



December 5, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves as my official reference for Mr. Edward Drake II, CEO and Founder of The YNOTT Foundation. Edward reached out to me in 2007. At that time, he had recently moved to Columbus, Ohio and was receiving kidney hemodialysis treatments 3 times per week, as well as attending college. He was in the beginning stages of creating his non-profit organization and he wanted to see how he and the National Kidney Foundation could partner together to help raise awareness about kidney disease and organ donation. We formed a professional relationship and personal friendship from that moment on and I have been fortunate enough to witness the inspirational growth of YNOTT over the past 6 years, thanks to the dedication of Edward and his team.

Over the years, NKF and YNOTT have collaborated on multiple programs and services. We have represented our respective organizations at well-ness and fundraising events and we have spoken on behalf of our organizations' missions. Edward was a member of our Young Professionals Exchange, where we actually introduced him to his YNOTT partner Tifiro Cook, who had been involved with NKF programs previously. Edward and Tifiro have both presented at our annual Kidney & Transplant Symposium, sharing their personal journeys with health care professionals who attend this continuing education program. The collaboration that has had the most impact with our NKF constituents is YNOTT's involvement in our Kappa Kidney Camp, an annual week-long residential camp for kids who are on dialysis or have had a kidney transplant. Edward, Tifiro and other staff and volunteers from YNOTT attend camp each year. Many of the campers already know the folks from YNOTT from their multiple visits to dialysis centers across the region. The campers are able to relate especially to Edward and Tifiro because they know that these men have had their own personal experiences with kidney disease. It is inspiring to see the campers realize that they, too, can grow up to be and do anything they want with their life, to realize that their kidney disease doesn't have to define them as 'sick'.

As The YNOTT Foundation continues to grow, it is an honor for me to be able to say that I have had some part, however small, in the foundation of this organization. YNOTT not only impacts and educates youth on the importance of organ donation awareness, but also inspires kids who are facing other life obstacles, both physical and emotional. I look forward to seeing just how far Edward's journey will take him!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle Estep MSW, LSW".

Danielle Estep MSW, LSW  
Division Program Director