



WORTHINGTON SCHOOLS

Where Excellence is a Tradition

200 East Wilson Bridge Road

Worthington, OH 43085

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March 6, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter on behalf of the Worthington Public Library supporting the nomination for Library of the Year. During my educational career, I have enjoyed working with numerous communities; however, I have never worked with a library program and personnel as energetic, visionary, and effective as here in Worthington.

The Worthington Schools enjoys a very strong, mutually supportive partnership with the Worthington Public Library. There are numerous programs and activities that occur throughout the year highlighting the strength of that relationship. Just to mention a few, there are the Ambassador Programs, the Librarian's Tea and Community Breakfast, authors' visits, Right to Read Week, and school visits to promote the Summer Reading Program. The library provides outreach programs to several of our elementary schools, as well as volunteer opportunities for teens.

The employees of the schools and the library share a common belief. We believe it is important for public libraries and school libraries to work together to develop skills in students during their elementary and secondary school years, so they are well prepared to succeed in college, and that they might become avid public library users and lifelong learners as adults.

The Worthington Public Library has my highest and most sincere support as Library of the Year. If there is anything I can do to further strengthen this endorsement, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Melissa M. Conrath, Ph.D.



Founded 1803

COUNCIL • MANAGER • GOVERNMENT

March 23, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to write in support of the Worthington Libraries as Library-of-the-Year.

The Worthington Libraries is an integral partner in the Worthington community and we are fortunate to have such a quality facility here in Worthington. Over the years, I have had the privilege of working with Worthington Library staff on a number of projects. The Library leadership and staff are always remarkably resourceful and helpful.

Most recently, the Worthington Libraries offered their generous support in the redesign of the Worthington community website. This website is a partnership between the City of Worthington, the Worthington Libraries, the Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce, Worthington Schools and the Convention and Visitors Bureau of Worthington. The Library took the lead on this project by providing the framework for the new interactive site, which allows individuals from all the partner organizations to update their own content and makes connections to businesses and individuals here in Worthington and around the world. The Library continues to host the site on their server and oversees the maintenance. We are very grateful for all they are doing to enhance this valuable communications tool.

The Worthington Libraries also plays a large role in the preservation of Worthington's historical information, photographs, documents and artifacts through their leadership with the Worthington Memory project, an online scrapbook of Worthington history. Their dedication to making our over 200 year history available to all people is to be commended.

I am constantly amazed by the abilities, enthusiasm and willingness of Library director Meribah Mansfield and her staff and their commitment to quality and excellence. I would submit the Worthington Library as a model for communities around this country.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Worthington Libraries.

Very truly yours,

David Elder

Worthington City Manager





Making Connections for Business

Gold Sustaining Members

AAA Ohio Auto Club
Appel & Hellstedt LLP
Attorneys at Law
Fifth Third Bank
Huntington National Bank
Whalen & Company CPAs
and Consultants
Worthington Industries
Worthington Inn
Worthington Square/
CB Richard Ellis

Silver Sustaining Members

CFBank
The Ink Well-Worthington
KRP Communications
The Monk's Copy Shop
Old Bag of Nails Pub
& Pig Iron BBQ
Shawan-Marquis Agency, Inc.

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Rea & Associates, Inc.

John Butterfield, Executive Director

March 23, 2007

To: Library of the Year Award Selection Committee

In our community, Worthington Libraries is a real winner, and I hope your selection committee will name our library system as the winner of your Library of the Year Award in 2007.

The Worthington Libraries is a winner because it is:

- forward thinking
- innovative
- focused on customer service and relationships
- collaborative
- strategic

and

- fun to work with.

I imagine that the library staff has developed a packet of materials to support the qualities that I have described above and other characteristics that define a "winning" library system.

It is all true.

The Worthington Libraries is the real thing. It is what it says it is.

It would be a real honor for our library to win the Library of the Year Award -- to have gained the national recognition, which we believe the Worthington Libraries deserves. But in the end, we -- the residents and business people of Worthington -- are the real winners.

