

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

**Memorial-Spaulding Outdoor Classroom
*"Kayla's Garden"***

**Letters from community and school officials, faculty,
non-profit and corporate supporters, and parents.**



Memorial - Spaulding

250 Brookline Street
Newton, MA 02459
(617) 552-7561

Barbara Meyer, Principal

October 10, 2002

Community Preservation Planner
Newton Planning and Development Department
1000 Commonwealth Ave
Newton MA 02459

Dear Committee,

As my students will tell you, I am an animal and nature lover. However, that is not the only reason behind my support for our "Kayla's Garden" project. I feel that the garden will be a tremendous asset to our instructional program and an improvement to our school grounds. Its very presence will encourage our students and faculty to make use of our natural resources in their learning and teaching. The space will also be a very fitting memorial and celebration of the late Kayla Rosenberg, a Memorial-Spaulding graduate, whose Hebrew name meant "bird".

Therefore, I respectfully submit the following application for your review and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Barbara Meyer'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B' and a long, sweeping tail.

Barbara Meyer
Principal

Please note: For information regarding this application, please contact:

Amy Radin 617/527-5339 amyradin@attbi.com
Sara Pozner 617/965-6069 spozner@rcn.com



David B. Cohen
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

Telephone
(617) 796-1100

Telefax
(617) 796-1113

E-mail
Dcohen@ci.newton.ma.us

October 30, 2002

Ms. Lara Kritzer
Community Preservation Planner
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Ms. Kritzer:

I would like to offer my support for Memorial-Spaulding's Kayla Rosenberg Memorial Garden/Outdoor Classroom and their grant application to your committee. Parents, students, and faculty with the support of private donations and public grants are undertaking this project.

As you are aware, Kayla Rosenberg was one of the students who lost her life while on a bus trip to Canada with her school band. She was a graduate of Memorial-Spaulding and her mother is an administrator there. The school community has chosen to celebrate Kayla's life by designing and constructing this garden/outdoor classroom so that students may benefit in some small way from this horrific tragedy.

I enthusiastically support this project, which will preserve Newton's open spaces, and hope that you will strongly consider their grant application.

Very truly yours,

David B. Cohen
Mayor

1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

www.ci.newton.ma.us



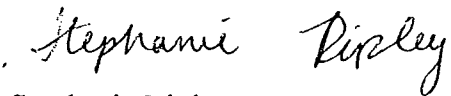
DEDICATED TO COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE

October 8, 2002

Dear Grant Review Committee:

As an educator, I feel a school garden provides children with the opportunity to plan, create, and care for their own environment. In the process, they ask questions about their environment, make observations, research topics, and set up experiments in search of answers. Gardening enlivens learning by offering a hands-on approach to seeking information and to learning skills and concepts. Children become observers, questioners, and do-ers and problem solvers. While science and ecology might be the obvious garden subjects, a garden is an exciting springboard for teaching math, reading, writing, art, social studies, and community service.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie Ripley".

Stephanie Ripley
First Grade Educator
Memorial-Spaulding Elementary School

Patricia Prime
27 Locust Street
Burlington, Ma. 01803
October 26, 2002

To whom It May Concern:

Several years ago, I was fortunate enough to be the kindergarten teacher of a beautiful, exuberant child named Kayla Rosenberg. Tragically, while on a trip with the middle school band, Kayla and three other Newton children died in a terrible bus accident.

To honor Kayla's memory, our school is building a garden named Kayla's Garden. This will be a quiet space for children to walk, explore, sit and reflect. While surrounded by the Kayla's Garden, children will be encouraged to observe, read, write, and draw.

Teachers at each grade level plan to connect classroom curriculum to the garden. Our kindergarten class will plant seeds and bulbs. The garden will be a hands-on learning space for us to witness growth, change and the cycle of life.

I believe Kayla's Garden will become an integral part of the children's learning at Memorial Spaulding School. It will also blossom and grow as a lasting tribute to our beloved Kayla.

Sincerely,
Patricia Prime
Kindergarten Teacher
Memorial Spaulding School



Memorial - Spaulding

225 Nevada Street
Newton, MA 02460
(617) 552-7561

Barbara Meyer, Principal

January 15, 2002

To the Department of Environmental Affairs:

On behalf of the teachers at Memorial Spaulding School, I would like to give our support to the PTO grant application. As a school that has worked with its children to better their understanding of the importance of taking care of the earth, we see this garden as an opportunity to enhance their understanding with hands on studies in an on site laboratory.

