April 4, 2014

Senator Mark Kirk

607 East Adams

Suite 1520

Springfield, IL 62701

Dear Senator Kirk:

Amira Millicent Davis, through the fiscal agency of the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center, has recently received a significant grant from the Illinois Humanities Council to support The Community Saturday School, a multigenerational literacy and arts program for African American youth and their families.

We are grateful for the support we have received from the Illinois Humanities Council. The money we received from the Council enables us to compensate literacy facilitators, artists and scholars to work with children and their mothers, purchase books for the youth, and give a small token of appreciation to the mothers who have helped support the program by preparing and serving lunch each Saturday, and sitting with children as they engage in reading and learning about the history and culture of African America. While the program directly serves approximately 35 people, teachers, on the last day of the program, April 26, school administrators, family members, and interested community members will be invited to view the work of the Community Saturday School and engage in discussions with facilitators, parents, instructors, and scholars about teaching the history and culture of African Americans in culturally-centered ways.

Please continue to support the Illinois Humanities Council, which receives significant funding each year from the federal and Illinois Legislatures. The funding awarded by the Illinois Humanities Council makes a real difference to small and large organizations throughout the state.

Should you be in Urbana on May 4 between 3 and 5 p.m., the Community Saturday School will be holding an open house and potluck at the UC-IMC in to celebrate the achievements of the students, to reward them with a set of books, and to plan for the future of the Community Saturday School. You are invited to attend.

Respectfully,

Amira Millicent Davis, Daniel Chynoweth

Director and Program Coordinator, Institutional Officer

Community Saturday School Urbana-Champaign, IMC