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To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in regards to Sharon Bachman completing her degree in Animal Assisted Mental Health for at-risk youth. I would like to share some of my personal experiences with Sharon that will illustrate her natural abilities in this field.

Sharon hired me to work at Brebeau Kennels in June of 2005. When she hired me I was 16 years old, had already dropped out of high school, moved out and was very much in to binge drinking and experimenting with drug use. Even though I was living on my own in the adult world, I had very little skills or knowledge to contribute to it. Sharon took me under her wing and taught me numerous things, responsibility being a big focus. After just a few months I was already feeling confident helping customers, taking care of the animals within the facility and even counting and balancing the cash drawer at the end of shift. I feel that because Sharon had so much faith in me that I tried harder to live up to what was expected of me. Sharon also taught several dog obedience classes and encouraged me to participate and absorb as much info as I could. She then let me work with the foster/rescue dogs in the kennel. Seeing how well the dogs responded to the training techniques that I learned from her was incredibly rewarding and empowering.

Sharon had such a positive impact on my character and my choices. She was always pushing me to better myself in all aspects of my life, including education. She encouraged me to study and prepare to take the GED test. After about a year I was feeling pretty confident about myself and Sharon paid for me to take the GED. I am proud to say that I passed quite easily and scored relatively high overall. I left Brebeau in March of 2007 with a refined work ethic and a lot more respect. I then had a successful mining career in which I advanced quite quickly in. After 9 years of mining I managed to save enough funds to help pursue my dream. My husband and I are currently in the process of building our own boarding facility. Had I never met Sharon it would be hard for me to say that I would've found my passion or learned the value of contributing to society.

Sharon was a great role model and team leader. She has true talent teaching responsibility and morals to disrespectful teens. She does it in such a way that it is not perceived as lecturing or preaching. She lives a perfect example of how to lead a happy life without alcohol or drug abuse and makes it seem attainable. I know many will attest to how much she has helped at-risk youth get back on the right track. She has a kind heart and her communication skills are exemplary. She is one of the best women I have had the pleasure of meeting. I am very pleased that she plans on finishing her degree. The degree is only

going to compliment the talent and passion she has for helping kids find their place in this world. I wish her the best of luck in all of her endeavors and will be forever grateful for her mentoring.