



Dear Educator/Administrator:

The Friendship Train Foundation (FTF) has recognized the need in education to broaden the horizons of our youth while supplementing daily education with hands-on, exciting programs. We know the daily requirements of schools often leave little time to address afterschool or extracurricular needs. With our experience we believe that we can implement innovative individual class offerings in afterschool settings.

FTF was founded in 2007 with the goal of bringing together groups united by a common and worthy need. We look for partnerships with communities and organizations that are working hard to facilitate change within their own worlds—dedicated people who believe that a strong community can make a difference in the lives of many. An area of particular interest is education, which is why we're reaching out to you today.

In 2011, FTF partnered with Our Lady of Mount Carmel School (OLMC) in Asbury Park to address the need for a safe, nurturing, afterschool program for its students. With the assistance of Friendship Train Foundation, OLMC was awarded a \$1.5 million 21st Century Community Learning Center Program grant. The program, which now serves more than 100 students a day, is making great strides at OLMC and was one of three programs featured by the United States Department of Education for excellence in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programming.

FTF believes the program at OLMC is an example of how collaborative efforts can yield great benefits for students; we work with other organizations and businesses such as the Girls Scouts of the Jersey Shore, Second Life Bikes, Shoreline Dance Academy, and Small Factory Productions, a visual arts and technology studio, to provide a wide range of activities. We've also put together a team of passionate and dedicated instructors—artists, teachers, and other professionals—who form the foundation of each day of afterschool programming. Together with Small Factory Productions we are looking to partner with other teachers, PTOs, and schools to see how we may help address their needs.

Please take a moment to look at the materials we've included and contact us with any questions. We'll contact you in the near future to see if we can find a time to meet and discuss the needs of your school or program.