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February 25, 2004

Erik Speakman  
Speakman Management Consulting  
889 Moreland Ave  
Atlanta, Georgia 30316

Dear Erik,

I wanted to write and tell you how pleased I am to have worked with you in creating the Morgan County Early Childhood Reading Coalition and then stepping in to facilitate Ferst Books Foundation's strategic plan process.

In MCECRC you were able to quickly develop a partnership whose outcomes will be truly synergistic for the community, including the attracting new funding resources. While working with Ferst Books, your process and support was instrumental in focusing my and the organization's efforts. Through your planning process, our board, with input from key stakeholders, was able to develop a realistic and inspirational vision that will allow us to have a larger and more effective impact throughout the state.

I was impressed by your ability to 'step in at the last minute' and truly grasp the current situation of our organization which allowed us to focus our planning efforts. I am not sure how you did it, but we came up with a plan quickly, we now have board and staff immediately working together to implement the plan and have 'found' new volunteers and resources to help in our efforts. This couldn't happen if you hadn't created a road map with guidepoints for us to follow.

Thank you for all of your effort on our behalf. I know from the late evening and early morning emails and many long telephone calls that you put in much more effort than you billed. You continue to make suggestions and introductions that have proven to be beneficial.

I look forward to working with you as we continue to make a statewide impact upon early childhood reading and ultimately literacy. Please tell potential clients to call us (at whatever our future name may be) so that I can recommend you for your ability to create effective partnerships or organizational strategic plans.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Robin Howser

Founder and Board Chair