

THANK YOU LETTER FOR YOUTH CROSSROADS' SUPPORT

February 11, 2021

Dear Jackie,

Words cannot express how grateful we are for the ongoing support you and your staff have provided to the behavioral health team of Berwyn South District 100 (school social workers, counselors and psychologists) and the teaching and support staff of Freedom Middle School. The presentation you provided for FMS staff at the beginning of the year allowed teachers to have a better understanding of how the pandemic was affecting them and their students.

In the presentation you specifically encouraged staff to seek community resources and support, and you and Morgan have taken it one step further by providing a twice-monthly coping skills group for interested staff. The fact that we have regular group attendance of about 10 staff members is evidence of the fact that the group is a welcome support.

Several of the teachers participating in that group have also taken the skills that we have learned and practiced during the group and incorporated them into their work with students (or their own children at home!). The positive impact is also felt during our weekly building meetings, as group members have volunteered to lead the entire staff in a mindfulness activity that was previously presented during group time.

As a result of the train-the-trainer workshop that you provided our BHS team towards the end of 2020, you have impacted our entire teaching staff. As a result of the personalized training you provided to the BHS staff, district social workers and counselors were able to share that information with the teachers and staff at their individual buildings. This means that not only are all D100 teachers and support staff trained using the trauma informed model, but also given information about how that lens can be/needs to be adjusted in our current COVID world.

We are also extremely grateful for the support that you provide our students and their families, whether that be through the existence of the Think Space, multiple parent-education presentations, or the ease in which we are able to refer individual students and/or families to your agency for outpatient services.

We are incredibly grateful for the support that your agency provides. I believe that Berwyn as a community benefits from the strong partnership between Berwyn South District 100 and Youth Crossroads.

Emily Reyes, LCSW
School Social Worker
Freedom Middle School