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Literacy Center Inc.

May 4, 2001

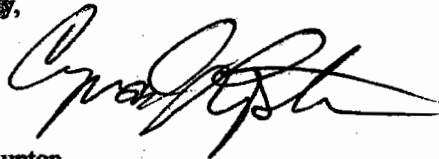
PowerSkills
Training And Development
1520 West Estes Ave.
Chicago, IL 60626

Dear Mr. Bob Schout:

I would like to thank you for your wonderful presentation in Tulsa, OK at Early Service Training (EST). The information was encouraging to me for the work that I do at the Independence Family Learning Center (IFLC). The stories that you told us were inspiring and yet some were humorous. I have never heard anyone do as well as you did at any training seminar I have ever attended. You have really found your true purpose in life.

I would like to offer you the use of a report I typed. This report has been helpful in grant requests, training seminars, and for government reports. If you would be interested in using this to help inspire other VISTA's or other volunteers, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Cyndi Lupton
Americorps*VISTA



Mr. Robert J. Schout, LCSW
POWERSKILLS: Training & Development
1520 W. Estes Ave.
Chicago, IL 60626

Dear Bob:

It is an honor to write this letter of reference for you. Because I am familiar with your workshops through my role as a conference planner and as a conference participant, I feel qualified to speak of the quality of your work.

Your workshop on building healthy relationships between mentors and youth, which you presented at two of our Tutor/Mentor Connection Leadership conferences, was extremely popular. The workshop evaluations contained praise and requested your return. Participants said they felt they learned a lot of useful information which would help them as program leaders and mentors. Since the participants at the T/MC Conferences come from various programs in Chicago and other cities, you are helping improve the quality of mentoring throughout Chicago and elsewhere in the country.

I also sat in on your workshop at the Association of Volunteer Administrators conference held this past May. I really enjoyed being a participant for a change, and I very much enjoyed your workshop. Your presentation skills are so engaging that I didn't want the workshop to end. In addition, the information you provided was easy to understand and applicable to my job.

Bob, I want to wish you the best of luck with your new business. You have a very special gift of helping others learn, and it is wonderful that you share it. Many people benefit from your knowledge. I'm glad I'm one of them! Please feel free to give my number to any potential client if necessary.

Sincerely,

Gena Schoen
Kids' Connection Manager
T/MC Leadership Conference Co-Chairperson

support center of chicago
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773/539-4741 □ 773/539-4751 fax
e-mail: Supportchi@aol.com

Bob Schout
1520 West Estes Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60626

Dear Bob,

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your time on June 17th facilitating "Succeeding as a Supervisor". Your contribution is valued at Support Center of Chicago; without volunteer faculty such as yourself, we would be unable to continue our much-needed training program.

Your overall average rating on the participant evaluations was 4.8 out of a possible 5. Several participants stated they benefited from learning the roles of a supervisor. I received some good feedback in the sense that almost everyone wished the class could have been longer!

Thank you again for your time.

Sincerely,



Valerie Steensma
Training Coordinator



Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory

101 S.W. Main Street, Suite 500, Portland, Oregon 97204-3213
(503) 275-9500 • 1-800-547-6339 • www.nwrel.org

Bob,

Bob, all of us at NWREL are pleased to be able to speak to your training abilities, having worked with you over four years now in service to VISTA volunteers throughout the country. Your passion, energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to continuous learning have been deeply appreciated by us, as well as by the thousands of clients you have touched throughout the country.

We have been especially impressed by your level of engagement of participants in their own learning process. You consistently motivate and challenge participants, asking the tough questions that promote open exchanges of ideas, and creating an inclusive environment in which everyone is invited and welcomed to participate.

You are truly an expert facilitator in areas critical to program and organizational management. Our goal is to train our participants to be self-sufficient and create sustainable programs that promote systemic change in people and communities. Your skills and talents enable participants to be successful in these endeavors.

Thank you for your energy, talent and service to our organization and to communities across this country. We feel honored to have you serve as a member of our team.

