



Polymath Educational Services, LLC

February 14, 2022

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in unqualified support of the Episcopal Center for Children as it endeavors to reopen. The ECC has been a treasured resource to children of the District. Now, it has the potential to once again provide its unique services to an already underserved population that is further stressed by the impact of COVID-19.

My mother taught at the ECC for more than twenty years, and I spent my college summers volunteering there. Alan Korz, the Executive Director at the time, devoted his life to making sure that the ECC provided a haven for children, some of whom came from incredibly traumatic backgrounds. He once told me that every student deserves a space to feel safe.

In a similar vein, I remember a conversation with John Pleasant, one of the ECC's head social workers, in which he described counseling a student in distress. He recalled that simply providing a secure space relieved much of the child's immediate stress, though very few words were exchanged during the session.

I have no doubt that a new generation of teachers, social workers and staff could again fulfill the ECC's mission to provide both shelter and support for students with a wide range of learning differences and emotional challenges. To do this, however, the ECC must be provided with the revenue to allow it to reopen.

Very truly yours,

Percy Ross
Founder
Polymath Educational Services, LLC