will be able to help the WVSU/ HCG programming by offering our skills as mentors and professionals in the art and science of building small businesses. Our facility is located right next to the MCTC Culinary Arts industrial kitchen where the students will be creating their product.

We can help the program in years four and five by helping to research, develop and implement a small business building curriculum that is applicable to youth in upper elementary and middle school. This will be the projected ages of the youth once they move through the program into years four and five. We see the proposed program as a strong, community supported effort which has the potential for positively impacting the lives of our families who are most in need of hope in the Huntington area. The skills that these children will learn will help them to develop a wide knowledge base which can empower them to move into a number of professions as well as to spark their own entrepreneurial spirit. We strongly encourage you to fund this program for the children of our area.

Sincerely,

Gail Patton  
Executive Director – Unlimited Future, Inc.

1650 Eighth Avenue, Huntington, WV (304) 697-3007 Phone  
[www.unlimitedfuture.org](http://www.unlimitedfuture.org)

(304) 399-3007 Fax