Chautauqua County Association for the Education of Young Children

 PO Box 192, Fredonia, NY 14063

January 23, 2015

Dear Child Care Exchange Reviewers,

 My name Is Judy Metzger and I have been a childcare center director for 14 years at an accredited childcare center in Fredonia, New York. I was previously a speech pathologist who worked at a Montessori preschool in Silver Creek, New York for 19 years. I am writing to you to recommend Elizabeth (Beth) Starks as an Emerging Leader in Early Care and Education.

 I have known Beth since she was a graduate student at SUNY Fredonia, a field placement coordinator on campus and the founder of a childcare center in collaboration with the Chautauqua Lakes Central School in Mayville, New York. Beth and I met regularly as Board members for the Chautauqua County Association for the Education of Young Children (CCAEYC), and at county center director meetings in collaboration with the area child care counsel. Beth is also active in the Chautauqua County Children’s Coalition and is presently an instructor at Jamestown Community College. Her resume provides additional information regarding her position at JCC.

 Beth has been active in NYSAEYC, presenting at conferences and her most recent position as co-president of CCAEYC has expanded to local representative to the NYSAEYC board. She has attended Advocacy Day events and champions quality care for children in our county. The childcare subcommittee of the Children’s Coalition recently presented to the Human Services Committee of the county legislature regarding inspections for informal providers. She is techno savvy and utilized Winning Beginnings footage as well as local statistics to appeal to the committee members. It was well received and plans are underway for a follow up presentation. She also advocates for the Quality Stars program in New York State and stays current on new initiatives locally, countywide, statewide and through NAEYC.

 Beth is a leader in the center directors’ group and meets regularly with DSS to advocate for affordable care for area families. She encourages her center staff to seek out high quality trainings and is a credentialed trainer in our area. Beth’s partnership with the public school has allowed her to continue to advocate and model DAP in the early elementary grades. Both Beth’s grandmother and mother have reputations as well respected local early childhood advocates. Beth carries on this important work.

 Recently Beth took a position at Jamestown Community College as a full time instructor of their early childhood program and is mentoring a new onsite center director, which is another way she exemplifies a leadership role. Beth is a lifelong learner and understands the importance of providing for diverse groups both in your childcare program and in her college classes. I highly recommend Beth as an Emerging Leader. I recently retired from the Campus and Community Children’s Center at SUNY Fredonia but it is reassuring having Beth carrying on this important work. You esteemed reviewers certainly have been champions for children for many years and I believe Beth is someone who can carry on that cause with passion and perseverance.

 If additional information is needed please feel free to contact me at Jmetz47356@aol.com or 716-665-0899 anytime. Thank you for the work you are doing to recognize emerging leaders in our field.

Sincerely,

Judy Metzger – CCAEYC Co-President