



BENEDICTINE SISTERS

SACRED HEART MONASTERY
in CULLMAN, ALABAMA

916 Convent Road NE, Cullman, AL 35055 ~ www.shmon.org ~ (256)734-4622

October 9, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

Beginning May, 2008, the Benedictine Sisters of Cullman, Alabama began an almost four year relationship with American City Bureau, Inc. During that time, a Developmental Study, a Feasibility Study and a Capital Campaign were conducted under the guidance of American City Bureau (ACB). We were seeking to raise \$8.4 million for a construction project in order to renovate our main monastery building that was well over a hundred years old and to enhance our retreat center facilities with both renovated and new buildings. The overall experience of working with ACB left the sisters of our religious community with a feeling of accomplishment and a deeper understanding of our relationship with our donors and to those with whom we minister.

From the top leadership of ACB to the consultants who assisted us regularly to the office staff at their main office, all seemed to work seamlessly in assisting us in optimizing our potential growth as a non-profit organization. Although our development office had been in existence for ten years, a large capital campaign was a new adventure for us. ACB's counsel not only prepared us for a capital campaign, but assisted us in establishing policies and procedures that will serve our development office and community for years to come.

It was most important to us that the fundraising consultant selected to assist us would be able to truly hear our needs and provide the best personnel to assist us. Leslie Mollsen did just that! The senior consultant selected to journey with us for those years could not have been better matched for our community and our needs at that time.

As a direct result of working with ACB, we have grown in understanding and practice of our communication and fundraising efforts. In addition, we have strengthened our relationship with volunteers who journey with us in promoting the ministries and good works of the sisters.

Although, at this time, it has been nine months since the contractual relationship with ACB ended, the ongoing support continues. Even though ACB's physical presence is no long with us, we do continue to reap the benefits of their wisdom and guidance by remaining in contact on an as-needed basis. The relationship that has developed between ACB's personnel and our sisters is one of great respect. We hope to maintain our personal, as well as professional, contact with them for years to come.

We strongly recommend ACB to any nonprofit group who might be looking for consultants to walk with them through the "unknowns" of a development office evaluation as well as a capital campaign project. They truly performed beyond our expectations and we thank God for them and their presence in our lives.

Sincerely,

Sister Janet Marie Flemming, OSB
Sister Janet Marie Flemming, OSB
Prioress

Sister Tonette Sperando, OSB
Sister Tonette Sperando, OSB
Campaign Director

"WE BELIEVE THAT GOD IS HERE AND CAN BE FOUND, AND THAT A DIVERSITY
OF PERSONS BONDED INTO UNITY SHOWS CHRIST TO A DIVIDED WORLD."