



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

COLLEGE OF INFORMATION STUDIES

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To Whom it May Concern:

Put bluntly, this is a testimonial letter. It is intended to convey my thoroughgoing endorsement of an uncommon committed professional as well as the imaginative human and cultural program she is spearheading.

Jane Kinney Meyers is a person I have had an association with since her graduate study here at Maryland some 20 years ago when she was both my student as well as research assistant. Even then her work was distinguished by the exemplary way she carried out her responsibilities, bringing an original cast of mind and strong discipline to every assignment. Her career has taken her since then to posts in Africa where she demonstrated the same skills, determination and energy she had during her student days. Her record of achievement made her a role model and inspiration for colleagues and clients and has gained her a stellar reputation as someone who counts by dint of her intelligent construction of forward looking library services tailored to the times and needs of every developing culture in which she has brought her skills to bear.

The Lubuto Library Project is designed to create imaginative and desperately important library and educational programs for southern Africa's most needy children – the impoverished and the unwanted who have so little hope and for whom conventional libraries are simply inaccessible and irrelevant. Based upon her first hand experiences and observations on the ground, Jane Meyers has put together and tested the efficacy of the design. It is a construct which builds upon the notion of involving young people in the US in a helping role and indigenous specialists working directly with the needy children in Africa in settings where they can be reached. This model of service transcends the more conventional idea of structured libraries intended for typical readers. Instead it is oriented specifically toward the unique condition, the needs and the possibilities of extending library and reading programs in the places where they are most desperately needed.

Jane Meyers clearly has a striking personal story to tell and the Lubuto Library Project reflects the sum of her experience and insights in mounting a pathbreaking initiative in working with perhaps the most neglected yet exceedingly important element of southern Africa's cultural community – its children.

I commend and endorse this effort with great personal enthusiasm and heartfelt conviction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul Wasserman".

Paul Wasserman
Professor Emeritus