

September 4, 2020

Board of Directors The Robert Nelson Foundation P.O. Box 761398 Los Angeles, CA 90076

Dear Foundation Board Members,

Best Buddies Michigan continues to be deeply grateful for your investment in helping us to make the state of Michigan a much more inclusive place to live and work for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Thank you for supporting our mission and vision.

Despite the pandemic, we continue to work to spread our mission of inclusion throughout Michigan. Since COVID-19 struck, we have supported our chapter at Grand Valley State University, and continue to seek to open more school friendship chapters in the Grand Rapids area, though this effort has understandably been greatly slowed by the pandemic.

We have been able to hold several online Ambassador trainings, where individuals with IDD throughout the state wrote and refined personal speeches before practicing giving them to an audience as part of our self-advocacy training. We look forward to being able to provide more of these Ambassador trainings this fall, as well as some additional social offerings for our participants via Zoom and other online platforms.

When the pandemic hit in Michigan, we quickly pivoted to hosting weekly virtual Hang-Ins over Zoom, where participants played games and chatted with friends from across the state. We had good representation from West Michigan, and are picking back up with these offerings (in addition to what school chapters themselves offer) this fall.

At our second annual (and now virtual) Champion of the Year Gala on December 4<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating all the support and achievements we've seen this year, and hope you'll join us for that celebration.

Best,

Lindsay Clark

**Director of Mission Advancement** 

Gladry Clark

Best Buddies Michigan