



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Danny K. Davis

7th District - Illinois

October 23, 2007

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your support of the Chicago Training Center (CTC) in their effort to help at-risk youth in our community.

My office became aware of the CTC's work from several news items, which highlighted the terrific experience that is being offered to at-risk youth at no charge. Working with After School Matters (ASM) and benefactors and supporters like you, CTC has been able to provide athletic, health, discipline and teamwork advantages to the CPS high school youth who participate in their competitive rowing program.

After organizing over the prior year, this past year CTC launched a pilot program with two-dozen teens from eleven (11) different schools across neighborhoods in inner city Chicago. The teens represent a cross-cultural mix of about 40% African American, 40% Hispanic, 10% Caucasian and 10% Asian teens. Half of the participants are girls and half are boys. They quickly came together under the program's guidance as a team. In addition to demanding practices in indoor training and on the water, CTC has had the teens participating in competitive events, college tours and local trips to learn about the river. The teens have also been monitored regularly by the Human Performance Lab at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC.)

The results have been impressive. While many of the teens knew little about competitive rowing and a good number of them were not capable swimmers at the start of the program, they have all risen to the challenge and learned to swim and row competitively. In addition, the participants have lost anywhere from 5 lbs to 30+lbs each by participating in the training. Their other health and physiology metrics have improved over the course of the program as well. They have also developed time management and teamwork skills and are developing their awareness and interest in higher education. It is clear that many more teens in our community could benefit from the advantages the CTC program offers. To that end, the pilot team participants will continue to train and compete this year as a new freshman class of participants is introduced to the sport. All of this puts resource demands on CTC.

One aspect of the CTC program I have found especially encouraging is the broad array of participating sponsors and benefactors. In addition to ASM, CPS and the UIC Human Performance Lab, the program has had a history of support from US Rowing, the Office of the Mayor, the faith-based community, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Chicago's 2016 and World Sport Chicago programs and an extensive network of Ivy League and Oxford and Cambridge alumni in our community. I am proud to add my office to that roster of supporters. I trust you will give all due consideration to supporting CTC and participating in the upcoming Gala on November 10th at the South Shore Cultural Center. You can find more information on the event at www.chicagotrainingcenter.org/gala.

Sincerely,

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

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