Throughout the curriculum, in various subject areas, units include recycling, studies of the environment past and present, plants (growing, caring for, learning about the life cycle), as well as class projects and interests. We stress responsibility as well as knowledge.

To have an outdoor lab to learn from would be a golden opportunity for our students. With the help of our PTO, we would have kits with tools to enhance these learnings, thus be able to take full advantage of the learning potential.

We therefore give our support to the PTO and their grant application.

Sincerely,


Florence Metcalf

To: Community Preservation Planner
Newton Planning and Development Department
From: Memorial-Spaulding Elementary School PTO
Date: 1 October 2002
Re: Memorial-Spaulding Garden/Outdoor Classroom
("Kayla's Garden")

We are in full support of this most important project at our school. While the idea grew out of our community's grief, it has blossomed into a wonderful collaboration among faculty, parents, and "graduates."

Our community of more than 300 families has always devoted a lot of time and energy to this school. So far, this project has been a fine example of this commitment. Our group has successfully planned and carried out many projects, including a parent-built playground, and periodic auction fund-raisers.

We look forward to continuing our work on this restorative classroom garden, and hope you can help us with financial support.

Lynn Go
Maria Xan-Yan
Janet

34 Dorcar Road
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

October 26, 2002

Community Preservation Planner
1000 Commonwealth Ave.
Newton, MA

Dear Community Preservation Planner:

I am writing in support of the grant application for Kayla's Garden at Memorial Spaulding School. I am the parent of a 1st grader at Memorial Spaulding and a 6th grader at Oak Hill. I am a member of the Garden Committee and have spent many hours this past year meeting, discussing ideas and developing the plans for the garden.

Kayla's Garden will transform a barren spot with a chain link fence into a community and educational garden where children and adults can appreciate its natural environment. The garden will contain native plants and is designed to provide a habitat for birds and other animals. It will benefit the students at Memorial Spaulding by giving them the opportunity to have a hands-on role in planting and tending the garden as well as being able to apply classroom learning. The educational applications are wide-ranging, from planting bulbs in kindergarten to studying rocks, insects, birds, butterflies and weather to planting and tending corn, squash and other food grown by the Wampanoags. The garden will have a circle area for outdoor classroom study and meetings. We hope the children can take this hands-on knowledge home, improving their own gardens and being aware of how the environment impacts their lives.

The garden is also intended to benefit the larger community. It will be a beautiful setting with maples, dogwoods, lilacs, evergreens, bulbs, sunflowers and perennials. It will have both log and traditional benches for all in the community to use. The path that runs alongside it can be easily accessed from Brookline St. and from Clifton Rd. The garden is protected from street noise by the building and surrounding trees and can serve as a quiet, natural sanctuary. Many members of the community have already participated in the planning and initial phases of the project, including parents, students and teachers at both Memorial Spaulding and Oak Hill Schools.

My whole family has worked on the garden, and my 6th grader and several of his classmates planted a dogwood tree that was a gift from last year's 5th grade class, made possible by student fundraising. After being involved in the planning and the initial work for the garden, my children have already asked when we can create our own vegetable garden at home.

A grant from the Community Preservation Act will make a major contribution to allowing us to realize our vision for this garden.

Sincerely,



Paula Joseph

City of Newton



NEWTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

FRAN L. TOWLE - COMMISSIONER

70 Crescent Street, Auburndale, MA 02466

Office: 552-7120 Forestry and Maintenance: 552-7123 Fax: 552-7133



David B. Cohen
Mayor

January 18, 2002

**Executive Director
Office of Environmental Affairs
Outdoor Classroom Program**

Dear Grant Review Committee:

In Newton, we try to encourage and provide our residents with opportunities to contribute and become active participants at our playgrounds, parks, open space areas and school grounds.

At each of our Schools, we feel those students, classroom teachers and PTO's who show an interest to participate in, plan and promote educational gardens are of high value to our Department as well as our Community. Of particular value is the partnership with each project for the maintenance and upkeep of the area, as it becomes a school-based program throughout the year.