Sincerely,

Nancy Henry, Director

Subj: **THANK YOU!!! :)**
Date: 11/19/99 5:22:09 AM Central Standard Time
From: dvhabitat@erols.com (Clare Krishan)
Reply-to: dvhabitat@erols.com
To: bobschout@aol.com

Dear Bob,

I had the pleasure of being a participant in the Powerskills workshop you gave to the Americorp Vistas in Albany NY. It was long, exhausting, arduous. I even had to retreat from the room to collect myself. There were times when I wanted to leave and not return- I had a splitting headache. There were times I wanted to fall asleep. I left a few times, but returned, and I managed to stay awake, and I remained focused. Your headache gave me strength, I thought "if he can give a workshop with a headache I definitely could sit attentively through a workshop with one." The credit is all yours.

I usually don't participate in workshops or meeting, or at least this was the case in my previous profession. I must admit that I was a bit nervous when we all agreed to participate but I gave it a go, and afterwards I was so glad I did. The workshop would not have been effective if I had remained silent, or sat there passively in my seat. The workshop was by far the most exciting, innovative, and thought provoking training session I've ever endured. I was inspired by your enthusiasm and your enjoyment of your subject matter. It is refreshing to encounter people who truly love and believe in what they're doing.

I have two planning meetings this week in which I will use a few of the activities you showed in your workshop (the string & the three legged race ones).

With the facilitation of your program you have helped me move closer towards strengthening my abilities and knowledge for the greater good and the mission of my organization. I always believe that "a leader is someone who inspires others without knowing or trying, but does so by caring and believing, and whose actions directly exhibit those heartfelt sentiments."

Thank you for being a LEADER!

Your truly
Pheaccia Airotciv
Development Coordinator
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dvhabitat@erols.com

Delaware Valley Habitat for Humanity
- an association of regional affiliates

Ten Penn Center + 1801 Market Street + 3rd Floor + Philadelphia + PA 19103

<http://www.dvhabitat.org>

Subj: **Nice Training**
Date: 11/27/2000 8:05:15 AM Central Standard Time
From: shain@workplace.org (Cheryl Shain)
To: Bobschout@aol.com

Hi Bob:

Thanks for sending your personalized "thank you" postcard. I enjoyed your training workshop immensely. After working in college and universities for 25+ years, I thought I had seen many, different "new games" (that's what they called them in the seventies). But your land mine activity, took the cake!!! I haven't had so much fun since I left the college scene (5 years ago). I hope you don't mind, but I use a lot of warm up (new game type) activities when I facilitate my workshops with high school students. I would like to use this one and "blow a couple of minds". All in all, I had fun at the VISTA meeting. It reminded me of my early grass root days!!! Yes life is still good!!!!!! Take care and stay well, Cheryl Shain

Cheryl L. Shain

Welfare to Work Program Manager

The WorkPlace, Inc.

350 Fairfield Avenue

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(203) 576-7030, ext. 314

(203) 335-9703 (fax)

shain@workplace.org

Subj: A Few Words of Praise and Thanks from an Americorps *VISTA
Date: 03/31/2000 3:24:28 PM Central Standard Time
From: mlee@ccri.cc.ri.us
To: bobschout@aol.com

March 31, 00

Hi Bob,

First off, I cannot say enough positive comments about how much I enjoyed the POWERSKILLS workshop you and your colleagues presented to our CNS/VISTA group on March 28-30

I filled up every space on your evaluation postcard with my compliments and opinions.

I truly learned several new skills, techniques, and ideas to now utilize at my sight. Since, I have the green light from my supervisor to solve current "problems" at my worksite, I am so excited to be empowered and ready with these working knowlege and techniques to design and carry out my many plans.

I was also very impressed at how quickly and diplomatically you managed all the different situations and personalities within our group, even in the most stressful, and tense moments.

Best of luck to you in the continued success of your company, and in your personal missions too.

I have a four month old daughter who has changed my whole prespective on what is important in my life; I adore this baby who is the center of my life, and someone who completes the piece that was missing in my life.

I hope you will find success and completion too in your quest.

Stay in touch! My greetings to the Windy City!

Marian Lee
*VISTA Coordinator
CCRI-READS
Lincoln, RI