

June 17, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I have had the privilege of knowing Cyndy Martin for the last ten years in her role as a community leader and political activist. In the time I have known Cyndy, she has always displayed great compassion and interest in everyone around her, and I have long seen that she is a tender-hearted person who has found ways to be effective and strong as a community leader.

Cyndy has spent endless hours volunteering her time for causes she believes in and cares about, and she has gained nothing from that work except the friendship and respect of the people whose lives she has touched or whose missions she has supported. For anyone interested in getting something done on an important issue or community concern in northeastern Minnesota, Cyndy is one of the first people to see. She follows through, meets her commitments, and cares about what happens to people. That does not mean she will always agree, but she is consistently honest about what she believes in and she is a passionate advocate.

I feel fortunate to count Cyndy as a friend, and I know so many others who are dedicated to serving the public and the communities of Minnesota who feel the same way. She is kind and dependable, and she has earned the benefit of the doubt from me in any situation in which she finds herself. I always trust Cyndy Martin to be a good person and do the right thing. That has not changed in the ten years I have known her.

Sincerely,

Ryan Winkler

35 Natchez Avenue North
Golden Valley, MN 55422

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Barry Feld. I am Centennial Professor of Law Emeritus at the University of Minnesota Law School where I taught criminal law and criminal procedure for forty-four years. I have lived in Itasca County since 1987. I understand that Ms. Cyndy Martin is pleading guilty to criminal vehicular homicide, a serious felony.

I have known Ms. Martin for the past two decades stemming from our involvement in DFL politics. We have served together on the Itasca County and Eight Congressional District Executive Committees. We have attended conventions, organized rallies, and marched in parades over the years.

I am writing to give you a fuller picture of Ms. Martin and her role as a volunteer and leader in the community. As a political activist, she has championed the rights of women, the poor, and the marginalized. She is a regular volunteer and worker at the Second Harvest Food Shelf. As a civic leader, she organizes and brings together various groups – labor, veterans, environmentalists, and others – to help build a better and more sustainable community.

As a retired law professor, former Hennepin County prosecutor, and trusted colleague, Ms. Martin has spoken with me about the death and her subsequent feelings. She has expressed deep sadness and remorse for her role. In pleading guilty, she is accepting responsibility for the consequences of her acts.

In sentencing, I ask that you take account of Ms. Martin's outstanding personal character and manifold contributions to the community and the state. All of us are better than the worst thing we have ever done.

Sincerely,

Barry C. Feld
Centennial Professor of Law Emeritus
University of Minnesota Law School
32563 Co. Rd. 40
Effie, MN 56639
feldx001@umn.edu
(218) 398-3661

May 13th, 2026

Dear Judge _____:

My name is Joe Radinovich, and I'm writing this letter on behalf of Cyndy Martin in advance of a forthcoming hearing regarding her sentencing in the court case resulting from the tragic death of Carter Haithcock in July of 2024. I didn't know Carter, and I don't know his family, but my heart grieves for their loss.

I do know Cyndy, however. I met her in 2010 while we were both volunteering for a political campaign. A lot of the coverage around Carter's death and the subsequent court proceedings has focused on Cyndy's involvement in politics, painting her as high-ranking leader within the DFL party—and to a certain extent that's true. Cyndy is a force, but those qualities that have made her so vital to the causes and campaigns she's championed are much more mundane than people unfamiliar with party activism may know.

She's a volunteer. She doesn't get paid for the work she does. She's not a Machiavellian political strategist. She's not a wheeling-and-dealing lobbyist on Capitol Hill. She just shows up—to parades, to potlucks, to phonebanks, and to meetings both countless and seemingly endless. She rolls up her sleeves, doing the unglamorous work of any volunteer-run organization. I have a great deal of confidence in Minnesota's judiciary system and that justice will be applied without regard for fear or favor, even in these trying times for our nation—but I can't help thinking that to some degree it's been her years of thankless dedication to participating in our political system that has colored the public's view of this whole devastating affair.

Since meeting Cyndy in 2010, we've become fast friends and maintain a deep friendship to this day. The woman I know has endured the challenges of life with grace, humility, and a strong dedication to her family, friends, and community. She's a caretaker, over the years comforting aging family members, watching her young grandchildren, and regularly preparing her delicious meals for both large groups and individual recipients. She's a survivor, getting sober over thirty years ago and persevering through painful injuries and subsequent surgeries to regain her physical health. She's a strong advocate for the things she thinks are right, whether or not those views put her in the majority in her community or in her party. The world has enough people that go along to get along; I appreciate those who say what they know to be true and say it proudly.

Most important of all to me, Cyndy is a good friend, checking in frequently with me to make sure I'm surviving my own trials, whether public or private. To say it plainly, losing elections sucks. It really hurts, and it hurts for a long, long time. It's an incredible feeling when there are people willing to pick you back up after a loss, even when you feel you've let them down. Maybe that's an experience most people can't identify with, but others are common. When my dad was struggling, Cyndy was calling to comfort me. When my daughter was born, Cyndy was calling to congratulate me. When my son was stillborn, Cyndy was calling to console me.

To: Attorney D. Valentini

Re: Personal knowledge of Cindy Martin

From: Loren A. Solberg

April 21, 2026

I, Loren Solberg, wish to confirm the character and reputation of Cindy Martin because I have had a long relationship with her. I confirm the following statements are true as I know them.

Cindy Martin has a strong constitution of principles and kindness. She is always concerned for other people and has high behavioral standards.

I was a teacher in the Greenway School system and Cindy was a student of mine. She was always attentive, polite and friendly. I remember her as a dedicated student but also congenial and concerned for her fellow students. She demonstrated the need to help others become successful and caring people.

I also interacted with her in the Bovey Community. I was Mayor of Bovey and visited her home and family many times. She demonstrated great care for her parents and siblings. She also was very active in community activities, participating in Farmers Day events, summer sports, and I would see her at the Bovey Library. Always with a smiling greeting.

I served in the Minnesota House of Representative (1983 – 2011). The Legislative District included parts of Itasca, Atkin, and St. Louis Counties. Cindy was, and is, very active in community and political events. She was always willing to help people understand political events but was NEVER unkind to someone who had a difference of opinion. I have witnessed her interactions with many people and have never seen her unkind to anyone.

