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To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Ellen Benson, and I teach Project Reach at Memorial Middle School in South Portland. Project Reach is a part of Jobs for Maine's Graduates, and is designed to help students connect to school, foster a healthy self esteem, offer academic support, as well as develop a variety of skills such as leadership, organization, critical thinking, and problem solving abilities. On December 2, 2007, Scott Jordan provided my students with such opportunity to build skills such as communication, problem solving, leadership and organization by fundraising for a very important scholarship fund.

After Scott sent out an email to our school district promoting the Harlem Rockets Basketball Game, myself and the other Project Reach teacher in the district contacted Scott to see if we could sell concessions and raffle tickets to raise money for a very special scholarship fund, in memory of two teachers we tragically lost this year. Not only did Scott agree to our proposal, when he heard of the scholarship fund, he said that he would make sure that a portion of the ticket sales would go directly to the scholarship fund as well! I tell you this story, because this demonstrates Scott's character. He's a caring man who wants very much to help better our students, schools and our community. Prior to the game, Scott even organized an all school assembly where two of the Harlem Rockets not only showcased their talents, but also promoted a positive message to the students to make healthy choices in life. The students listened and respected the message.

While we were planning for the event, Scott was very organized, and always available to answer our questions, anytime of the day. He was so helpful by providing my students with raffle prizes for event, as well as taking care of getting us anything we needed. Flexibility and patience is a strength Scott possesses, especially when working with middle school students, and Scott is extremely detailed oriented as well. During the game, he made my students feel important and special, from having name tags for the students or by simply walking by the concession table, even if he was busy, to compliment my students for their hard work. His positive praise was motivating, and it made my students feel like their efforts mattered! Scott is someone very easy to work with, and I would recommend him to collaborate with any organization. I would be more than happy to discuss in further detail Scott's abilities and strengths. I can be contacted at 773-5629 ext. 460 or via email at [bensonel@spsd.org](mailto:bensonel@spsd.org).

Respectfully,



Ellen G. Benson  
Project Reach Teacher  
Memorial Middle School