The Worthington Libraries -- through its board, director and staff -- has developed an organization that has had and will continue to have a lasting effect upon the quality of life and lifelong learning for all of the citizens and business people of Worthington.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "John Butterfield".
John Butterfield
Executive Director

25 W. New England Ave., Ste. 100
Worthington, OH 43085

TEL (614) 888-3040 FAX (614) 841-4842 E-MAIL connect@worthingtonchamber.org



21 March 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

The Worthington Arts Council is proud to recommend the Worthington Libraries for the distinguished "Library of the Year" award. From librarians to volunteers to senior level management, the staff of this organization is committed to serving the Worthington community.

One example of the Worthington Library's commitment in action is its generous partnership with the Worthington Arts Council to present this coming summer's Chautauqua. The library has donated space for most of the adult and youth workshops, has served as host for committee meetings, has designed promotional materials, and has devoted the time of its Community Relations Director to serve as chair of the planning committee. Without a doubt, Chautauqua 2007—which will attract between two- and three-thousand people to our community—will be more successful because of the library's outstanding contributions.

In addition, Worthington Libraries always offers to promote Arts Council events in its numerous communication vehicles. Two staff members currently serve on Arts Council committees (programming and visual arts), and bring the library's wealth of resources to our attention when appropriate.

Aside from being an overall outstanding collaborator and partner in the community, the Worthington Libraries do an impressive job of striving to make their services more user friendly (their roaming librarian service has been a delightful addition); of creating specialized programs for targeted audiences (most recently, they designed a very nice series with the Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce); and of keeping up with the latest in technology (the main location now provides wireless internet access free of charge throughout.)

You will undoubtedly receive letters of recommendation for many community libraries, but we are confident that Worthington Libraries is unique in its attention to service in and for the community. Other libraries would do well to emulate their commitment. Should you need any additional support information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 614.431.0329 or ejewell@worthingtonarts.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Jewell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Elizabeth A. Jewell
Executive Director

Worthington Arts Council
777 High Street
2nd Floor
Worthington, Ohio 43085

614-431-0329
614-431-2491 fax
www.worthingtonarts.org



LEADERSHIP

WORTHINGTON

Discover Your Potential

March 2007

OFFICERS

Katherine Reddy
D. J. Valentine
Janna Stanford
Suzan Jervey
Dan Lacey

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter to support Worthington Libraries application for the national Library of the Year Award.

TRUSTEES

Dave Arthur
Antonio Benton
Keenan Blanke
Tony DiBlasi
Mark Feldebush
Greg Giessler
Karen Groff
Amy Haines-Prachar
Debra Harper
Bonnie Holland
Holly Hull
George Joseph
Debbie Keen-Cooper
Scott Lanning
Bonnie Michael
Dorian Ray
Steve Weislogel

Our organization has been in existence for 17 years, and for 17 years we have had a wonderful association and partnership with Worthington Libraries.

This partnership and collaboration has provided both entities the ability to share, grow and support educational, conceptual and intellectual programs for adults, youth and families. We have found the staff at the library to be very positive in their connection with our leadership program, and exemplary in commitment and growth. The staff has also provided Leadership Worthington (LW) with publicity and PR to help promote our quarterly invites for programs with graduates of LW sharing their knowledge and expertise. They are very dedicated to their library programs and to the collaboration of community entities.

Worthington Libraries continues to support our Board of Trustees through board commitment positions over the years. This provides an avenue of communication with the library and Leadership Worthington. Over 20 library staff and board members have graduated from our program as they continue to "Discover their Potential".

Again, please accept on behalf of our Board of Trustees, our letter of support for the Worthington Libraries in their quest toward the national Library of the Year Award.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

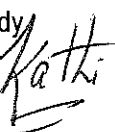
Joan Berry Bird

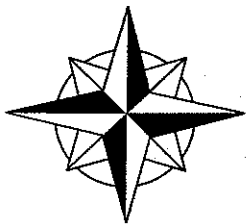
Sincerely,


Joan B. Bird
Executive Director

PROGRAM STAFF

Ted Sun
Valerie Knapp


Kathi Reddy
President



Healthy Worthington Coalition, Inc.

