



Dear Friends:

Since 1982, Colorado UpLift has remained focused on a single objective: *“Build long-term, life- changing relationships with urban youth.”*

Most of us are aware of the incredible needs facing at-risk kids in our community - hopelessness, violence, fragmented family structures, negative peer relationships and academic underachievement are all having a staggering effect on our society. Ultimately, those who drop out of school are more likely to depend on public assistance, have chronic health problems and engage in criminal behavior; not to mention the impact these patterns of behavior have on the educated workforce and decline in our nation’s productivity.

Over the years, too much emphasis has been placed on activities and programs as primary solutions to the problems facing urban youth. While many of these programs have their place, the root problem facing inner-city young people is not structural in nature, it is relational. As Dr. Del Elliott, professor at the Center for Behavioral Science at the University of Colorado states, *“In order to have a statistically meaningful chance at a productive life, a child must have at least one adult relationship which is positive, caring and long-term.”*

The success of UpLift over the years can be directly attributed to a team of full-time, primarily ethnic staff, who are available to kids as mentors and life coaches over multiple years. UpLift staff begin the process of building relationships with children beginning in elementary school, and continue those relationships through their young adult years, focusing on character development, life skills, career preparation and leadership.

Since its inception, Colorado UpLift has worked with over 25,000 kids in Denver. This kind of impact would not be possible without strong board leadership and the commitment of a large number of individuals, corporations and foundations in our community.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael G. Painter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Michael G. Painter
President and CEO

Colorado UpLift

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