



LETTER OF REFERENCE

I am happy to provide a letter of reference highlighting the collaboration of Viola Startzman Clinic (VSC) with Trinity United Church of Christ (UCC), located on 150 North Street, Wooster, Ohio. We consider Trinity UCC to be an important community partner as we work together to meet the needs of Wooster's most vulnerable population. VSC is a non-profit clinic providing quality and comprehensive medical and dental care to those in our community who need it most regardless of their ability to pay.

VSC became involved in the well-established breakfast program at Trinity UCC in July 2022 after the doors to the fellowship area reopened following the COVID outbreak. VSC provided case management services to those attending the breakfast. Our case manager assisted clients with applications for housing, identification cards, social security cards and transportation. She also provided Medicaid and disability enrollment assistance and collaborated with other social service agencies to meet the many needs of this vulnerable population.

As we began developing trust with the participants, we were soon made aware of the many unmet medical needs and the barriers to receiving quality medical and psychiatric care. Working with Pastor Kevan, space was provided adjacent to the fellowship area for a small exam room where our providers began seeing clients with acute medical and psychiatric needs. Those with chronic or more serious conditions were triaged and provided transportation to the medical clinic or hospital.

We are very grateful to be partnered with Pastor Kevan and the mission work of Trinity UCC. The breakfast program remains a critical outreach to our most marginalized community members and one that is well-organized and efficient. Not only do the participants enjoy a hot nutritious meal but they also reap the benefits of socialization with others and being a part of a supportive community. Along with other participating social service agencies, VSC looks forward to our continuing partnership with Trinity UCC providing services to those who need it most.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Chupp".

Joel Chupp, Interim CEO
Viola Startzman Clinic



December 7, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

It is our pleasure to provide a letter of reference and recommendation for Trinity United Church of Christ to accompany their request for grant funds that will allow them to further their mission and service in the Wooster community.

For decades, Trinity United Church of Christ has opened their doors to those needing breakfast and fellowship, 5 days per week, year-round. This meal is meant to encourage community and conversation, not just to fill the stomach of those that are hungry. This part of their ministry has lovingly come to be known as “the breakfast church.” This breakfast is consistent and routine for many individuals that have few, if any, other areas of life which they could refer to as consistent and routine. It is a welcoming atmosphere and a comfortable space. This meal and fellowship time is meeting a great need in our community for those that are experiencing homelessness, for those that are lonely and enjoy the comradery, and for those that are struggling to get enough food to make their own meals at home.

In addition to being a meal site, Reverend Kevan Franklin invites area social service agencies to come in and share what programming and services they have to offer, which OneEighty has greatly appreciated. Trinity UCC is one of the most welcoming places in the community for service providers and community members alike. Disadvantaged community members sense that they are welcomed there, with no questions asked, making it one of the most effective places to do outreach as service providers. Reverend Kevan has created an environment where all types of service providers (medical, housing, peer support, etc.) can meet clients, and he has also provided spaces separate from the main dining room where case management and medical appointments can be conducted, protecting confidentiality.

During our time at “breakfast church,” our outreach staff and peer support staff have built relationships with individuals and families that needed our support and help. As a local social service agency providing behavioral healthcare services, victim services, peer support, and housing assistance, we always want to be available to those who need our help and support. Having the ability to meet them in a place where they feel welcome and comfortable has helped immensely in engagement. Reverend Kevan and his congregation are providing a comfortable, caring location for our OneEighty staff to build the

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foundation of a relationship with those who may not seek our services out on their own. It makes a difference that we're not just people in an office that sit behind a desk, and ive 365Trinity UCC's informal setting has truly been the base of many of those relationships.

As you can tell, we are very thankful for our relationship with Trinity UCC, and we plan to continue this close collaboration for many years to come. Trinity UCC's services do make a difference in our work and those that they serve. It is our hope that they will be able to obtain additional monetary and volunteer support to continue their wonderful service to our community.

Warm Regards,

DocuSigned by:

Bobbi Douglas

Bobbi E. Douglas, Executive Director