1311 Minnehaha Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55104
612-518-4848



113 Second Street
Nashwauk, MN 55769
tfragnito@yahoo.com

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to write this character letter for Cyndy Martin. I first met Cyndy about 15 years ago when she was chairing a convention I attended, and our professional relationship grew even stronger when she joined our team as a writer five years ago.

During her time with the *Scenic Range News*, Cyndy has covered multiple municipal governments with professionalism and integrity. She has consistently demonstrated the ability to set aside personal beliefs and relationships to provide readers with balanced, accurate, and unbiased reporting on local council meetings and community issues. Her commitment to fairness and journalistic responsibility has made her a trusted and valued member of our newsroom.

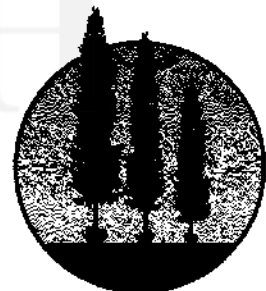
Beyond her professional contributions, Cyndy is an active and dedicated volunteer in the community. She continually shows up for others in need and serves as a strong advocate for those who may not have a voice of their own. Her compassion, reliability, and genuine care for the people around her are evident in everything she does.

I confidently recommend Cyndy Martin as a person of strong character, integrity, and dedication. Please feel free to contact me if additional information would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Tony Fragnito

Tony Fragnito
612-518-4848



Scenic Range
NewsForum

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Cyndy Martin, whom I have had the privilege of knowing for nearly 20 years. Over that time, I have come to know her as a deeply kind, generous, and service-minded person who consistently puts others before herself.

I first met Cyndy through a mutual friend's book club, and our friendship has grown steadily ever since. Throughout the years, she has proven to be a loyal and dependable friend—not just to me, but to many. She is someone who shows up, makes space for others, and offers support in both quiet and meaningful ways.

The word that best describes Cyndy is generous. She gives freely of her time, energy, and resources without seeking recognition. She often creates handmade items simply to brighten someone's day, reflecting her genuine concern for the well-being of others. One moment that has stayed with me occurred when my father passed away in 2009. As friends and family brought food to support my mother, I arrived home to find a basket of freshly baked cookies left on the doorstep. That small but deeply thoughtful act was entirely characteristic of Cyndy—quiet, kind, and heartfelt.

Cyndy's generosity extends well beyond her circle of friends. She regularly donates time and essential items to those in need, often without drawing attention to her efforts. She has been regularly contributing to the Little Free Pantry downtown, ensuring that individuals, including homeless veterans, have access to food. Importantly, she has involved her young grandson in these acts of giving, teaching him the value of compassion and community responsibility.

Family is central to Cyndy's life. She dedicates significant time and care to her elderly father and treasures her relationships with her grandchildren. Her ability to balance these commitments while continuing to give to others speaks volumes about her character.

Cyndy is, at her core, a good person. She is guided by kindness, empathy, and a genuine desire to help others without expectation of praise or recognition. Her consistent actions over the years reflect a person of integrity and compassion.

I hope this letter provides insight into Cyndy's character and the positive impact she has had on those around her.

Sincerely,
Paula Nix-Vroman
310 S Pokegam Avenue
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
218-259-1077

I know it's not just me that Cyndy has meant so much to, but I suspect part of her challenge today is that politics is a fickle business. She's enduring the scrutiny that a public life brings, but not likely not the high-profile support that some may suspect comes with territory. Despite what she's contributed to the people in her world, the safest thing to do when controversy arises in politics is to do nothing at all.

As someone who has been involved in politics most of my adult life, I recognize that writing this letter may be used against me some day, but I love Cyndy Martin like I do any of my truest friends. I can't imagine not being willing to speak to the character of someone I love when they most need me to do so, even if it presents some unspecified future risk.

I feel terribly for the family who lost a son, a brother, and a friend that night. My own experiences with loss, including having a mother who was murdered when I was in high school, can only vaguely provide some sense of what they must be experiencing. The tragedy of this situation extends beyond their home, however, in a way that affects many, many more lives. My only ask is that you consider the totality of Cyndy's life, including the people across her community and across our region who have been so positively impacted by her, as you consider the decisions in front of you regarding the appropriate sentence.

Sincerely,

Joseph Radinovich

April 14, 2026

On behalf of Cyndy Martin.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to offer a character reference for my friend, Cyndy Martin. I have known Cyndy since 2016. When I was introduced to her, and after talking with her, I was drawn to her compassionate and caring personality and knew we would become friends. There aren't many times when a person can say!

Over the last 10 years, I have also found her to be a responsible, and considerate friend. She has helped our township (Harris) out with volunteering her time to pull together our township newsletters. She has always supported our township, and her community. She is a person with a good morale standing.

What I have also found about Cyndy is that she is sincere, and very dedicated to everything she does, and if she faces a situation where she does not have the answer, she will dig and find that answer. Cyndy is easy going, honest, has deep respect for others and is very respected both in her personal and professional life.

I also want to share that there are not too many people that you run across in life that even if you haven't seen them for a couple weeks or a couple months, you can get right into a conversation, as if you just talked to them yesterday!

Peggy Clayton

Peggy Clayton
Grand Rapids MN

19 April, 2026

Brad Jones
20065 County Road 12
Bovey, MN 55709

To whom it may concern.

I'm Brad Jones, I moved to rural Bovey in Itasca County about 35 years ago and have resided here since that time. This letter is in reference to the character and integrity of Cyndy Martin. I have known Cyndy for many years. She has always been a person of kindness and compassion, with a welcoming sense of community.

I met Cyndy about ten years ago at a community event. Since that time, we have become friends. As an individual who did not grow up in this area, many people greet me with some degree of apprehension. Cyndy has always kindly welcomed me with a sense of inclusive generosity.

In addition to kindness, she has shown compassion through her volunteer work across our area. One example is her work at the Northeast Food Bank. She organized and participated in the monthly packing of food boxes that were in turn distributed to outlying sites. She worked hard to organize these monthly events and engaged in the work with a sense of compassion for those who would benefit from these food boxes.