Projects such as the Memorial-Spaulling Sanctuary Garden are very important projects for our City. This Garden will certainly enhance the environmental, visual and educational value of that section of the School's Grounds.

Our Department wholeheartedly supports the submission of this grant material.

Should you need any further information please feel free to contact me at anytime.

Very Truly Yours,

**Fran Towle
Commissioner**

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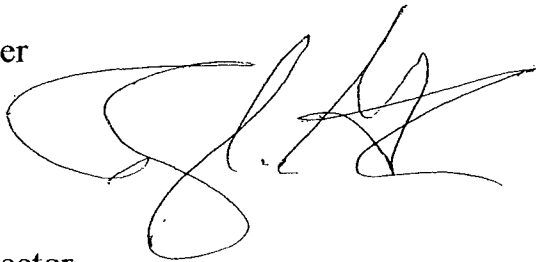
WARD 7 - GWEN FINEBERG
WARD 8 - ROBERT PLATT
FAYE HAYS - COMM. SECRETARY

ALTERNATES: MICHAEL CLARKE. PETER KASTNER. WILLIAM RYAN. JOHN BOURGEOIS

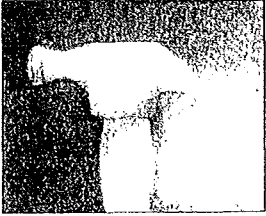
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer, and ask, support for the construction and further development of the new garden at the Memorial Spaulding Elementary School. This is a project that has been undertaken by neighborhood volunteers in the memory of a wonderful student of mine, Kayla Rosenberg. Kayla was everything any parent would want to see in their child. Warm, caring, thoughtful, compassionate, eager to learn, and always doing for others, she was taken from us in a bus accident in April of 2001. The garden at Memorial Spaulding is a tribute to an outstanding young person who did much for her community in her short life. It is also much more. This garden turns an under-utilized space into a place of beauty and learning. For the school; a special outdoor classroom of exploration and discovery. For the general public; a neighborhood spot for rest, contemplation, and the wonder of how each child can move and affect their world. It is particularly fitting that this endeavor take place where Kayla learned and developed the qualities that so endeared her to everyone at Oak Hill Middle School. It is also very appropriate that this endeavor has been selflessly undertaken for the benefit and enjoyment of generations to come. Kayla would have approved.

Roy Miller

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Miller', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Band Director
Oak Hill Middle School
Newton, MA



BYGGMEISTER ASSOCIATES, INC.

October 26, 2002

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing this letter in support of the garden project being built in memory of Kayla Rosenberg at the Memorial Spaulding School in Newton.

None of the elementary schools I went to ever had anything like a teaching garden. In retrospect that's surprising, because the idea is so obvious and appropriate.

And this particular garden works on so many levels. It works foremost as a teaching tool, of course: As a place where kids can experience first hand and up close the cycle of life. They can plant seeds, watch them grow, mature, and then in turn bear seeds to be planted. They'll get to witness successes and failures in their experiments; they'll get to play in the dirt and learn something from it.

It also works as a place for kids to go and escape the noise and activity of the classroom and playground. Kids are more active these days, have busier and more structured lives. They need more isolated, quieter spots where they can just sit and experience a moment of relative calm. The location of this garden, separated from the playground and situated so as to be able to have some shade most of the time, lends itself unusually well to that sort of more subdued, contemplative atmosphere.

Finally, it works as a place for people who have long since left Memorial Spaulding—or any elementary school, for that matter. It will be a lovely hidden garden, but one with easy public access for those who know where to look. Some will visit just because it's a nice spot to visit; some will visit just to see how the garden changes from season to season and year to year; and some will visit just to sit on a bench and remember Kayla.

Sincerely,

Paul Eldrenkamp

President, Byggmeister



October 30, 2002

Community Preservation Center

Dear Community Preservation Planner:

The intent of this letter is to acknowledge the efforts of and offer support to the Memorial Spaulding Middle School in proposing a nature's classroom at their school.

