



Rob McKenna  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON**  
1125 Washington Street SE • PO Box 40100 • Olympia WA 98504-0100

July 16, 2012

Helen Lakeru  
Executive Director  
Many Lights Foundation  
6947 Coal Creek Parkway SE #208  
Newcastle, WA 98059

Dear Ms. Lakeru:


Thank you very much for traveling to Olympia for our meeting earlier this month. Please extend my appreciation to Femi, as well – it was a pleasure to meet you both. In particular, I appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the Many Lights Foundation and your commitment to building better futures for vulnerable children in the state of Washington. Your concept of a multigenerational “Hope Lights Community” is an innovative approach to mobilizing our resources to create and sustain a lifeline of support for children and families. We know that in our state and around the nation, countless children are placed in the foster care system each day and await adoption or family reunification.

From our discussion and the materials you’ve provided, Hope Lights Community would offer an incredible level of support throughout the journeys of these children and families. The services you envision – recreational and cultural activities, tutoring, counseling and community events – would provide a critical level of comfort, healing and support not only for children, but also for the older adults who become involved. It is wonderful to envision the sense of purpose and security this program will offer those individuals, as well.

It appears that other programs akin to the vision of Hope Lights Community have been highly successful, including Bridge Meadows in Portland, Oregon and Hope Meadows in Rantoul, Illinois. These programs are beginning to redefine social services in our country by harnessing the power of intergenerational living and collaboration.

To bring Hope Lights Community to fruition, I know you will need an incredible level of volunteer time, assistance and resources. I am eager to follow your progress and offer my support and encouragement.

Sincerely,

  
ROB MCKENNA  
Attorney General

RMM/jlg