I have always known Cyndy to be kind. She strives for a sense of community by bringing together and welcoming people of broad diverse backgrounds and interests. She is truly the glue that holds groups of varied people together by her recognition of their uniqueness and ability to make them feel they are an important part of the group.

I would be happy to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me.

Brad Jones
(218) 247-3148 mobile

To the Honorable Court,

I am writing this to share my perspective on the character of Cyndy Martin, someone I have known closely throughout my entire life.

One of the clearest examples of Cyndy's character occurred during a time when my mother was in an abusive relationship. Even when Cyndy was not physically there, she made it a priority that my mother was protected. She took the responsibility without any hesitation, demonstrating strength, courage, and an unwavering commitment to doing what is right and protecting those in need.

Cyndy has been a constant source of support throughout my life. After my sisters and I lost our mother, Cyndy remained a steady, caring presence for us in the hardest time of our lives. When she could not physically be there, she made sure that we knew she was a phone call away. She is the kind of person who goes out of her way to help anyone in need, often putting others before herself. She consistently kindness, patience, and genuine care for her community and people around her.

What stands out most about Cyndy is her unwavering support for anyone. She has been there for me in both my highest and lowest moments in my life, offering guidance, encouragement, and a steady presence when I needed it the most. Her actions reflect a truly genuine person. She has always led with compassion and has shown and treated others with respect, values that she has demonstrated time and time again.

Cyndy has always been a grounded and a responsible person for all the years that I have known her. The 37 years that I have gotten to share with her, she has never consumed alcohol and continually makes decisions that reflect her commitment to doing the right thing. She is involved with her community and keeps up to date with what is changing and how it will affect the community that we live in. She continues to stand up for her community and advocates for the smaller voices that are going unnoticed. She encourages the younger generation to be involved in the changes that the community is applying and helps guide them to how they can be more involved.

Based on my experiences with Cyndy, I firmly believe that she is a person of strong character, compassion, and integrity. She consistently demonstrates care for others and lives her life with honesty and respect. There is no doubt in my mind that she will continue to be a positive influence in the lives of those around her and within her community. I respectfully offer my full support of her character.

Respectfully,

Rebecca S. Nelson

April 21, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to respectfully offer this letter in support of Cyndy as the Court considers sentencing in this matter. I have had the privilege of knowing Cyndy for more than thirty years, and during that time I have consistently observed her to be a person of integrity, compassion, and strong moral character.

Cyndy was the closest friend of my late mother, and following my mother's passing, she became an important source of stability and support in my life. During that period, she demonstrated exceptional kindness, generosity, and empathy. Her willingness to step forward and provide guidance and emotional support during a profoundly difficult time speaks to her character in a way that words can scarcely capture.

In addition to my personal experience, Cyndy has long been regarded as a respected and engaged member of her community. She has been actively involved in supporting others and has earned the trust and respect of those around her through her consistent actions and commitment to doing good. Her reputation reflects a pattern of responsibility, care, and service.

I fully recognize the seriousness of the circumstances that bring this matter before the Court and do not intend in any way to minimize the gravity of the situation. However, I respectfully submit that this incident stands in contrast to the character Cyndy has demonstrated throughout her life. Based on my decades of firsthand experience, I believe her actions in this case are not indicative of her true nature.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this letter.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Eiden
218-256-6094

April 19, 2026

Re: Character Reference for Cynthia Martin

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to offer my support for Cynthia Martin who is currently before your court. I have known them since 1979 in my capacity as a coworker, previous family member, and friend and I would like to share my perspective on their character.

During the time I have known Cynthia, I have found them to be honest, accountable, passionate, and caring. For example, she has been engaged with supporting academic and extracurricular activities of her children and family members, including being part of the planning teams, volunteer, and advocacy. She has been engaged with advocating for others through holding positions in our local government such as on the Grand Rapids Area Library Board. These experiences have consistently shown me that Cynthia is someone who is passionate and considerate of others.

I am aware of the charges before the court, and while I do not wish to minimize the seriousness of the situation, I believe this behavior is not representative of Cynthia's true character. In my experience, they have shown genuine remorse and a willingness to take responsibility for their actions. I have also observed efforts toward positive change, such as undergoing counseling.

Cynthia has strong ties to the community, including volunteering and family, and I believe they have the support system necessary to continue making better choices moving forward.

I respectfully ask the court to consider this letter when determining an appropriate outcome. I am confident that Cynthia has the capacity to learn from this experience and contribute positively to society.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

William Litchke

William Litchke
218-256-8684

To Whom It May Concern: I have known Cyndy Martin for 10 years and have known of her for more than that, first through DFL politics, but now through our shared love & appreciation for our community, for the state of Minnesota, libraries, and our children & grandchildren. Cyndy is a good friend who operates out of fairness and honesty. I go to her when I want to know what's going on. I know her to be honest and to have impeccable integrity. I especially appreciate that she listens to me & we sometimes disagree. I am grateful to count her as a dear friend. She helped me get elected to city council door knocking with me. People wanted to talk to her when we were on doors and that helped me get elected. Thanks for this opportunity to speak on behalf of my friend, Cyndy Martin. Sincerely, Molly MacGregor (218) 256-7646

Sent from my iPhone



MINNESOTA
JUDICIAL
BRANCH

Cindy works very hard for her family, community and organizations. When her mother died, she attended to the needs of her father and found a new residence for him. She was interested in the Harris Township activities where she has her home. She often attends the Harris Town Board meetings and volunteers in community projects. She is active in family events, and I personally know she often visits her father in his current residence.

Political activities are her big interest. She was and is a leader and always ready to give of herself by volunteering for different activities. Her character and demeanor are honorable. I have never witnessed her having a bad argument with anyone. She can disagree but always conducts herself with great respect for different opinions. She is very willing to attend events that required travel and would recruit others to attend.

I also worked for a company which provided public relations activities for the Enbridge Line 3 construction project. She was extremely supportive of the project and often commented that the jobs the project created were extremely important to her. She demonstrated great empathy for the families that would benefit from the jobs created by the construction of Enbridge's Line 3 project.

It is my honor and without any hesitation or reservation that I write this letter to express my knowledge of my sincere confidence in her. Her family, community, and country are well served by her.



