



Bella Ease – Family Focus
Quincy Teen REACH
1201 N. 12th Street
PO Box 708
Quincy, IL 62306-0708
217-209-0632

July 26, 2019

Ms. Courtney Avery, Administrator
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

RECEIVED

AUG 8 2019

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Dear Ms. Avery:

Blessing Health System has instrumentally impacted the youth in Quincy over the past fifteen years by sustaining the Teen REACH program. Bella Ease is a 501(c)3 nonprofit who operates an out of school program for at risk kids. Blessing Hospital location is near low income housing and in 2007 they offered us the use of a small house on their campus. Teen REACH continued this arrangement until expanding to a vacant school in 2012.

Nonprofits, that receive grants from state and federal programs, often experience cash flow difficulties when these entities pay on a reimbursement basis, on their own timeline. Blessing Health Systems has financially supported Bella Ease cash flow when funds were needed to pay staff. Their assistance kept the doors open for at risk kids after school and helped Bella Ease build a foundation that can now help the entire family.

With Blessing Health Systems support of Bella Ease Teen Reach and Family Focus programs in 2019:
132 kids had a safe place to go after school, on school out days and during summer
33 people found employment and have retained employment
14 first generation college students will be attending college Fall 2019
49 families received assistance on how to empower, educate, encourage
For 240 days every child received a meal and snack; tutoring; mentoring; life skills and recreation

Blessing Health Systems support cannot be measured quantitatively. Without their support Teen REACH would have closed. The impact on the low-income community cannot be measured in numbers. The compounded effect is immeasurable.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Williams

Cheryl Williams, Executive Director