

Matthew R. Fenske
Superintendent
of Detention

KENT COUNTY
JUVENILE DETENTION

1501 Cedar Street NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-1390

Phone (616) 336-3701
FAX (616) 336-2166



June 21, 2007

Buzzard Press
Buzzy Martin
PO Box 2048
Sebastopol, CA 95473

Dear Buzzy:

I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for providing our resident youth with an educational music experience last week on June 13, 2007. Your ability to educate, advocate, and facilitate with this unique music intervention was remarkable. It is very obvious to me that you not only possess expertise on the subject of reducing juvenile gang involvement, but can create a training environment and experience that all detainees can internalize and use once released from secure detention.

As you are already aware, the evaluations and feedback from the residents were overwhelmingly positive. Many of the residents subsequently requested to read your book. In this population, this is a feat in and of itself.

If I were asked to recommend your training, reasons I would give for a positive recommendation would include your ability to show residents that it is okay to be a nonconformist and that it's okay to have a voice and use it, even when the majority wants you to be silent. You stand up for your beliefs, philosophies, and ideas. Most of all, you live your life with the same sincere passion that you present to youth for everything that is good.

Buzzy, again thank you for visiting our facility in Michigan. Our youth certainly look forward to your visits here and still request that you come back to share your musical talent, your knowledge and experience in the prison setting, and the uncensored view of prison life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew R. Fenske".

Matthew R. Fenske
Detention Superintendent

MRF:jay