



November 11, 2009

Dear Judges,

My name is Kandra McNeal and I am a case Manager for Dearborn Homes Family Works Office. I have been working with Lawrence Wallace and his mom for over 4 years. I would like to nominate Lawrence to participate in a special CHA holiday opportunity because he is a very special young man. He is growing up without a father whom his mom said has been hard on him. Mom stated that he is sometimes picked on by other kids and he is not a fighter. Anyone can tell you that he likes to keep the peace and enjoy having friends not enemies.

Lawrence father is serving 19 years in a federal prison and most of the time Lawrence is sad and really misses him. His only contact with his father is through letters. Lawrence is an excellent student and enjoys helping his teacher who speaks highly of him. Lawrence grades has increased from C's and D's to A's and B's. A few years ago Lawrence lost his baby sister. Her death was very hard on him because he was his mother's coach in the delivery room and actually held his sister before she passed. He is his mom's strongest support and continues to make her proud. He continues to excel in school and his mom stated that Lawrence has recently begun to talk about the death of his sister openly to help with healing.

For these reasons I am honored to nominate Lawrence Wallace to be a part of a special CHA holiday opportunity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kandra McNeal", written over a large, loopy flourish that extends to the right.

Kandra McNeal
Sr. Case Manager
Dearborn Home Family Works Program