



# SIENA HEIGHTS COLLEGE

July 22, 1997

Magical Rain Theaterworks  
c/o Irene Vasquez, Ph.d.  
Daniel Runyan  
27 Ravinia  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Dear Ike and Dan,

We are writing to provide a letter of support for your work as we saw the impact that it can have on our youth here in Lenawee County. During your short stay at Siena Heights, as you worked to facilitate, develop and help in the production of the Lenawee County 4-H Youth Diversity Theater Group, we witnessed a wonderful transformation of the young adults that were involved. It was great to see how you took this group of individuals and through your series of interactive theater experiences, help to build a bond of companionship, safety and friendship to allow these students to deal with the issues of racism and prejudice. Moreover, your use of culturally affirming and relevant information and experiences, allowed these students to build a sense of self worth but also be challenged to look beyond themselves and gain a greater sensitivity to others in their community. Gauging by the performance of these students and our individual contact with them since, your work with them has had an indelible and positive impact on their character, self esteem, and outlook on life. It was a wonderful beginning to what we hope will be an ongoing commitment to involve our youth in difficult, but needed, discussions on issues of racism and coalition building.

We would be honored to provide a recommendation on your behalf to any prospective client as we can speak firsthand to the "magical" way in which your work can impact on the lives of youth (i.e. providing both affirmation and challenge to allow their growth in ways that they may have never expected). The Lenawee County community has been truly fortunate to be able to utilize your talent to further the development of our youth and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Dionardo Pizaña  
Assistant Dean of Students  
Siena Heights College

Ann Hinsdale-Knisel,  
Director  
Lenawee County Cooperative Extension