

October 21, 17



To Whom It May Concern:

It is with unwavering confidence that I write to recommend Keith Reed and the Keith Reed Community Foundation as a promising investment for improving the life options for north Tulsa's youth. Mr. Reed offers mentoring, life-skills instruction and athletic training for kids from some of Tulsa's most disadvantaged homes.

I encountered Keith Reed nearly ten-years ago when I first visited his boxing and weight training facility. I was floored that he was able to accomplish so much for kids on what was clearly a "shoe-string" budget. Keith was using the sport of boxing to teach kids essential life skills, such as self-discipline, healthy eating, personal hygiene and self-care. For many of the kids in his gym this is the only place in their lives where they experience structure and unconditional love. It is immediately clear that his work is saving the lives of kids who otherwise would be involved in gang activity and other destructive behaviors.

Because of Keith's extraordinary work, our congregation along with the Antioch Baptist Church made a substantial contribution to his organization. In fact, we honored him at our annual New Year's Eve worship service, presenting him with both a check and an award for outstanding work in the north Tulsa community. We highlighted his work as phenomenally unique in that he is able to make notable gains with youth that face a range of complex and deeply entrenched challenges.

Recently, I saw Mr. Reed in a grocery store with five or six kids at his side. I inquired as to what was going on and he informed that this was a lesson in basic life skills. He was teaching the youth how to purchase groceries, a skill that so many take for granted, yet for this population that practice was not a part of their life experience. Each of the youngsters introduced themselves to me, shook my hand and maintained appropriate eye-contact, all skills that Coach Reed had instilled in them.

I am convinced that the Keith Reed Community Foundation is an important asset in our community. I hope that we will all invest our resources to support and enhance this life-saving work.

Thanks for your interest in this profound community program.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray A. Owens". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a large, prominent loop at the end.

Ray A. Owens, Ph.D.
Senior Pastor