



William Swiatek, WILMAPCO
Chair

March 5, 2012

Semia Hackett, DART
Vice Chair

Leah Woodall, M.P.A.
Chief

Marvin Thomas,
President of Southbridge Civic
Association

Maternal and Child Health Bureau
252 Chapman Road, Suite 200
Newark, Delaware 19702

Councilperson Hanifa Shabazz

Veronica Oliver,
Executive Director
Neighborhood House

Dear Ms. Woodall,

Rosa Rivera, CEO
Henrietta Johnson Medical Center

On behalf of the South Wilmington Planning Network (SWPN), I am writing today in support of the Wilmington Consortium's proposal for the Delaware Division of Public Health's Health Ambassadors funding opportunity (RFP NO.HSS 12 008). This proposal will strengthen Wilmington Consortium's existing Health Ambassadors program and allow it to expand to better meet the needs of residents.

Charles A. Madden
Executive Director
Wilmington HOPE Commission

The SWPN is a grouping of residents and over thirty government, non-profit, and private agencies who work collaboratively to improve quality of life in the Southbridge section of Wilmington. Christiana Care is one of our most active members, championing efforts to address youth and women's health issues.

Dr. Milton Delgado,
Nemours Health and Prevention
Services

Membership:

AARP
AIDS DE
Astra Zeneca
Brandywine Counseling and
Community Services
Bridge-To-Employment Program
Children and Families First
Christiana Care Center for
Community Health
City of Wilmington Parks and
Recreation
Clean Air Council
Delaware Center for Horticulture
Delaware Children's Museum
Delaware Nature Society
Department of Natural Resources
and Environmental Control
Eastside Community Schools
Elbert Palmer Elementary School
Ezion Fair Baptist Church
First State Community Loan Fund
Habitat for Humanity
King Center
Learning Link of Delaware
Mt. Joy Church
New Calvary Baptist Church
NOR Enterprises
One Village Alliance
Urban Promise
Westside Family Healthcare
Wilmington Housing Authority Youth
Academy

I am encouraged that Wilmington Consortium's proposal would expand the Health Ambassadors program in Southbridge, as this program has been an excellent presence in the community. A Health Ambassador currently logs eight hours per week at the local community center, serving as a resource for residents interested in a healthier lifestyle and their health care options. The Ambassador has also helped coordinate a number of successful projects. These include the *Photovoice* community youth project and the *Love Your Heart Lunch*, a healthy cooking demonstration.

In closing, I hope this proposal receives strong consideration for funding. Southbridge suffers from higher than average rates of heart disease, obesity, and asthma. Easy access to preventative care, such as that provided by the Health Ambassador, is vital to addressing these concerns.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly with any questions or concerns. I can be reached by telephone at: 302-737-6205 x113 or via e-mail at: bswiatek@wilmapco.org.

Sincerely,

William Swiatek
Chair