

## Susan Henriques

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**From:** Debora Coelho  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 03, 2018 9:52 AM  
**To:** Susan Henriques  
**Subject:** FW: NorthStar Learning Centers...

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**From:** Maria Rosario [mrosario@northstarlc.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 01, 2018 5:27 PM  
**To:** Debora Coelho  
**Subject:** NorthStar Learning Centers...

Dear Councilor Coelho (Debora):

I am writing to ask for your continued support of NorthStar Learning Centers and for embracing our mission of providing high-quality early education and care services to ALL children and families in our community. NorthStar submitted an \$177,000 application to CDGB to support the acquisition, legal fees and closing costs of a long-vacant parcel of land at the corner of Rivet Street and Hyacinth Street.

On this parcel, NorthStar will construct a new 14,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art Early Childhood Program Center to house NorthStar's primary childcare program. This modern building will be in the heart of the underserved and low-income South End neighborhood. The construction of this facility will enable NorthStar to deliver high-quality early childhood education programs to 150 children ages one month through kindergarten. The new Center will provide essential care for families within this area, as well as easy access to others by public transportation.

NorthStar has determined that renting, while flexible and low-risk, limits our ability to truly be able to provide its mission-driven early childhood education at the highest level of quality. Families who need and utilize the current Early Childhood Program Center face geographic challenges, including limited access to public transportation and long distances from public schools.

The new Center is an important factor in the long-term economic and social health of the City. Research shows that high-quality early education programs for low-income children can lead to greater school success, including reduced need for special education services, lower grade repetition, and higher rates of graduating from high school and continuing onto college. Moreover, increased school readiness gained from early education has a positive and lasting impact into adulthood including attaining higher education, being more likely to be employed and earning more, and being less likely to be dependent on subsidies. While low-income children gain the most, all children benefit from quality early education.

The new Early Childhood Program Center will accomplish the following goals:

- Provide high quality early childhood education to 150 New Bedford children;
- Provide accessible early childhood education within a facility easily accessed by public transportation;
- Support rejuvenation, discourage crime, and promote safety in the low-income South End neighborhood.

Today, I ask for your support of NorthStar Learning Centers and our CDBG request of \$177,000 to purchase the property at the corner of Rivet Street and Hyacinth Street. This grant will enable NorthStar to continue to provide high quality, nationally accredited programs and services for children, youth and families living in New Bedford.

If you any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (508) 517-9349 or email me at [mrosario@northstarlc.org](mailto:mrosario@northstarlc.org).

I thank you for your time and consideration,

***Maria A. Rosario***

Executive Director

NorthStar Learning Centers

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