32314 Prairie Lake Ln

Grand Rapids, MN 55744

To Whom It May Concern: I have known Cyndy Martin for 10 years and have known of her for more than that, first through DFL politics, but now through our shared love & appreciation for our community, for the state of Minnesota, libraries, and our children & grandchildren. Cyndy is a good friend who operates out of fairness and honesty. I go to her when I want to know what's going on. I know her to be honest and to have impeccable integrity. I especially appreciate that she listens to me & we sometimes disagree! I am grateful to count her as a dear friend. She helped me get elected to city council door knocking with me. People wanted to talk to her when we were on doors and that helped me get elected. Thanks for this opportunity to speak on behalf of my friend, Cyndy Martin. Sincerely, Molly MacGregor (218) 256-7646



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If you know Cyndy Martin, you know she is an amazing human and a person who puts others before herself. If you don't, you are truly missing out on knowing what a kind, thoughtful and just all around great person is.

I'm blessed to call her my Godmother and my favorite aunt. Not only has she been there for me my whole life, she has been and will be there for her own children and her grandchildren. She has also been there for her family; and if you aren't even related to her, she treats you like family and has your back. She puts others before herself and never expects anything in return, which in today's world, I feel like is something that is very hard to find.

She is involved in so many things and puts so much effort into all of them. She is no stranger to hard work. She is loyal to everything she's involved in. She has been on many boards/committees and just wants to help make the world a better place. She includes everyone regardless of their background.

She is a friend to many, is loved by many and has a heart of gold. I know that I am forever grateful to call her my Godmother and favorite aunt. Honestly, we all need Cyndy in our lives.

Brynn (Schack) Olson

brynn.olson5617@gmail.com

218.340.8774

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I HAVE KNOWN CINDY FOR 25 YRS. SHE HAS ALWAYS BEEN SO KIND TO ME WHEN I VISIT HER TO ASK QUESTIONS.

CINDY is always available when i need help figuring out a strategy to be helpful in our community. she is so active in our community.....way more than most people. she is honest, authentic, and caring. i feel safe and loved whenever i approach cindy for advice.

john schirber



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To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Cynthia (Cyndy) Martin. I personally have known Cyndy for almost twenty years. We share many similar interests and concerns.

As a friend, I can say that Cyndy is loyal and dependable and always true to her words. She is straightforward and honest while always being kind and respectful to others. She has a large circle of friends who would say the same. Cyndy is friendly and outgoing and can (and will) talk with anyone she meets. It is Cyndy who recruited me to volunteer at Project Care, our local free clinic. We also volunteered at Second Harvest, the area food bank, once a month for many years.

I don't think I know anyone else who is such an avid reader as Cyndy. She reads one or two books daily. Her love of reading prompted her to become a member of Grand Rapids library board where she has served as chair. Cyndy has advocated tirelessly to help keep our library open for everyone.

Cyndy and I share in our passion for our families. She has provided care for her young grandson before and after school. Cyndy is on call to assist her aging father and is there any time he needs help. Cyndy is a great cook and prepares meals for her family every holiday. You will leave her home with extra treats to take home.

With that said, I can honestly say that Cyndy Martin is one of the most amazing, most thoughtful and caring people I know. She deserves all the best in this country for being an excellent friend and citizen.

Sincerely,
Susan Lehto
33516 Shadywood Road
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
(218)398-2268

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Hi, I have a letter for you.

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing to discuss my friend and colleague Cyndy Martin. I have been in community organizing for a long time and I have worked with some of the most amazing people in the state; Cyndy Martin is one of them. Cyndy is the definition of a public servant and community leader. When I think of Grand Rapids and Itasca County, I think of Cyndy Martin. If Cyndy calculated the hours spent volunteering and translated them to pay, Grand Rapids and Itasca - the county would receive a hefty bill. But that's not Cyndy Martin, she didn't dedicate her time and energy to gain recognition, she dedicated her time and energy to help the community by being open and listening to others that may have a difference of opinion and work them to make a stronger community.

Cyndy Martin is such a dedicated public servant and has been so involved in community work throughout the state of Minnesota. She has a sharp memory and can recall the people she guided and how those individuals and their work have impacted their own communities. It is refreshing to witness a strong woman guiding the younger generation in leadership roles. This leadership is fun to watch when Cyndy Martin's grandchildren make an appearance during Zoom meetings; she is patient and never shameful when young kids decided to crash our meetings. I never assumed I would form such an impactful relationship in politics, but Cyndy Martin changed that for me by being herself and we have been friends since 2010.

Scott Yeazle

To whom it may concern:

I have been a home care RN for 35 years. I have traveled extensively in our community and the surrounding area to visit my clients. I have known Cyndi Martin as a good friend and neighbor for 25 years. The thing I have learned about her, in addition to being generous, kind and compassionate is that she has a strong moral core. I have never known her to lie, cheat or treat anyone poorly. If Cyndi makes a mistake she fixes it. I do not believe she would ever knowingly leave an injured person without other help having arrived! It is simply not in her nature.

Thank you for your time.

Lisa Davis



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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this on behalf of Cynthia Martin. I have known Cynthia since I was 4 years old. I am currently 29. I met her when she was volunteering for the local youth wrestling program. Throughout her life, she has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to serving others as a devoted volunteer in a wide range of community settings. She has been a steady source of support in my life, especially during times when my family was unable to be there for me. Cynthia is one of the most caring and compassionate individuals I have ever known, and she will hold a special place in my family as an adopted grandmother to my future children.

Thank you,
Beau Casteel



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31-CR-24-3008

Dear Judge Heidi Chandler,

04-02-2026

I am Karen Arcel, a Clinical Laboratory Scientist by profession, and a resident of Itasca County for 10 years. I offer my highest character reference without reservation for Cyndy Martin.

I have known Cyndy since 2017 when we met via community organizing and charitable volunteer work. I have observed and worked closely with Cyndy in both her roles as a dedicated and tireless and altruistic volunteer, and as an empathetic and caring family member and friend, mentor and role model to many, including myself.

We have participated in volunteer support of the Second Harvest Food Bank and similar organizations where Cyndy was the motivating factor in others' decision to join this important work.

We have worked side-by-side in Highway Clean-up -- and again she motivated others to participate.

We have participated together in community organizing designed to improve the lives of residents of greater Minnesota.