It is my understanding that the current space is an old metal playground that is not in full use by the student body. Their vision would provide students an alternate place other than the classroom to learn and assist the teachers in having hands on teaching tools that applies to grade level material, which could provide a positive direct impact the curriculum. Some of the thoughts are creating a butterfly garden and incorporating plant material such as various berries that would attract a variety of bird species for study. Raised beds to incorporate learning for the elementary grades, giving them the chance to plant bulbs and seasonal material and benching. An additional part of the outdoor classroom would be a memorial garden in remembrance of Kayla Rosenberg, a middle school student from Oak Hill Middle School who along with several other students was killed in a bus accident in Canada enroute to perform in a concert.

Speaking from my own personal experience, I must say how truly impressed I was when my son, also in middle school, attended a nature's classroom in New Hampshire and returned enriched, really focused and himself inspired. How wonderful would it be to offer the students this opportunity as a part of everyday learning, not to mention the important lessons of preservation and useful space.

Winston Flowers and Garden have shared some of our ideas about what plant material might be appropriate and inspiring for the vision that the school has.

Hoping you will embrace and consider the efforts of the Memorial Spaulding Middle School in their project as well.

In Community,

Diane Ashen
General Manager
Winston Flower & Garden

Community Preservation Planner
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Ave
Newton, MA 02459

October 29, 2002

Dear City Planner,

This letter is to show my support in the continued construction of Kayla's Garden to be located on the grounds of the Memorial-Spaulding elementary school in Newton Centre.

There are so many excellent reasons to support this project. First and foremost, the garden will serve as a living memorial to a wonderful young lady whose life ended tragically in the 2002 bus crash in Nova Scotia. While I was not well acquainted with Kayla, I still cannot help but be moved at the effort the school and the community has extended to attempt to get this project underway. The previous kindergarten-first grade playground, which was at this same location was deemed dangerous and was truly ugly. The plans the volunteer committee has offered are beautiful and a huge improvement over what was previously there. It was an amazing tribute to see many of Kayla's classmates digging the pathways along side the adults and the professional gardeners at the first workday in September, to honor Kayla's memory.

My understanding is that the goals of Kayla's Garden would be for both recreational and educational purposes. Many of the planned plantings are natural to the New England habitat, and would need minimal care after the first season. There would be space available for planting, growing, observation, meditation and reflection. Of equal importance, is that there are plans for the garden to be tied into grade level curriculum for every grade. Classroom teachers would be able to just walk out their doors and have materials available for observation and practice. And perhaps most importantly, many of the Memorial-Spaulding teachers who were lucky enough to have had Kayla in their class will have a useful way of perpetuating her memory.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lauren Mamon
Oak Hill PTO President



NEWTON SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

100 Walnut Street, Newtonville, Massachusetts 02460

(617) 552-7706 (617) 552-7986 (FAX)

A Private Commitment to Innovation in Public Education

May 16, 2002

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Barbara Meyer
Memorial-Spaulding School

Dear Bunny,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Newton Schools Foundation, we are pleased to announce your selection as a recipient of an award in the amount of \$1,200 for "Kayla's Garden".

We are happy to fund this program this year, and look forward to seeing the results of this most important work. We approved monies for purchase of the classroom kits, but not any of the construction costs of this project, as the Grants Committee felt our main focus should be curriculum.

As a grant recipient, you agree to:

- 1) promote NSF's support of your grant at every opportunity through general publicity, notices in school newsletters/newspapers and to parents of students involved in your project, (NSF requires that you send to parents a memo on the grant acknowledging NSF as the funding source and that a minimum of one article be published in the school newsletter or newspaper during the 2002-03 school year);
- 2) participate in NSF's grant review process, including a site visit by NSF;
- 3) furnish a final report on your grant within one year;
- 4) provide itemized financial accounting reports using the enclosed form;
- 5) clear any changes in your grant's plan or equipment needs with NSF.

On June 30, 2003, any unspent monies will be returned to NSF, unless other arrangements have been made prior to this with the Executive Director, Clare McCully.

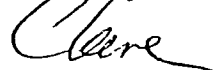
If your grant produces a tangible product, it should be clearly noted that the Newton Schools Foundation granted funding. If your grant is used to purchase equipment or materials, it should be understood that such equipment or materials remain the property of the Newton Schools Foundation. Equipment should be purchased at the lowest possible price.

If you agree to these provisions please sign and return the enclosed copy of this letter to the Newton Schools Foundation Office, 100 Walnut Street, Newton, MA 02460.

