

To whom it may concern:

I have been made aware of the proposed project by Opportunity Village to develop Betty's Village as a place with people with intellectual disabilities may reside. While I do not have a child with intellectual disabilities, I have been exposed to individuals with intellectual disabilities through my children's middle school/high school as well as friend's children with intellectual disabilities.

My older two children attended Faith Middle School & High School. Faith offers a program to integrate students with intellectual disabilities into the school. Both of my son's were mentors to these students. They also wrestled and played football with them. It was great to see these students with intellectual disabilities shine. But my sons, as well as the rest of the student body, received much more in return. The joy and enthusiasm that those students with intellectual disabilities displayed rubbed off on the entire student body. Differences did not segregate, but rather integrated in a wonderful manner. One of the highlights of their high school football season was Clayton Rhodes (intellectually disabled) running an extra point conversion in for two points. Both teams and the crowd cheered him on as he celebrated in glorious fashion.

A friend of mine introduced me to his son and Opportunity Village. Opportunity Village is a wonderful organization that provides so many outlets for those with intellectual disabilities. His son is a wonderful young man who thrives and has distinguished himself, overcoming his disability. The amount of love and energy that my friend devotes to his son is amazing.

When my wife was pregnant with our first child, the tests indicated that he would be born with Down Syndrome. While the test proved false, I remember the vast range of emotions. My biggest concern was who would care for my child should I no longer be able to care for him. Betty's Village provides a peace of mind for that concern for parents of children with intellectual disabilities. This is a great project and Opportunity Village continues to set itself and Clark County apart as one of the premier organizations and areas that embrace and integrate people with intellectual disabilities. I fully support this project and look forward to having Betty's Village as a neighbor.

Regards,

Matthew Flandermeyer