Cyndy's volunteer hours number in the many thousands just since I have met her, showing her selflessness and altruism.

I have observed Cyndy in the role of parent and grandparent. Her love and dedication to family is evident and includes by extension the children and grandchildren of others. I recall a particular instance where I brought my 2 young granddaughters to our group's Holiday Party. They were young and shy and felt uncomfortable until Cyndy made them welcome, found them activities, got them treats etc. This was by far NOT an isolated instance.

I have observed her compassion and patience in helping veterans, people in economic distress (destitution), people in unfortunate medical situations and more, find resources, food and medical assistance. She has found jobs for them and helped them personally.

Cyndy is a highly responsible person. She holds high level positions in our mutual volunteer organizations that require reliability and attention to detail to successfully fulfill.

I am aware of the charges and circumstances; therefore, it is relevant to also provide my highest reference for Cyndy's driving skills and safety. I have ridden many hundreds of miles (without hesitation) as a passenger with Cyndy driving including in extraordinarily inclement weather, and at all times of day. I would feel confident and have no reservations

in allowing Cyndy to drive with my precious children and grandchildren as passengers at any time and in any weather. That is my highest character reference.

If the purpose of incarceration is to separate those who would be dangerous to society from the rest of society, I state that society is not only safer with Cindy Martin in it, but more positive and beneficial to the members of that society.

I personally feel significantly less safe due to these results of the tragic ACCIDENT. This event was a mere coincidence where Cyndy happened to be the next car to encounter the person engaged in clearly risky behavior. This was an event that could have happened to anyone, including myself or any individual reading this letter. This significantly reduces my confidence in the justice system and instills fear that I or another person close to me would suffer the same results from a mere coincidence.

There appears to be the possibility of political motivation contributing to the level of injustice in this process. Even that appearance is detrimental to the relationship between law enforcement and the public.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for questions, clarifications or for any other reasons.

Sincerely,



Karen Arcel, CLS,
Consultant in Regulatory Compliance and Clinical Microbiology
530-680-1459 shuri2000@yahoo.com
P.O. Box 65
Keewatin, MN 55753

FILED

APR 06 2026

NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

April 16, 2026

Presiding Judge Heidi M. Chandler Ninth Judicial District, Itasca County Court

Your Honor,

My name is Jeanne Newstrom. I am a resident of Trout Lake Township and a retired teacher. I have also served our community as a township officer and, for the past decade, as the elected treasurer for both the Itasca Unitarian Fellowship and the Itasca County DFL.

I have known Cynthia Martin of Grand Rapids since 2016. During her time as vice-chair, and then chair of the local DFL unit, I worked closely with her and observed her character firsthand. In all my personal interactions with her, I have found Cyndy to be a conscientious, hardworking, and fundamentally trustworthy individual.

I am aware of the gravity of the charges Cyndy faces. While I cannot speak to the events of that night, I can speak to the person Cyndy has been for the ten years I have known her. She is a woman deeply committed to the well-being of others. Since this tragedy occurred, I have witnessed her fall into a state of profound and debilitating grief. Her distress and the physical toll this has taken on her—including significant weight loss and extreme emotional fragility—reflect the heart of someone who is devastated by the loss of life.

Cyndy has always been a person who takes responsibility for her actions. To me, her decision to call 911 immediately upon hearing the news report is the most accurate reflection of the woman I know: someone who, when faced with the truth, seeks to do the right thing regardless of the personal cost.

I believe Cyndy Martin is a person of high moral character who cares deeply for her community. I hope my perspective provides some insight into the woman she is as you consider this matter.

Respectfully,

Jeanne Newstrom

Cheryl Ann Poling
18980 Pheasant Circle
Eden Prairie, MN 55346
(952) 277-9963

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to share my thoughts on the person I know as Cyndy Martin.

If I were to be asked to make a list of those who make a true difference in people's lives, Cyndy would be high on that list. She is genuinely kind, thoughtful, caring and openly non-judgmental. In the close to ten years we have been friends she has never failed to be supportive and present for her friends and work as hard as possible to make change for the better for everyone she touches.

Cyndy is truly caring and compassionate, a wonderfully loving mother and grandmother, and the world is a better place with her in it. I am thankful to be her friend and will stand by her character and at her side forever.

May 17, 2026

Your Honor:

I am writing to provide a character reference for Cyndy Martin. I am a Hill City native. I went to Bemidji State and have had a successful 40-year career as a commercial insurance broker. My career led me to Baltimore but I maintained my strong ties with Hill City and co-own with my brother what was my grandparents' farm in southern Itasca County.

I met Cyndy in 2010 when I hosted a coffee in Grand Rapids for Mark Dayton during the gubernatorial primary campaign. We immediately became friends. I found Cyndy to be someone of the utmost integrity. I've always been impressed by her character and her love for her community. I've known her to be active in making life better for families in Itasca County, in the library and so many other activities with a goal of uplifting others.

Personally, Cyndy has been a reliable, loyal and kind friend. My brother, Tim, was diagnosed with ALS in 2019. I opted to spend most of my time in Hill City to be near him in his final years. Cyndy was always there for me to help relieve stress, support me in that difficult time and when he died, she was a huge comfort to me and was at the viewing to support me.

In a later joyful time of my life, she was truly thrilled for me when I became engaged in 2023, welcomed my fiancé to the fold and helped me with the flowers for my wedding at the family homestead.

She's been there for me in good times and in bad.

Cyndy stands out as an exceptional individual in my experience. I'm honored to know her. I respectfully ask the court for leniency. Cyndy is a true asset to this community.

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide further information or be of assistance.

Sincerely,
Charlene Washburn Hesse
1563 Melvina Lane SW
Alexandria, MN 56308
410-218-7365
cmaw5702@hotmail.com

Richard Gehrke
3260 Boundary Road
Mahtowa, MN 55707
(218)380-3687
richardgehrke@yahoo.com

05/07/2026

To Whom It May Concern

I have been asked by my dear friend Cyndy Martin to write a character reference letter on her behalf for the courts to consider and I am happy to oblige.

