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September 15, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Michael Jasz, executive director of The Relationship Foundation, and his organization's service to the Bronx's Alternative Learning Center schools. In May, Michael conducted a professional development workshop for the staff of our eight Alternative Learning Centers, initiating what is now developing into a district-wide implementation of their program. The Relationship Foundation's inspired and informative approach to communication dynamics has proved to be an invaluable resource to our school community.

As the previous NYC Department of Education Bronx Borough Safety Director and current Bronx Alternative Learning Center Principal, I have spent my career immersed in some of New York City's most trying, high-risk populations. Instances of student violence and the need for conflict resolution are daily challenges for our educators and administrators.

The Relationship Foundation's unique professional development training on empathy, expressing needs and feelings respectfully, and bringing into focus the importance of understanding the Adverse Childhood Experiences study (ACES), gives our schools tools to effectively cultivate beneficial life skills for our students. This significantly contributes to our ability to aid our students in building resilience in the face of adversity that they encounter both in and out of school.

We are enthusiastic about continuing our relationship with the Relationship Foundation because of our firm belief that their work has the power to transform not only schools, but also entire communities.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vincent DiGaetano', written over a faint, illegible printed name.

Vincent DiGaetano,

Principal – Bronx Alternate Learning Center