

March 15, 2021

Kristin Harrington
Executive Director
Youth Solutions Inc.
330 West Main Street
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Dear Ms. Harrington,

On behalf of First Tee - Benton Harbor, I am writing to express support for the Inspiring Futures: Benton Harbor effort and its work to bring together a robust collection of local leaders. As a proud member of the Benton Harbor community we understand the need to design a cross-sector collaborative for this type of work. First Tee is excited to play our part in creating seamless high-quality student programming resulting in long-term student and career success.

First Tee - Benton Harbor is a youth development organization introducing the game of golf and its inherent values to young people. Through character-educations programs, we help shape the lives of young people from all walks of life by reinforcing values like integrity, respect and perseverance through the game of golf. First Tee provides active learning experiences that develop inner strength, self-confidence and resilience that kids can carry into everything they set out to accomplish. Working to actively create a space of belonging for every kid no matter what walk of life, we offer programs for kids and teens up to age 18. We help kids discover what's inside of them, guide them to strengthen it, and mentor them to put it into action in everything they do. In short, First Tee knows and is committed to the work that the collaborative group is undertaking.

The Inspiring Futures: Benton Harbor project will focus directly on programs targeting youth that have been disenfranchised and need new educational opportunities for future success. Aligning these programs into a network that includes the right interventions, at the right times, with the right partners will create lasting, meaningful, and substantive opportunities for all students of the region. These goals directly align with the mission of First Tee - Benton Harbor and we are eager to be a collaborative voice in this most important work. It is my pleasure to **whole-heartedly endorse the Inspiring Futures: Benton Harbor project and commit to its success.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ebon Sanders", written in a cursive style.

Ebon Sanders
Executive Director