

October 1, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

As Executive Director of Operations, at Lutheran Child and Family Services, for Community Health Network, it gives me great pleasure to write this letter of support for Ascent 121 and their passionate efforts to fight Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation. Lutheran Child and Family Services was established in 1883 and is the largest Private Secure Treatment Facility in the State of Indiana. In January of 2013, Lutheran Child and Family Services entered into a joint management agreement with Community Health Network to expand the continuum of compassionate care available for the most at risk kids and families in Indiana. In the summer of 2014 this collaborative effort expanded to include an agreement to partner with Ascent 121 to provide expert clinical and diagnostic services for girls who were at high risk of being trafficked and/or sexually exploited. The collaboration resulted in the formation of the *Impact Program* (A program approved the Indiana Department of Child Services).

Lutheran Child and Family Services provides Emergency Shelter Care Services for Marion County and the surrounding communities and often found that youth brought into the shelter were exhibiting signs of being victims of human trafficking or sexual exploitation, but no formal services were available to adequately address these concerns. Because of our partnership with Ascent 121 we are now able to address these concerns due to their expert knowledge and training to identify and provide skilled treatment for this population of high risk and vulnerable youth. Through our close collaboration with Ascent 121, I can affirm that their team is well organized, compassionate, and highly qualified to provide advocacy, diagnosis, and treatment for this specialized population.

In conclusion, I fully support the efforts and continued expansion of the great work that Ascent 121 and its staff engage in on a daily basis to restore hope and assist the most vulnerable youth back to a healthy future. I thank you in advance for your consideration of this wonderful organization and I'm available to provide a direct testament of support should it be needed.

Respectfully,

George B. Hurd
Executive Director and COO – Lutherwood
Community Health Network – Behavioral Health Services
317-696-9493