



PERE MARQUETTE DISTRICT LIBRARY

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November 19, 2013

Pere Marquette
District Library
Board

Dear Promise Zone Review Committee,

James Mishler
Chairman
City of Clare

On behalf of the Pere Marquette District Library I am pleased to provide this letter of support of the consortium partners of Northern Transformation, Eastern Michigan Council of Governments, Michigan Works! Region 7B and Prima Civitas for the Promise Zone application.

Lisa Card
Secretary
Wise Township

The Pere Marquette District Library provides public library services to a population of 8,833 residents of the City of Clare and surrounding townships. In 2012 our library welcomed 89,844 people through our doors. That is a pretty incredible number for our small community. Our usage is high because access to technology is limited in our community. We are the on ramp to the online information highway for many in our community. We provide free access to workstations where people access unemployment services, apply for jobs, access government services and complete online educational opportunities. Last year we had 15,308 people login to our public workstations. Each month we offer technology literacy classes to improve technology skills for our older computer users. These classes are always in demand and helpful to our patrons.

Susan Wentworth
Treasurer
Grant Township

Julie Cole
Trustee
Vernon Township

Robert Moore
Trustee
Wise Township

Clare County is one of the poorest counties in the State of Michigan and with that we face many challenges including a high unemployment rate and large numbers of children living in poverty. Receiving the Promise Zone designation would have significant impact on our community. Please consider the application of Northern Transformation for our community. We are working together to create a stronger, healthier future for our communities.

Sincerely,

Sheila Bissonnette, MLIS
Library Director
Pere Marquette District Library