

Dr. Paula L. Traina

Flat 1 Elements 139 South Norwood Hill London SE25 6DD

M: +44 (0)74 0768 8068 Email: numberneves@gmail.com

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Michigan State University
250 Administration Building
East Lansing, MI 48824-1046

RE: Miss Catherine Schenone

To Whom It May Concern,

It is a pleasure to provide a professional reference to Miss Catherine Schenone for her 2019 Girl Scout Gold Award project. Prior to my relocation to London, I was the volunteer leader who supervised the more than 120 hours that she devoted to creating a sustainable outdoor vegetable garden and learning center for special needs children at the Van Holten Elementary School in Bridgewater, New Jersey.

Miss Schenone's excellent time management allowed her to conceive and complete this project within a strict deadline while managing a full school schedule of advanced classes. I was impressed by her ability to identify the priority of the steps needed to progress through this project, her recruitment and management of the volunteers who provided time and services and her composure dealing with obstacles. She demonstrated a maturity beyond her years; a talent for fund raising, organising and problem solving; and an attention to detail that reused natural resources to reduce costs while enhancing the project.

I was extremely proud of Catherine's ability to listen attentively and provide constructive suggestions. Throughout the project she also created positive relationships with the students, teachers and school principal. She was extremely thoughtful and involved in every part of the design of the garden from determining the optimal physical location and dimensions for best results as well as convenient access for disabled students; designing and building the structure of the learning facility and garden; the choice of plants based on geology, geography and weather; and protecting them from natural elements such as wild animals and insects. Her focus was always on the safety of the students and the joy and educational benefits they would reap from the project.

Miss Schenone's focused project management, adherence to a tight budget; and ability to ask for assistance contributed to her successful completion of this project. Equally important, was her genuine care and concern for the children that made this undertaking a true community success.

Should you require any additional information regarding Catherine Schenone's completed project, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Paula L. Traina, D.P.M.