Navigating Toward a Healthy Future

... In Body, Mind and Spirit

March 23, 2007

This letter of support recognizes the exemplary efforts and collaboration between the Worthington Libraries and the Healthy Worthington Coalition. Our coalition strives to provide opportunities for the Worthington area community of individuals as they actively seek to improve their health and well-being in their lifetimes. The libraries have supported us in our many efforts to "Navigate toward a healthy future--in body, mind and spirit."

The dedication of Worthington Libraries to the community and our organization shows commitment to all. They have had a liaison representative on our Board since Healthy Worthington's inception. The library and its staff provide space, in-kind, for our monthly meetings. In addition, the library staff has helped Healthy Worthington build its original website, thus involving and including us in a larger communication system. As a volunteer organization, this community outreach is much needed and appreciated.

The collaboration between the libraries and Healthy Worthington created the impetus to provide creative health-related educational opportunities. The variety has included Nutritional and Wellness speaker series for adults and youth, and a Mental-Healthy series, covering mental health issues. This collaboration also included publicizing promoting the events throughout the community, library patrons and library facilities. Future speaker series are continuing for 2007 and beyond in cooperation with the Education Advisory Committee of Healthy Worthington.

Our organization recently recognized the Worthington Libraries for their collaboration and outstanding commitment to the community with our 2007 Collaboration Award. This award recognizes and honors exemplary service for their collaborative efforts in partnering with our community organization to help improve the health and well-being of individuals--in mind, body and spirit.

Therefore, it is an honor to recommend Worthington Libraries for the National Library of the Year Award.

Sincerely,

Lorel Bloom Au, Chairperson
Healthy Worthington Coalition



A MEMBER OF TRINITY HEALTH





United Methodist Children's Home

1033 High Street
Worthington, OH 43085
(614) 885-5020
Fax: (614) 885-4058

www.umchohio.org

March 23, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure and privilege to support Worthington Libraries in their application to receive Library of the Year. Worthington Libraries provides services and support that far exceed expectations for the general population. However, it has been their support for our agency and the children we serve that truly sets them apart as exceptional. From our agency's perspective, they are more than deserving of this prestigious recognition.

The United Methodist Children's Home enjoys a strong and supportive relationship with the Worthington Libraries. As a treatment center for children with behavioral and mental health challenges, we are always appreciative of community partners who extend welcoming hospitality and accessible services to our children. Worthington Libraries is a destination of choice for our children, which is particularly exceptional because our children often come from environments where reading and learning are not always valued. The staff team at Worthington Libraries is always ready and eager to assist our children; their welcoming approach has helped our children see the library as a friendly place to grow and learn.

Worthington Libraries has also set itself apart in their role as a supportive community partner for the agency itself. The Northwest Library held annual Holiday Bazaars in 2005 and 2006 from which proceeds from the events provided Christmas gifts for our children. Library leaders have also been involved through significant volunteer support. In partnership with Leadership Worthington, library staff members have helped launch the volunteer organization Friends of UMCH. They also provided leadership to launch our first community-wide celebration in many years, our 95th Anniversary Celebration. Library staff not only assisted with planning this very successful event, but also participated by offering "story time" for community children at the event. Finally, their invitation for our staff to participate in a local business focus group helped ensure that the needs of not-for-profit businesses were not overlooked in the process of extending services to the business community.

Worthington Libraries has my profound gratitude for their exceptional services and support to our agency and receive my highest recommendation to receive this high honor.

Sincerely,

Dean W. Pulliam, CAE
Executive Director



REBECCA E. GROVES

DIRECTOR
HARD ROAD

March 13, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Worthington Public Library to support their nomination for Library of the Year.

Over the past year, we have worked closely with the Worthington Library. As a center, our children participated in the Worthington Library Summer Reading Program during June through August 2006. This was a new venture for both us and the library. Admitting they had never worked with a center in this way, the library eagerly worked out a plan with us. Several times throughout the summer, we were visited for story time and the children received their reading rewards as they were earned through our daily classroom reading.

Our children so enjoyed these visits from the library, we have continued them through the school year. The library has been very accommodating and both the toddlers and preschoolers have monthly story time here at the center. The children and the teachers greatly enjoy this time and look forward to each month. Debbie Zimmerman, the children's librarian who leads our story time, is full of energy and enthusiasm. She gets the children involved by using songs, movement and fingerplays in addition to reading the theme related stories.