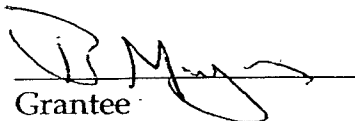
Please contact Clare McCully, to set up an appointment to set up your grant. This meeting should take place before the end of June 2002. Her number is 552-7706.

We are looking forward to following the progress of your grant. Congratulations! NSF is proud to recognize your initiative, creativity and enthusiasm with this award.

Sincerely,



Clare McCully
Executive Director



Grantee

208 76 1017
Social Security #

*Dr. and Mrs. Charles N. Pozner
328 Brookline Street
Newton, Massachusetts 02459*

October 25, 2002

Community Preservation Planner
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Community Preservation Planner,

We are writing to offer support for the Kayla Rosenberg memorial garden at Memorial-Spaulling elementary school. We are the parents of both a fourth grader, and a pre-schooler who will attend Memorial-Spaulling next year. Although we never knew Kayla personally, through reflections of others, we feel that the proposed garden/outdoor classroom will represent her joyful spirit and her love of nature.

The garden will be an important adjunct for students at every grade level. Its circle area will offer classes a different, more natural, setting for teaching and learning. It will enhance a child's appreciation of nature, and their understanding of the cycles of life of all living things. Raised beds will allow students to plant; observe growth, and harvest flowers and vegetables. Native trees, shrubs and plants will be labeled for identification. The butterfly garden, bird baths and bird feeders will sustain life throughout the year. Benches will provide spaces for personal reflection and quiet thought, while a handicapped-accessible pathway, winding through the garden, will allow for the inclusion of all persons.

Creating and preserving open space is an important issue to us. We teach our own children to appreciate and respect nature, and we believe it is a valuable lesson for all. This project was inspired by the life of an innocent child who genuinely cared for all living creatures. Is there any better way to remember Kayla than to allow children to experience nature and all its wonders firsthand? This garden will benefit our community in countless ways. Please give this project your utmost consideration.

Thank you,

Charles and Sara L. C. Pozner

October 25, 2002

Community Preservation Planner
1000 Commonwealth Ave.
Newton, MA 02459

To whom it may concern:

I am a Memorial Spaulding parent and am writing in support of receiving a Community Preservation Act grant on behalf of Kayla's Garden.

Kayla's Garden embodies the true essence of school community. The Garden will offer an area for children to explore their artistic creativity through painting and drawing, an area rich with the opportunity to tend and cultivate the land and an area for study and contemplation in connection with the curriculum guidelines offered for grades K-5. Moreover, the Garden is being developed with handicap access so that it may be an inclusive environment where all Memorial Spaulding students can participate.

Kayla's Garden is a tribute to the vitality of a truly remarkable child – a child whose spirit will be captured by this very special and educational garden where nature is appreciated and learning is encouraged.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Elly D. Swartz', written in black ink.

Elly D. Swartz

Jamie

Community Preservation Planner
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Norton, MA

Dear Sir or madam,

Please find this letter in support
of the "Kaylas Garden" at Memorial
Spaulding Elementary School.

Kaylas Garden is a wonderful idea.
The children will have hands on experience.
They will plant bulbs, study plants ^{and} build
bird houses. This will be an educational
experience for the kids.

I have two children at Memorial
Spaulding and look forward for them
to be involved in this great idea.

Thank you.

Jamie Levey

October 27, 2002

To whom it may concern,


I am a Memorial-Spaulling parent writing in support of the Community Preservation Act grant that our school is applying for for Kayla's garden.

My children are very excited about Kayla's garden and look forward to being an integral part of the process. We are eager to help dig holes for plants and trees, create pathways and start a butterfly garden.

My family never got to know Kayla Rosenberg for whom the garden is named, but they know that she was someone who touched many lives and they will be proud to be part of this 'living' memorial to Kayla.

Thank you for considering Memorial Spaulding's request for the grant.

Sincerely,


Liz Coleman

Amy & Bob Carp
22 Hollywood Drive
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

October 28, 2002

Community Preservation Planner
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a Memorial Spaulding School parent writing to you in support of Kayla's Garden. I believe that the garden will be a unique learning experience for my children as well as all of the Memorial Spaulding School students, and will teach them all to appreciate nature.

I am confident that you will agree that Kayla's Garden will be a beneficial addition to the Memorial Spaulding School.

