

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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001. letter	Personal (Partial) (1 page)	11/03/1999	P6/b(6)
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COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Bethany Little
OA/Box Number: 18526

FOLDER TITLE:

Academy of Hope

2013-0371-S

ms638

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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Some 1999 Academy of Hope GED Graduates

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

To:

Vice President Al Gore

From:

**The Students at
Academy of Hope
1501 Columbia Rd., NW
Washington, DC 20009**

17-02-99
Dear Vice President Al Gore,

Welcome. I would like to write on behalf of 'Adult Education' and why I feel it is so important.

I feel it is a wonderful opportunity for the young as well as the older adults to be able to get their education.

Through the years some have never really had the chance to go to school again for some reason or other some never thought that even if they did they wouldn't make it.

But I truly believe we can make it because Adult Education is just the beginning of a future for jobs and possible college opportunity.

It's important for people to be able to get jobs instead of sitting around waiting on a check once or twice a month. Help people get & feel more independant.

Adult Education is important because it gives much hope:

Sincerely,
Francine C.

Dear MR. Vice President, First I would like to send my best regard to you. Thank you for coming to the Academy of Hope. Adult Education mean alot to me. I come to School to learn how to read and Write. And also to know to communicate With people, at work, some other please, when I travel, and even at home with my family. English is a very important language in the World. Here in America everyone should know how to read and write, it is very important. Learnin and do your best let anybody down. I am from Gambia West Africa. my first day of School was in May 1996. I will never forget that very special day of my life. It is very important to get atleast an Aducaation because some days I might become a citizen of the United State of Americ then I will Vote for someone like you. Am hoping that I will become a citizen one day. Academy of Hope is the best adult School I have ever seen. Academy is not Just a School it is a home for everybody, any body who ever needed a home. This is the best school for any adult. the Teacher's doing what ever it's take to help their students to improof. Again, Thank you vice President. I hopeing to meet you someday,

my name is fairouz Sead
I am from Ethiopia my age is
23 old.

I am new for this Country or for U.S.A.
I came from my country I want
learn and Change my life.

This education important to me
improved my language and I need Pass
the GED Test. ~~also that is for College~~
~~and also~~

11/2/99

Dear Al Gore

Hi my name is Reanae Lyons I am attending academy of hope to get my GED I'm 34 yrs old I have been out of school for a long time I have taken computer courses to establish a good job without my GED I think that it is now time for me to do this. I have dropped out of high school have been blessed to have a decent job but I think Adult Education is very important I now want to attend college and there is no way to do this without a diploma so I think that it is very important that we have Adult Education because people like me would never be able to get a diploma without it after high school. So I think that Adult Education is important to the me who make wrong decisions in the past to make it better. Thanks for adult Ed.

Reanae

Eric Matthews

(11-2-99)

Dear Vice President Gore I believe the GED program is very important, because it helps us who did not complete our education like we should of. I do believe this program will help me meet my goals.

Sincerely
Eric Matthews

Academy of Hope
1501 Columbia RD, NW
Washington D.C 20009
November 3, 1999

Vice President Al Gore
The White House
Washington DC

Dear Mr. Gore,

Hello Mr. Gore. I'm Wallaki Gray. I am a student at Academy of hope. Mr. Gore, I am a young Black woman, 21 years of age. I'm writing you to ask if you can help. I need help in many ways. My family means a lot to me. My family and I been separated for a long time. I am a very strong young woman. I have dreams and my dreams are making it in this world. I will because I believe in myself. Mr. Gore, I have been through a lot in my life. I don't have a home to call mine. There were times I thought that I was lost and had no hope. My mother and sister don't have any where to go. I can't let them be out there in the cold when I'm in someone's home.

Please if you can, will you try to help me get my own place that I can keep. If not I can understand, but I won't give up. I thank you for taking your time to read my letter, and it's a pleasure to write you. May God be with you.

Sincerely, Wallaki Gray

Elaine Cameron
310 Madison Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20011.
November 2, 1999.