I first met Cyndy Martin in 2018 at a congressional candidate forum in Duluth, MN and we became friends once I joined the CD8 Executive Board in 2022, in which we both served on together. In that time, we became fast friends. If I were to list all of the examples of Cyndy helping me out during the last four years, this letter would end up becoming a novel. Cyndy is the kind of person who is willing to drop everything in order to help those who she cares about. As I transitioned into my role as Chair of the CD8 Executive Board in December, Cyndy was there every step along the way to guide me through the process and to answer any and all questions that I had as I navigated the waters of my time as Chair. Despite everything that has happened, I am still proud to call Cyndy as a friend; even when many of her friends abandoned her along the path.

Cyndy cares for and cares deeply about her family. I would like the court to keep in mind that Cyndy's dad is currently in very poor health and I am concerned as to what would happen to both Cyndy and her dad if her dad's health continues to deteriorate and she is not there to be able to take care of her dad and to be there for her family to support them. Cyndy is also a reliable babysitter for her young grandson as well. Often times when I call Cyndy very early in the morning, she has her grandson at the house as she watches him before he heads off to school for the day. Cyndy also has built a friendship with a young neighbor as well and enjoys being able to converse with this young man. This is the Cyndy Martin that I ask the court to keep in mind as it proceeds with sentencing, someone who is a good-hearted and caring individual.

Sincerely,

Richard Gehrke

Richard Gehrke

Dear Judge Chandler,

My name is David Smith, and I am the Chair of the Itasca County Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party. I am writing to provide a formal character reference for Cyndy Martin ahead of her upcoming sentencing.

I have known Ms. Martin for approximately ten years, a relationship that began during her tenure as the Vice Chair of our county unit. Throughout a decade of working closely together, I have found her to be an exceptionally dedicated colleague and a valued mentor. Our collaboration on numerous community initiatives has consistently demonstrated her unwavering commitment to improving the lives of Minnesotans and supporting marginalized populations.

While I understand that Ms. Martin has pleaded guilty to the charges, I can attest that she feels profound remorse for her actions. This situation stands in stark contrast to the leadership and integrity she has otherwise displayed during her years of public service. Her contributions have had a significant positive impact on our community and have been instrumental in my own professional development.

I respectfully ask that you take her extensive history of service and her character into consideration when determining her sentence. Please feel free to contact me if the court has any questions regarding this matter.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to share this perspective.

Sincerely,

David Smith
16981 W Bay Dr, Pengilly, MN 55775
218-259-6714
davidsmth000@gmail.com

MINNESOTA
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To Whom It May Concern,

I want to share some of my years of experience with Cyndy Martin.

She is the one I frequently talk to on my way to work at 530AM.

Her grandson is usually eating breakfast in the background after his dad drops him off and then heading off to work. We typically chat about how my day at work is going to go- as I do travel for the military. Something we both care deeply about.

Sometimes the days are a real challenge. Others are very rewarding. She is always there to listen and offer words of encouragement.

It warms her heart when she hears how my work can get a soldier home to their family a little earlier from different parts of the world.

That is one of the things we share-Concern for veteran friends, and the troops that are currently serving.

We belong to an organization that focuses on veterans who are facing homelessness and the availability of beds at the VA.

When it's time to talk about her day;

it seems to be focused on someone else- Even when she had 2 back-to-back major surgeries with weeks of recovery.

Wanting to get over to check on her Dad and his health whenever possible.

Cooking, baking, and donating meals for local organizations or preparing to volunteer at the Project Care Clinic, or the local food shelf.

That's who she is.

I am not a mental health professional; but I do know what a kind and compassionate person she is. Nothing will ever let her forget that tragic night.

I have watched her struggle with it, even with ongoing therapy. There are still days where she just breaks down. A human life was lost and it's something that weighs heavily on her. I truly hope that justice will prevail and she will be given a verdict that is fair.

Sincerely,
Marge Hoffa

To Whom It May Concern,

I have had the privilege of knowing Cyndy Martin for approximately seven years. During that time, she has played a significant role in both my professional and personal growth. What began as a professional relationship quickly developed into a meaningful friendship built on trust, respect, and genuine care.

I first met Cyndy when I was beginning my transition into a leadership role within the Grand Rapids Area School District. At that time, I was completely unprepared—not only in terms of knowledge, but also in my confidence with public speaking and leadership responsibilities. Cyndy stepped in as a mentor and took the time to guide me with patience, honesty, and encouragement. She invested her own personal time to help me grow, providing insight and education on many levels that have had a lasting impact on my career and confidence.

Beyond her professional guidance, Cyndy is an extraordinary person in every aspect of her life. She is a devoted mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and wife, and she brings that same level of care and dedication to her community. She generously volunteers her time with the local food shelf and serves on the library board, always looking for ways to give back and support others.

Many people may recognize Cyndy for her involvement in political work, including her years with the DFL and her efforts in supporting campaigns. However, her political affiliations do not define her character. At her core, Cyndy is a compassionate, selfless, and dependable individual. She is the type of person who will show up for anyone, at any time, without hesitation.

It is without reservation that I can say Cyndy Martin is a person of the highest character and integrity. I am grateful to know her and to call her both a mentor and a friend.

Sincerely,
Ashley Goodman

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To whom it may concern,

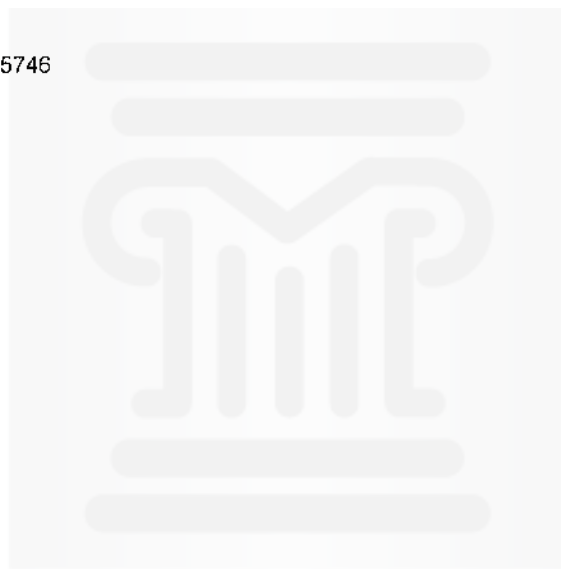
I am writing a character reference of Cyndy Martin and the person i know her to be. She is one of the kindest, most compassionate people you will ever meet. From the first time I met Cyndy, she has been so accepting and welcomes everyone with open arms. You never feel judgment from her. She always makes you feel welcomed and appreciated. She is a wonderful person who loves everyone. Cyndy is one of the best people you will ever meet.