Sincerely,


Amy Carp

Patrick C. Trombly
80 Dorcar Road
Newton, Massachusetts 02459

Community Preservation Planner
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, Massachusetts 02459

October 31, 2002

Dear Community Preservation Planner:

My name is Patrick Trombly. I am a parent of two, one of whom, my daughter Hannah, has the good fortune to be old enough to attend the newly-renovated Memorial-Spaulding School.

My daughter was only four when something very unfortunate happened to a former Memorial-Spaulding School student – Kayla Rosenberg's life was tragically cut short. My daughter did not know Kayla, but somehow Kayla's memory is part of the school. In a way, each child who attends the school is a living reminder of how lucky the rest of us are.

The Kayla's Garden Project started from someone's idea to create a living memorial to always remind us of Kayla, to allow Kayla's memory to live on in the school. The garden is, with its walkways and bench, planned as a place of reflection; with its many specimens of local plants of fall and winter interest, selected after consultation with teachers, a place to learn year-round about the natural world around us; in all, a place to experience one of Kayla's interests, to enable her memory to survive through a living memorial.

I have served on the garden committee for over a year now, and we have worked hard to develop a list of fall- and winter- interest local plants and shrubs, to design a garden plan, and to begin to physically put the garden in place. It has been very rewarding in terms of what we've accomplished and how. Somehow something has held us together and enabled us to accomplish a great deal in a short time – that something was the memory we are trying to preserve.

It is with these thoughts that I ask you to join us through your financial commitment. We have come far but need you to help us finish the job – to help us preserve not only a place but an important part of the community itself: the memory of a member of the community who was lost far too early in life.

Kindest regards,



Patrick Trombly

Community Preservation Planner
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

October 28, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of a child attending Memorial Spaulding. I think that Kayla's Garden is a wonderful idea. The parents, teachers, and children directly affected by the tragedy need to see something positive come of it. Children, especially, need to know that individuals matter. The garden will be an ever changing and growing entity and a tribute to the effort of those who enjoy it and learn from it.

Thank you for the consideration.

Sincerely,

Patricia Marcus

Board of Aldermen

2002-2003

City of Newton

1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

November 1, 2002



Tel (617) 796-1210
FAX (617) 796-1214

Brooke K. Lipsitt
President

George E. Mansfield
Vice President

Mr. Michael Kruse, Director
Department of Planning & Development
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre MA 02459

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- 4 John F. Stewart
- 5 Paul E. Coletti
- 5 Brian E. Yates
- 6 Susan M. Basham
- 6 Kenneth R. L. Parker
- 7 Brooke K. Lipsitt
- 7 Sydra Schnipper
- 8 Richard A. Lipof
- 8 Mitchell L. Fischman

Ward Aldermen
Ward

- 1 Scott Lennon
- 2 Stephen M. Linsky
- 3 Anthony J. Salvucci
- 4 D. Pauline Bryson
- 5 Christine S. Samuelson
- 6 George E. Mansfield
- 7 R. Lisle Baker
- 8 Cheryl Lappin

City Clerk/Clerk of the Board
Edward English

Dear Mike:

Re: Memorial-Spaulding outdoor classroom

Dear Mike:

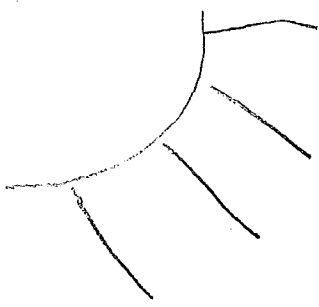
I am writing to express my support for the application for CPA funds for the proposal known as Kayla's Garden at the Memorial-Spaulding Elementary School.

The recent renovation of the interior of the school will be complemented by the addition of outdoor teaching space, where students can study local flora and fauna as well as weather and geology. During non-teaching hours, the community at large will be able to take advantage of this peaceful open space.

I hope that the Community Preservation Committee will give this proposal strong consideration.

Very truly yours,

Brooke K. Lipsitt
President



1 November 2002

Thank you for your consideration of our application. Our application includes the Project Description and related materials.

Under separate cover, you will find material from our corporate helpers, and visions for Kayla's Garden from the most important applicants--our students.

Sincerely,

Amy Radin PTO Volunteer