Dear Mr. Gore,

This is a wonderful opportunity to be able to tell you the importance of adult education in our communities today. Especially for many whom were not provided the opportunity to attend high school or for some reason were unable to complete their secondary education. I Will provide you with three major points why I think adult education is important.

Firstly, new technology advances become available very often. Adult education provides adults the opportunity to learn and become more familiar with these new technological advancement. An example of this technology is computers, which is constantly changing and older computers easily become obsolete. This is why adults needs to stay informed and trained on these new changes and adult education is a perfect tool.

Secondly, adult education provides new areas for adult to specialize, learn and improve. This is mainly for people whom would like to improve their jobs, increase their pay, get promoted or simply move to a new career. It also gives adult the enjoyment of taking on, and completing new and more challenging tasks, profession and major or area of study.

Finally, providing them with the opportunity to achieve their gold. Therefore adult education is a very important tool and is needed for a successful future.

Sincerely,

Elaine Cameron.

Jennifer Pollard

Why Is Adult Education Important To Me?

Adult education is important to me, because it gives us a chance to accomplish what we didn't do when we should have. It helps people get the kind of jobs that they always wanted to do. If they don't get the education they need to get it then they won't get it. It also gives parents a chance to help their growing children that's in school. With out education parents can't help their child with their homework. So I just want to say that adult education is really really important to us. We need it to succeed in life.

1501 Columbia Rd, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009
11-3-1999

Dear Vice President Gore,

My Name is Betty Wrenn. I'm a student of the Academy of Hope. I've been attending school since April 21, 1999. I came to Academy of Hope to get my education. My future goals are to finish school and get my B.E.D. Once I complete my course from here, I'm looking forward to go to college to get into criminal law. I'd love to get into a job as a police officer if that's possible. Can you help me make my dreams come true? I'm looking forward to meeting you.

Sincerely Yours
Your Student Interest
Betty Wrenn

To Vice President Al Gore

My Name is Olympia I am a Student from Academy of hope ~~I~~ like to tell you how education is important in my life it is changing my life in America I wish that because I came from a Country that I cannot get this kind of chance to go to school and to have good teachers and education so I am very happy now that I ever been happy in my life I can say I will have a future.

Olympia

10-02-99

Dear Mrs. Al Gore

I write to you on behave of my self to tell you why is adult Education important. the reason is that a majority of people of the united states are ~~a~~ unalphabetic and go on in life, working, wondering why they didn't stay in school or where would that diploma would have taken them. but there are people that know they Haven't finished, that they need to go back, that don't give up those people are the people who Have real dream of becoming a dentist, a doctor, a teacher etc... It doesn't matter what they want to be, the important ~~this~~ thing is that they know that there doing something about it.

thank you Mrs. Vice President
Sincerely Jose Trueta

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11-3-90

[001]

Dear Mr. Vice President

My Name is Jesse M. Haynie Jr. I am 48 years old
and I have been coming to the Academy of Hope
for two years.

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

It took me five years to find a GED
program school. I tried to get into Vocational Schools
but they were over crowded. They wouldn't accept me.

finally I got into a school but it had closed in six months
I studied for another six months in a public library.

Then I heard about Academy of Hope. Academy of
Hope helps me to read, write, better and use
better sentence structure. I come three nights
a week for classes, also I have a tutor. It gives

me confidence and a sense of hope. My studies
at the Academy of Hope help me do better in my job
as a laboratory support worker at the National
Institute of Health.

Jesse Haynie



1501 Columbia Rd. NW, Washington, DC 20009
Phone: 202-328-2029 Fax: 202-328-1044

United Way/CFC #8827

November 3, 1999

Vice President Gore
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC

Dear Vice President Gore,

Thank you for the opportunity for Academy of Hope students to share their stories with you. It is certainly very exciting for all of us to meet you.

Academy of Hope was founded in 1985 in response to an overwhelming need in the District of Columbia. It is estimated that 130,000 DC adults do not have a high school diploma. Our program provides at-risk adults with adult basic education classes (ABE), GED preparation, and computer training. Each year we serve about 500 adult learners at all learning levels. The majority of our students come to us with reading and computation levels below sixth grade.

