



To Whom It May Concern:

11/2/2021

This letter is written in support of the Ascent 121 LIFT Program, a partner agency with Bashor Children's Home. Bashor provides help for troubled children and their families through residential care, day treatment/alternative education, foster care, and many other services. Bashor has become a regional provider for services over the last 95 years and works with over 150 children daily from 22 counties and 3 different states. On any given day, Bashor helps children and their families heal from trauma through our various treatment programs.

Bashor has worked with Ascent 121 in a number of capacities over the years, including sitting on various task force initiatives and workgroups, such as the Indiana Department of Child Services Human Trafficking Workgroup. Together, we helped develop both the Residential Service Standards for providers working with teen survivors of domestic sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation across the state.

We have found that survivors present with a lot of complex needs that many providers often are not equipped to handle. For survivors to receive comprehensive care, there is a growing need for human service organizations to work together to address the complex needs of survivors. Ascent 121 is well-respected by the state of Indiana and is viewed as one of the experts in working with the population. Through their LIFT Program, Ascent 121 is leveraging its expertise in the field to provide training and consulting for other service providers.

Bashor has been one of the first participants in the LIFT Program. LIFT has helped assist us in tailoring our service provision to meet the unique needs of survivors. We have worked with LIFT consultants to design and review our marketing strategies, formalize programming specific to youth who have been exploited, and update our policies and procedures to incorporate trafficking specific considerations.

We strongly support the Ascent 121 LIFT Program so that they may continue to assist other agencies working with trafficking survivors and share their expertise with others throughout the country. Without reservation we would highly recommend the LIFT Program to help equip providers in their delivery of services to survivors of trafficking.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Deranek, MSW, LCSW, CSAYP, CYC-P  
Vice President of Program Operations  
Bashor Children's Home



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