

February 26, 2010

DRAFT

Andrews Foundation  
Ms. Laura Baxter-Heuer, Pres.  
3401 Enterprise Parkway, Ste. 340  
Beachwood, OH 44122

Re: "Pride of Place", Letter of Inquiry

Dear Ms. Baxter-Heuer,

*Pride of Place* is an educational film that teaches local history. It can be used to *augment* a school's curriculum or promote community growth. This project is worthy of your consideration.

### **Isn't Local History Already Taught in the Schools?**

Surprisingly, the answer is no! It's never been mandated into the state curriculum. U.S. and World History are taught in textbooks as a chronology of facts and dates anchored by wars. On the other hand, local history is often full of heartwarming and heroic stories of early struggles. This is the history that can reach a child's heart to feel proud of who they are, where they came from, and what dreams they can achieve.

### **Knowledge of Local History Builds Appreciation**

Case studies have shown that when young people are taught local history, appreciation for their community becomes evident. Learning about the sacrifices that their founding fathers made instills a sense of pride. Gaining knowledge about the initial planning and structure of their community, including the need for an equitable government, generates a feeling of responsibility for their neighbors' welfare. Attitudes can change, and help to shape the future the way our forefathers intended.

### **How will Communities in our Region Benefit from this Project?**

The future leaders of tomorrow are sitting in classrooms across America. Every region has a need to retain the "best and the brightest" in order to ensure a quality of life provided by strong leadership. Without inculcating a sense of identity and *pride of place* in their youth, communities face the proverbial brain drain.

Every community has a story of sacrifice and courage. At this point in our nation's history, when the state of our union is facing tumultuous times, regaining that "take-charge" spirit of the early pioneers will bring back the resourceful and innovative

(HCF letterhead)

character that built America. Inspiration gained from the example of their forefathers can encourage our youth to take the lead in this regard. Our region can be the one to set the example in re-vitalizing the American spirit.

### **Beyond a Classroom Application**

“Pride of Place” is a tool that can be used for promoting community growth. Versions of the video can be adapted for multiple uses such as attracting new business, increasing university enrollment, highlighting our rich cultural resources, and tourism.

N.E. Ohio has been plagued with a negative self-image for some time now. Cleveland acquired the nickname of “The Mistake by the Lake” in 1969 when the Cuyahoga River caught fire. We’ve had difficulty shaking that ill-fated label ever since. A tool such as “Pride of Place” could serve to dispel this undeserved reputation. Newcomers to our region might be surprised to learn of the interesting history and major contributions to America’s quality of life that N.E. Ohio has provided!

### **Who’s Going to Produce This?**

“**Local History Productions**” will be steering this project. Mike Milkovich, and Nick DeTomaso, have been in the video production business for 25 years. They work with historical societies, archivists, writers, actors, and storytellers to generate the material needed to create a compelling work. Two pilot projects have been produced. Both were well-received by the media and garnered the approval of local school administrations.

### **What is the next step?**

The Hudson Community Foundation’s Board of Directors voted unanimously on January 20, 2010 to open a fund to support the development of “Pride of Place” to benefit communities in N.E. Ohio and beyond. Our intention is to raise funds by receiving grants from charitable foundations, corporate sponsorships, and private donors. We are requesting \$25,000 to begin research and production for a high-quality video depicting the history of Hudson, Ohio, as the starting point for this regional project.

We look forward to your reply concerning our request for funding and are eager to submit a formal proposal for your consideration. We are pleased to provide additional information at your request.

Sincerely,

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James R. Hackney, President  
Hudson Community Foundation