Our goal is to equip our students with the skills needed to secure jobs with economic mobility. And, just as important, by helping our students, many of whom are parents, we are also helping the next generation strengthen their skills as well.

Enclosed in this packet is some information about Academy of Hope as well as a few letters from our students concerning adult education.

All of us are very grateful for your commitment to adult literacy and basic education. With your continued support, programs all across the United States, like Academy of Hope, will continue to empower many more adult learners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Wittig', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Bob Wittig
Executive Director



1501 Columbia Rd. NW, Washington, DC 20009

Phone: 202-328-2029 Fax: 202-328-1044

United Way/CFC #8827

Academy of Hope Student Profiles

Juanita Pami

Juanita began attending Academy of Hope in September 1997 and passed the GED exam in November, 1998. She is currently employed at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as a security officer. She is also a licensed SPO at the museum. In addition to being a mother and her job, she is currently enrolled at the University of the District of Columbia studying Criminal Psychology. One of the many benefits of receiving her GED is that Juanita is now better able to help her son with his homework.

Bernice Legore

For the past eighteen years, Bernice has worked in the housekeeping department at DC General Hospital. For the passed five years, she has worked the 11PM-7AM shift. Last November, she enrolled in the Academy's morning program. Her current routine is to attend morning classes after finishing her shift at the hospital. A widow who raised three children (all of whom graduated from high school), she now has the time to focus on her own education. Her goal is to receive her GED certificate and enroll in nursing school to become a Licensed Practical Nurse.

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Academy of Hope

Fall 1997

Volume XII Issue I

Reflections on a Place of Hope

By
Marja Hilfiker

Academy of Hope was really started by Gayle Boss in the early 1980s. She was in possession of 10 massive Cambridge GED manuals and a small vinyl sign saying "Academy of Hope" when she called me in the fall of 1985 to ask me whether I would like to help her restart the classes.

Gayle felt that her mistake had been to begin teaching by herself without the support of the church community, and that's why the project had run out of steam. The second time would be different.

Consequently, before we began teaching, Gayle and I together presented our plan to the Potter's House Church and to the New Community Church and invited other people to join us. I was surprised that nobody did, but it did nothing to deter us. Because there were two of us, we were considered a legitimate church mission.

The original idea was to start a school where different people from different backgrounds could share skills with each other. For instance, if somebody wanted to learn to sew, we would find a teacher to work with her, and so on.

However, Gayle said in her original statement that the Academy of Hope would be

"a school in which the main subject for everyone, teachers and students alike, is not reading, writing, or math, but hope. Hope

comes only when we care and are cared for. In this academy all of us are teachers because all of us can care for one another. And in this academy, all of us are students since all of us need to be cared for."



MARJA HILFIKER

Gayle paid the first month's rent of \$50 on a tiny room in the Ritz, a low-income apartment building operated by Jubilee Housing. We had promptly identified four women, we were already friends, with who were eager to study for the GED; so without further ado, we started teaching English and math three days a week. The students helped furnish the classroom.

One brought in a blackboard she had purchased at a thrift shop; another contributed a coffee pot and curtains made of blue lace. Each student paid \$10 a month, and

whenever we did not have enough for rent, all of us would bake batches of brownies and cupcakes to peddle in the lobby of our building. Anything with frosting was sure to sell. Our first book sale was also held in that same lobby but quickly moved into the Potter's House restaurant.

It took eighteen months for us to get to celebrate our first GED-graduate, Linda Brown. It had been quite a learning process with many

Please turn to "Reflections" on Page 3

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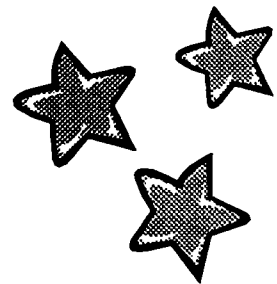
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Academy of Hope

Stars in Adult Education



Annual Report
Fiscal Year 1998
September 1, 1997 - August 31, 1998

