



January 10, 2024

Mayor Potter
City of Carmel-By-The-Sea
Carmel, California 93923

Dear Mayor Potter:

On behalf of AIM Youth Mental Health, we would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation for the tremendous support the City provides to the youth of Monterey County.

Today, we are writing to request your consideration in granting AIM a Sunset Center Free Day to host the AIM Ideas Lab Youth Presentation and Awareness Design Challenge Reception on May 1, 2024. This event is designed to empower youth to share their perspectives on the mental health challenges they face today. Now more than ever, our youth need to know that they are seen and heard by their community. Our theme this year is: *We Are Listening*.

Our event will celebrate local youth involved in two programs.

- **AIM Ideas Lab:** The AIM Ideas Lab provides high school students with guidance and support in identifying their own mental health solutions. The kickoff for this program was held December 11th in person and virtually, with 11 mentors and 123 high school applicants (representing 37 high schools) in attendance. For the next three months, youth cohorts will create peer-to-peer mental health surveys, analyze responses, and draw conclusions. Our reception at the Sunset Center will provide students with the opportunity to present their research findings during an AIM Ideas Lab Youth Panel.
- **AIM Awareness Design Challenge:** This art challenge enables middle and high school students to voice mental health challenges through creative expression, with the hope of raising awareness, increasing understanding and empathy, and encouraging other youth to speak up and seek help. It is heartening to see the level of emotional awareness, compassion, and creativity that emerges through students' art. The 7th Annual AIM Design Challenge kickoff is January 12th with the assistance of the Monterey County Office of Education dispersing the challenge information among the schools in Monterey County and throughout California. In collaboration with the Carmel Sunset Rotary Club, the artwork will be judged, framed, and ready for display at the reception, where the winners in each category will be presented to the community.

This reception will provide a memorable evening for local youth and families, reflecting the culmination of months of collaboration to improve youth mental health. AIM Ideas Lab youth presenters will share their research, and the Design Challenge winners will be presented with awards and offered a chance to share their message.

We believe that hosting this event at the beautiful Sunset Center offers the perfect venue to showcase our youth, their dedicated research, and inspiring art. We kindly request your assistance in providing AIM with a Free Day to hold this special event, allowing us to utilize this local treasure and all the resources and support the Sunset Center has to offer.

We await your response to this request and appreciate your consideration. Should you require further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your time and support.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Judy Smythe'.

Judy Smythe
Executive Director

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AIM Youth Mental Health is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Tax ID#: 47-3992060