



June 1, xxxx

Dear Corr Action Funds Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for the grant application being submitted by New Hope United Methodist Church (NHUMC) to implement the Connecting Communities program. As a primary partner in this initiative, the Latino Center for Change truly believes that our community demonstrates extreme need for this project and has a large support network willing to help make Connecting Communities a reality.

As you might know, Latino Center for Change is the largest advocacy center in the region that specifically seeks to bridge the cultural gap between Spanish and non-Spanish speaking members of our community through education, advocacy and outreach programs. While Latino Center for Change was originally founded in 1990 to respond to critical needs of Latinos in Imaginary County, our organization has grown significantly over the last decade. In addition to programming for Latinos, our bilingual staff provides diversity trainings and Spanish language support to organizations such as: Imaginary County Government, local law enforcement, the school systems, mental health providers, Mountain University, Imaginary County Community College, 4-H, the YMCA, Red Cross, churches, and many other community partners.

As a faith based ministry, Latino Center for Change is always seeking ways to connect our local grassroots immigrant community with spiritual homes that understand their daily struggles as well as the incredible beauty that is found within every unique culture. Latino Center for Change believes that the Connecting Communities project provides this community with a vehicle to break down barriers among our three largest ethnic groups (Caucasian, African American, and Latino) so that we all might join together in worship. During the 18 month project period, Latino Center for Change is committed to providing a variety of services to the NHUMC and network churches including the following: a minimum of two integrated diversity trainings for clergy/lay/congregants, support for six large community outreach events, cultural consultation to support small monthly events onsite at NHUMC, an "Understanding our Neighbors" workshop for congregations, translation of materials, simultaneous interpretation at worship events, and anything else needed to ensure the success of this project.

Because Latino Center for Change is a non-profit that depends on community support and service fees to continue serving our community, the NHUMC will be including some service fees into the project budget. However, Latino Center for Change is committed to offering \$1,000 of in-kind

consultation/language services to demonstrate our dedication to this project. We recognize that NHUMC is invested in the lives of children and families in our community and we are asking that Corr Action Funders help us change our local community and potentially the world through the diverse lives this project will touch.

Latino Center for Change truly appreciates your consideration of this request. We eagerly await the assurance that Corr Action Funds will be awarded to the NHUMC so that Latino Center for Change can join with our local network of United Methodist Churches to implement Connecting Communities and serve even more families in our region. Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me in the office or on my work cell: xxx-xxx-xxxx.

Sincerely,