

Dr. Norbert J. Kennerknecht  
185 Hospital Drive  
North Warren, PA 16365

March 30, 2009

Dear Dr. Kennerknecht:

The Cobham Youth Program operates out of the Warren Salvation Army on Beech Street in Warren. We serve students from the County in both an after school program and a summer day camp for 10 weeks in the summer.

In the past we served 35 children in our summer program. For the past 2 years we have served 45 children. This year, because of overwhelming demand, we have 65 children enrolled and more than 25 children on a waiting list. These children are all in K-7<sup>th</sup> grade. We would like to add 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We cannot serve the children on the waiting list, or meet the need for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, due to space limitations at the Beech St. facility. Frankly, at 65 students we are beyond our comfort level.

We have elected to take more children because the service is so very necessary. Many of the children's families cannot afford other options and, if not enrolled in our summer program, these children would spend the summer, at home, unsupervised. The need is made more severe this summer because of economic difficulties and the need for normal care-givers to work at any available job.

Because of our funding through the Cobham trust we conduct healthy activities every week, including: swimming, games, crafts, roller skating, movies, and an all day trip every Thursday to out of area fun or educational destinations. The cost per student is \$60.00 per week and we offer scholarships in particularly difficult situations.

Because of the conditions described above we would like to move our summer program out of the Beech Street facility. Because of the age spread of our students we like to segregate them by age. With 65 students this summer that segregation will be more difficult. If we can add 8<sup>th</sup> graders the segregation will be even more necessary.

We are requesting that we be allowed to use one of the school facilities in Warren (WAEC or South St.) for the operation of our summer program. In one of those school settings we would have the classrooms necessary to segregate the age groups. We would also have the gymnasium facilities for rainy day activities. Finally, we would utilize the playground and outdoor areas for exercise.

We have a very capable and experienced summer staff made up of college students. I am employed as the full time director and I provide hands on supervision. We take excellent care of our current facility and would extend that same high level of care to the WCSD facility. We are aware that you perform cleaning in the summer and we would be prepared to work closely with you to facilitate all of your summer needs.

Thank you for giving this proposal your kind attention.

Sincerely,

Jamie Stright  
Director of Cobham Youth Program