

Emotional Plea Sample—Grant Attachment



Unspoken Promises

When I first began my employment at Norbel School, I spent time with the children on an individual basis, getting to know them so that I could better represent their needs from a Grant Writer's perspective and presentation. For some reason, having a 1:1 lunch in my office was considered a special treat and the scheduling of "Monday Lunches" took on a life of its own. Maybe it had something to do with the big bag of Doritos I brought to my first lunch with twenty-four 10 and 11 year olds, but I was honored to be in the company of such delightful children. They immediately stole my heart and reaffirmed why I was at Norbel.

When I was simply a "newbie" at the school, I believe many of the children understood what that feels like—being new and highly challenged, experiencing the strangeness and confusion of a new environment, and sometimes feeling alone.

The first child to ever approach me was Jonathon, a likeable 10-year-old child from a single parent home in Baltimore City. He immediately extended his hand in friendship, had MUCH to say that included stories that had me continuously smiling or laughing out loud, and he is the one who initially reinforced the unspoken personal promise I was yet to make to the children, just like him, at Norbel School.

During our first private lunch, I asked him about his prior educational placement and how it differed from his experience at Norbel. I found it interesting that he didn't care to speak about where he once went to school, but he quickly reminded me that he had been at Norbel for four years, and, ...in the same breath, said his mother told him he may need to "move" soon.

It only took a moment for me to fully understand what he was saying, but he clarified almost immediately that his mother told him that they could not afford his continued education at Norbel without additional help. What struck me most was how saddened I was that a young child could be burdened with such things. How tragic that a child could be aware of the financial strain his family is experiencing due to his or her educational needs. I wanted more than anything to look deep into the eyes of this youngster and reassure him that he would never have to leave Norbel due to financial considerations. But, I have learned—you do not vocalize promises to a child that you cannot deliver. So, instead, as he quickly gave me a hug when called by his teacher that it was time for recess, ... I made an unspoken promise to my special friend, Jonathon.

The promise was simply this—As long as there is a breath left in me and I remain in the service of the school... Jonathon and the other children who need Norbel's uniquely effective services will stay here and receive the educations they so desperately require. I personally vowed to leave no stones unturned as we locate the necessary funding for this to become a reality.

And so, we begin with you. Will you help us keep this unspoken promise to children who, like Jonathon, need a Norbel education in order to reach their fullest potentials? A "fair shot" shouldn't be available to only those who can afford to pay for it.

-Miss Mary, Grant Writing Consultant