



**UNITING PEOPLE
WITH OPPORTUNITIES**

Wednesday April 1, 2015

Commissioners
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C
Adams Morgan
Washington DC 20009

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to share information about our work at the Marie Reed Elementary School. Additionally, we are pleased to provide our input on how we believe a renovated school can better serve the needs of our families and children.

The UPO Office of Early Learning provides an individualized instructional curriculum for all children. Additionally, our programming includes health services coordination, safe facilities and environments, family support services, and nutritional meals. Our partnership with Marie Reed has grown in to a family oriented relationship where we work together to strategize in assisting our families with goal setting, educational needs, family life support and provide them with the resources to meet the needs of their family.

We employ a multifaceted approach that leverages support for families from a variety of providers. It is our attempt to provide one stop shopping for our families. Among the supports are: behavioral and educational consultant that provides individualized services to the child and family and referral services with Early Stages and Strong Start to assess for developmental delays. The Office of Latino Affairs provides food distribution to families in need of nutritional resources including produce and canned goods. Based upon individual family needs, our community engagement specialist seeks additional resources and partnerships to address urgent needs. As a result of assessing the needs of each family annually and performing quarterly progress reviews, we are able to work in concert with the families as their needs evolve.

We currently enroll 16 children at the center and have 4 children who will matriculate to Marie Reed's 3-year old program. The center's child attendance is consistent and well monitored by staff. We have 5 children on Marie Reed's wait list, in past years the list has been quite extensive. We have been successful in aiding families on the waiting list in finding other locations to enroll their children. Laying a proper foundation for education is crucial in the early childhood years and we would prefer all children are receiving some form of center/home based education in a licensed facility.

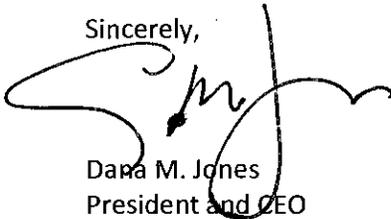
Every child is provided with opportunities to grow and enhance their cognitive and social skills. We have qualified staff that is committed to this philosophy by providing a variety of individualized planned activities. In addition, we are committed to involving parents in every aspect of their child's education and the program decision making process.

As we look to the future, we believe a renovated Marie Reed would better serve our families if the following points were taken into consideration.

1. Improved building access for our families; perhaps a separate entrance
2. An age appropriate playground for children up to age three
3. Better space configuration – creation of a meeting room for parents to discuss private matters
4. An additional classroom, we always have a waiting list

Again, thank you for affording us the opportunity to provide this input. We look forward to continuing to afford high quality services in your neighborhood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dana M. Jones', written over the printed name and title.

Dana M. Jones
President and CEO