Thank you,

Nathaniel Dropp

218 929 7943

3502 2nd Ave W Hibbing,MN 55746



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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Cindy, whom I have known for many years as both a friend and a member of our community.

I first met Cindy at a public speaking event where she was the speaker. From the moment she began, she had everyone's full attention not just because of what she said, but because of the conviction and sincerity behind her words. What began as a casual acquaintance that day has grown into a deep and lasting friendship.

Cindy is someone who stands up for what is right. She has a strong belief in fairness, in people being treated with dignity, and in doing the right thing even when it isn't easy. In all the years I have known her, I have never seen her mistreat anyone. On the contrary, she is the person others turn to in difficult times offering support, guidance, and steady compassion.

I have personally witnessed Cindy mentor young adolescents who were going through very challenging seasons in their lives. She didn't just offer advice she showed up for them, guided them, and built relationships that lasted well beyond those moments. That kind of care and consistency speaks volumes about who she is at her core.

What stands out most about Cindy is her character over time. She has lived her life with strong values, without any history of wrongdoing, and with a genuine commitment to doing what is right. This situation is profoundly out of alignment with the person I know her to be.

Since the incident, I have seen the weight this has placed on her. She has been deeply affected and remorseful.

This is not someone who acts with disregard for others. It is someone who is thoughtful, caring, and deeply impacted by the seriousness of what has occurred.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Diane Gross
218-910-5004

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Your Honor,

My name is Jennifer Cronin, I am a supply chain manager from Pipestone, MN.

I am aware of what my friend Cyndy is facing, and I am writing to speak on behalf of the person that I know, a dear friend who has been deeply traumatized by the events of the past year. My friend Cyndy has been a mentor to myself and countless others. Over the past few years, she has become a trusted advisor who has shown empathy and support both in my professional and personal life. She is a woman who has lived through it all and has the authenticity, wisdom and knowledge to help guide the people around her to be their best selves.

Cyndy is the type of woman who opens doors for others, she advocates for those who are less fortunate and works tirelessly to lift total strangers up. She is a good, decent and honest human being with whom I have a shared love of our kitty cats, and grandchildren. For her birthday this year, I grabbed my little black and white rescue kitten and we did an awful rendition of happy birthday for her on Facebook.

I know how the trauma of the death of Carter Haithcock has impacted Cyndy; the sleepless nights, the tears, and the depression that has followed. I have two sons, 28 and 27 years old and I cannot fathom the depths of anguish his family must be experiencing. I pray for all involved that they may find healing, and I will support my dear friend Cyndy through whatever happens.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for considering Cyndy's character in your decision.

With my thanks,



Jennifer Cronin

507-215-7352

April 16, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Karen Lucachick, and I am writing on behalf of my close and long-time friend, Cyndy Martin, whom I have known for many years. I understand that she is currently facing charges that may result in jail time, and I want to share my perspective on the person I have come to know so well.

Over the many years of our friendship, I have seen Cyndy consistently demonstrate qualities of honesty, compassion, and personal responsibility. She is someone who genuinely cares about the people around her and has shown humility and a willingness to reflect on her actions.

What stands out most about Cyndy is her character in everyday life. She is dependable, thoughtful, and deeply supportive of friends and family. I have watched her help others through hardships, offer guidance when it was needed, and show kindness without expecting anything in return. These are not isolated moments; they are part of who she is.

I am aware of the seriousness of the situation she is in now. Cyndy has expressed sincere remorse to me many, many times and has a clear understanding of the consequences of her actions. What frustrates me, however, is the non-stop personal attacks, stalking, harassment, demeaning comments, photos taken of her without her knowledge and posted on Facebook that she has had to endure over the last 20+ months or so.

I respectfully ask that the court consider the full person behind this moment—the individual I have known for many years who has shown integrity, empathy, and a genuine desire to do good and be good, by considering probation, a fine, but no jail time.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I am willing to provide any additional information if it is helpful.

Sincerely,

Karen Lucachick

Character Reference

Cyndy Martin

Myles Wagner

4074 Hawk Trail NW

Hackensack, MN 56452

To Whom It May Concern:

I can take great pleasure in saying that Cyndy Martin has become a good friend over the past ten years that I have known her.

During these ten years Cyndy has always demonstrated great concern for every person with whom she has come into contact in a wide variety of situations – political involvement, community involvement, volunteer involvement to help others be successful in endeavors, and involvement in helping others with their personal growth and successes. She has continually dedicated herself to making sure that everybody has the right to live life to the fullest potential that our northern communities do offer.

The unfortunate incident at the start of July in 2024 on a dark highway shattered her life that has been dedicated to helping others. Since that evening in July as she was returning home from a volunteer effort to help one of the northern communities have a successful Fourth of July parade, there has not been a single day in her own life that has not been negatively impacted by that incident. Her way of life was shattered as well.

Slowly, with counseling, Cyndy has accepted that the accident has been life-altering on many levels. Through all the turmoils she has subsequently encountered, she has been able to once again dedicate herself to the values she innately embraces for helping all those with whom she comes into contact. This is a testament to a life dedicated to service and personal growth. The life that came to an end that fateful evening in July can never be resurrected, but Cyndy still dedicates herself to helping others be the best they can be within their respective communities.

Sincerely,

Myles Wagner

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to offer my wholehearted support and recommendation for Cynthia Martin. I have had the pleasure of knowing Cynthia for the past 11 years, after being introduced to her by my husband, who has known her since pre-elementary school years.

Over the time I have known Cynthia, she has consistently demonstrated herself to be a kind, caring, and thoughtful individual. She is a devoted mother and grandmother who clearly prioritizes her family while also extending that same warmth and generosity to others around her.

Cynthia has been an active and engaged member of our community. She has served on numerous boards and has volunteered her time and energy to a wide range of organizations. Her commitment to giving back speaks volumes about her character and her desire to make a positive impact.

