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January 30, 2012 - **DRAFT**

Attn: Gretchen Waters - Executive Director

Washtenaw Contractors Association  
3135 South State Street, Suite 107  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108

**Re: *Pyramid Awards : Letter of Support of Nomination***

Dear Ms. Waters:

Let me start by saying what a pleasure it is to have this opportunity. I fully support the nomination of this Project and those involved for the "Pyramid Awards : Best Project Team Category".

From the beginning, it was apparent that the level of commitment and dedication demonstrated by *The Miracle League of Plymouth* and *Shaw Construction & Management* were both uncommon and admirable. These qualities became the catalysts for an ongoing and extensive collaboration between those involved throughout all phases of the project.

The initial fund-raising and community awareness phase was augmented by conceptual planning that included site and amenity development, which received input from the Owner, Contractor and Design Professionals. This produced materials that gave team members, tasked with garnering support for the project, tangible evidence that the vision "Every Child Deserves a Chance to Play Baseball" was more than just dream. It is my belief this preparation led directly to the award of a substantial grant from the State of Michigan, which in turn helped give the project the momentum needed to become a reality.

During, and even prior to, the production of construction documents for the pavilion on going coordination and communication between team members allowed this key component of the project to evolve both aesthetically and functionally.

Two examples of this come to mind. Conscience effort was made to address the needs of the end users. Barrier free toilet rooms were over-sized and equipped with adult-sized, collapsible dressing benches to allow patrons and players with special needs ample room to accommodate a multitude of functions.

Secondly, the final appearance of the pavilion was greatly enhanced by the use of a combination of integral color, split-faced and standard concrete block. This material was obtained from a local block manufacturer at a discount, due to the efforts of those responsible for procuring community support, and selected by both the architect and contractor during a pre-construction meeting at the manufacturer's facility. Lengthy discussions led to the final configuration of this material, which was based on the overall appearance and ease of constructability, each being given equal weight.

Many factors are responsible for the overall success of this project, but the overriding willingness of those involved to work together as a team, in the truest sense of the word, stands out. This led to a facility that the community can be proud of and that exemplifies the mission laid out by the Miracle League of Plymouth, which is as follows :

- Provide opportunities to all children with special needs to play baseball regardless of their abilities.
- Promote community awareness and support.
- Construct and maintain special facilities that meet the unique needs of players and their families.

It's not often one gets the opportunity to be a part of such a worthy cause and work with such upstanding individuals. Thank You.



Sincerely,

Joseph Philips, AIA  
Joseph Philips - Architect, LLC

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