We hope this partnership will continue for many years. It has been a great way to introduce the children to the library and hopefully a love of reading. The Worthington Library has my highest support as Library of the Year. If there are any other questions I can answer or help I can give to strengthen this endorsement, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Groves". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Rebecca Groves
Director



March 21, 2007

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Columbus OH 43215
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www.thurberhouse.org

Library Journal Library of the Year Award

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To Whom It May Concern:

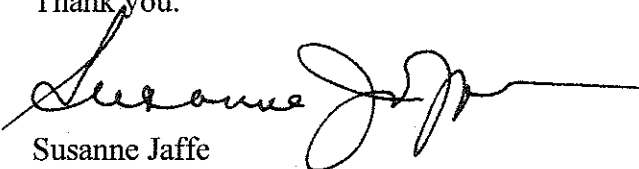
I am writing this letter in support of the remarkable Worthington Libraries, and my hope that they receive the Library Journal Library of the Year Award.

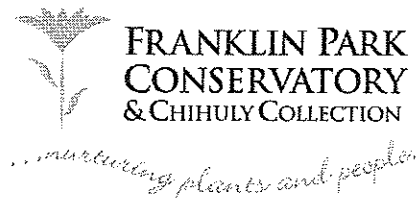
What makes this library so outstanding is the staff's deep commitment to its customers, and how they are always trying to find new ways to engage children and adults in reading and discovering the magic experiences to be had in books. For many years, Thurber House, a non-profit literary center with programs for adults and children, has collaborated with the Worthington Libraries, bringing authors to their sites for free readings. Thurber House enjoys offering the only children's writer-in-residence program in the country and each summer the Worthington Libraries hosts our resident in a special event for children at their sites.

In addition, the children's librarians associated with the Worthington Libraries are consistently helpful in offering advice and suggestions for programs and writers who we might bring in for Family Day events. Their knowledge, expertise and generosity with the entire community is unusual and exceptional.

It is our feeling at Thurber House that the Worthington Libraries well deserve to be named the Library Journal Library of the Year.

Thank you.


Susanne Jaffe
Executive Director



March 23, 2007

It is my pleasure to support Worthington Libraries for the Library of the Year Award. Franklin Park Conservatory enjoyed an exceptional collaborative relationship with Worthington Libraries during our *Amazing Chocolate Tree* exhibition in 2005-2006. After the success of the partnership, we contacted Worthington Libraries again to discuss the possibilities of collaborating on our upcoming garden railway exhibition, *Enchanted Express*. We are excited about the future plans, and look forward to deepening our partnership over the coming year.

Franklin Park Conservatory partnered with Worthington Libraries on *The Amazing Chocolate Tree* exhibition to bring author, Steve Almond, to Columbus for a reading of his best-selling book, *Candyfreak*. In satellite programming to the event, Worthington Libraries presented a story time hour for the Conservatory's Family Fun Saturday, a program for children ages 3 and up with adult companions. In turn, the Conservatory sent a horticulturist to Worthington Libraries' "Novel Tea" program as a guest speaker on the biology of the Chocolate Tree (*Theobroma cacao*) to compliment the novel the group read. The partnership focused on audience development for both organizations. Attendees to the programs learned about valuable resources in their community that they might have otherwise not known about, or taken the opportunity to visit. Attendees also enjoyed programs that could only have taken place with the combined financial resources of both organizations.

Partnering with Worthington Libraries was a true joy. They are creative, intelligent, open to possibilities, and fun to work with. They understand the value of organizational partnerships in a way that is rare to find. The staff was open to creating programming that would benefit both organizations and their respective audiences. Always the question in mind is: How can we better serve our community?

The Conservatory is looking forward to partnering with Worthington Libraries on our upcoming exhibition with more story time programming, and more visits to the library by horticulturists. We are also in discussion about creating a deeper relationship between the organizations through the Conservatory's community gardening program, Growing to Green. Adopting the Library's Storybook Garden, and offering educational classes are some of the possible outcomes.

Thank you for the opportunity to support Worthington Libraries for the Library of the Year Award. They are a most deserving candidate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meg Menkedick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Meg Menkedick
Education Manager