

# St. Joseph Medical Center

FOUNDATION

September 22, 2015

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to submit this letter of support and collaboration for Set Point Tennis Organization (SPTO) as they explore new partnership and funding opportunities for their unique youth development and crime prevention programming in the City of Reading and Berks County.

St. Joseph Regional Health Network (which recently became part of Penn State Health) and the St. Joseph Medical Center Foundation have been proud to oversee the Reading Youth Violence Prevention Project (RYVP) here for the past six years. As the coordinating coalition for many of Reading's recent prevention initiatives, RYVP first convened an authentic community planning process and ultimately created a "Blueprint for Action" as the guiding document for local efforts. This "Blueprint" identifies the strategies that hold the greatest promise for addressing youth violence and related issues in our community. Since 2011, based on the findings of this needs assessment, RYVP has provided direct support and/or helped leverage significant public and private dollars for numerous innovative and evidence based policies, practices, and programs.

Among the most enthusiastic and engaged stakeholders in the above described endeavor has been SPTO, and its founder and president, Mike Murphy. Mr. Murphy has been perhaps the most active longstanding RYVP committee members and grantees, despite the fact that his work in this arena is largely volunteer – in the midst of an exceptionally busy professional and academic career. We applaud the resourcefulness and dedication of this fine person and organization, and would urge others to give them similar consideration. Worthy of particular note is SPTO's original Lifeskills Crime Prevention Tennis Program (LCPTP), which has proven remarkably effective with high risk system involved youth.

If I may answer any questions or provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 610-378-2474 or [laurawelliver@catholichealth.net](mailto:laurawelliver@catholichealth.net). Otherwise, my appreciation for the opportunity to offer this recommendation.

Most Sincerely,



Laura M. Welliver  
RYVP Coordinator  
Grants & Special Projects Officer