On a personal level, Cynthia has shown us great compassion. When my husband and I had to make the difficult decision to put down our pet, Cynthia immediately stepped in and generously offered her time and support, helping us in any way we needed during that emotional time. Her kindness during that moment meant a great deal to us.

Additionally, we have been passengers in Cynthia's vehicle on occasions and have always felt completely safe and comfortable with her driving. She is responsible, attentive, and trustworthy.

Looking toward the future, I can say without hesitation that when my husband and I have children of our own, we would fully trust Cynthia to care for them. That level of trust reflects the deep respect and confidence we have in her character.

Sincerely,
Cassey Casteel

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To whom it may concern;

I have known Cyndy Martin for 40 years.

Cyndy has always gone out of her way to help people in her community—whether by sharing food or clothing, offering emotional support, or simply giving a quick hug. She readily chats with strangers in the checkout line or at a coffee shop, and she welcomes visitors into her home with a cup of coffee and genuine appreciation.

She is generous with her time, volunteering with several local nonprofits and contributing to boards, committees, and community groups. I admire her long-standing commitment to service. She also helps care for her grandson while her son, a single father, works long hours in the construction industry.

In short, Cyndy Martin is kind, thoughtful, and generous. She consistently puts others first and continues to give of herself to those around her.

She has always had my respect and admiration, and I am proud to call her my friend.

Thank you for your time.

Barb Havens

Grand Rapids MN

April 21, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to offer a character reference for Cyndy as she faces sentencing. I understand the seriousness of the situation before the court, and I do not wish to diminish the gravity of the loss involved. My intention is simply to share my perspective on Cyndy's character and the person I have come to know.

I have known Cyndy for 10 years as a friend. Over that time, she has consistently proven herself to be a dependable and compassionate person who shows up for others when it matters most. For example, during a family medical crisis, she checked in regularly, offered steady support, and made sure I was not facing things alone. That kind of consistency and care is simply part of who she is.

Cyndy has strong ties to her community and is actively involved in helping others. She regularly volunteers her time and steps in when people are in need, often without being asked. I have seen her organize support during challenging situations and quietly help ensure others are cared for. Her actions reflect an ongoing commitment to being a responsible and engaged member of her community.

What stands out most about Cyndy is her sense of responsibility and integrity. Since this incident, I have observed her spend significant time reflecting on what has happened. In our conversations, she has expressed deep remorse and a clear understanding of the impact of her actions. She has also conveyed a willingness to accept the consequences. This experience has affected her profoundly, and I believe it will continue to shape her going forward.

Cyndy is not defined by this single event. She is someone who, over many years, has contributed positively to the lives of those around her and has the capacity to continue doing so. I respectfully ask the court to consider her character, her remorse, her community involvement, and her potential for growth when determining an appropriate sentence.

I will continue to support Cyndy and ensure she remains accountable as she works to rebuild her life.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Melissa Eiden
218-244-0728
m_fieldsend@yahoo.com

From: Cindy Brummer <cynthiabrummer@gmail.com>
Date: April 17, 2026 at 2:47:10 PM CDT
To: Derek Hansen <dhansen@valentinilaw.com>
Subject: Cyndy Martin

Hello

I have known Cyndy Martin for many years. We have been in the same book club and have been involved in a lot of the same activities.

Cyndy is constantly working to make life better for our community, state and country! She works hard to promote causes that support every day citizens and fights hard against greed, corruption and untruths.

Cyndy has integrity, strong morals and is very kind hearted. She is generous and giving.

I think she has been treated poorly in this horrible case due to her involvement in politics. The media and others have consistently referred to her as "a member of DFL leadership" or something like that, every single time they referred to her. What does her party affiliation have to do with this accident? It's like saying male nurse or female engineer.

I hope our justice system is able to see this as the horrific accident it was and not twist it into something else.

Cindy Brummer

PO Box 157

Nashwauk, Mn 55769

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to offer a testimonial on behalf of Cyndy Martin. I have known Cyndy for more than five years, through our work together on DFL politics and community betterment. In all of my dealings with her she was unfailingly honest, reliable, and caring. She has been a kind, big-hearted, and generous friend to me, and seems always to be volunteering her time and talents on behalf of the most marginalized among us. She is a hard worker and shares her talents and skills unselfishly. She is a good and loving person, and someone I can count on when I am in need. I love her very much.

Sincerely,
Bernadine Joselyn

Bernadine
Bernadine Joselyn
604 NE 1st Av
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
bernadinejoselyn@gmail.com
218/327-0743 (h)
218/259-7126 (mobile)

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Your Honor,

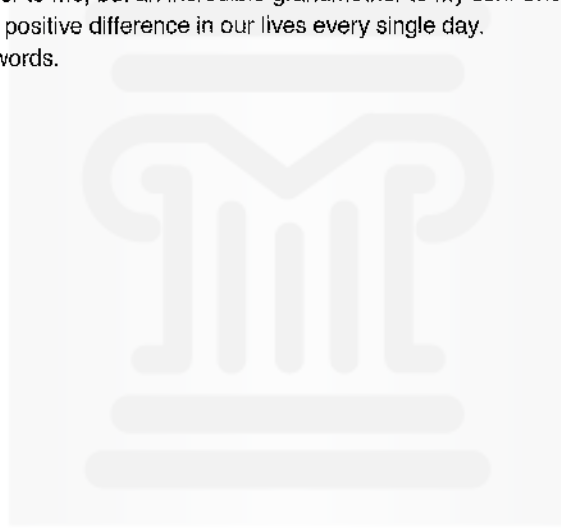
My mother, Cynthia Martin has been the most influential and important person in my life. From the time I was a child, she has consistently taught me the values of empathy and kindness, shaping the person I am today. She has always been a steady, loving presence, supporting me through every stage of my life.

Even now, as a busy working parent, she remains my rock. She cares for my nine-year-old son before and after school, giving him the stability and love he needs while I work long hours. She also regularly takes him to our local food shelf, where she volunteers and teaches him the importance of helping others and giving back to the community. She is not only a devoted mother to me, but an incredible grandmother to my son. She is a genuinely kind and generous person who makes a positive difference in our lives every single day.

Thank you for considering my words.

Respectfully,

Anthony Schack



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