

UNITY BARN RAISERS

“Working Together to Build a Better Community”

June 17, 2019

Dear Ecology Learning Center:

Unity Barn Raisers is excited to hear of your plans to launch an ecology-based, charter high school in western Waldo county. We welcome you to the area and are eager to collaborate with your students and faculty for the betterment of our community.

Unity Barn Raisers is a nonprofit working pro-actively to enhance the small-town character and rural environment of Western Waldo County's rural communities. UBR has programs and activities to support rural downtown vitality and community health and wellness. We serve as a model for other communities throughout Maine. Unity Barn Raisers has been making an impact and building community for over 23 years, with a variety of ongoing programs such as our Gleaning Initiative, Fitness Center, Unity Market Days, Trails Programs, Community Meals, and more. We have recently resumed oversight for Veggies for All, the successful food bank farm initiative. Once a year, we coordinate and host a community-wide Day of Service across several towns. In 2018 we developed a strategic plan, with key focus areas of food security and supporting local youth. Partnering with the Ecology Learning Center would further both of these objectives.

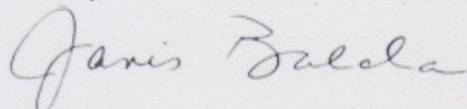
Our activities and programs thrive with volunteer energy and we envision integrating interested high school students into our ongoing programs:

- Triplet Park maintenance
- CommUnity Trails maintenance
- Western Waldo county Gleaning Initiative, Veggies for All, and other food access initiatives
- Weekly free community lunch program

Any of these programs could accommodate students fulfilling community volunteer service hours or deeper exploration through internship projects.

We look forward to a productive, mutually-beneficial partnership with you.

Sincerely,



Janis Balda
Chair of the Board
Unity Barn Raisers