

MAY 21, 2024  
Town of Saratoga  
P. O. Box 486  
Saratoga, WY 82331

Wyoming Intertie Community Investment Program  
c/o Wyoming Community foundation  
1472 N 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Suite 201  
Laramie, WY 82072

Regarding: Grant Submission  
Valley Village Childcare  
Saratoga, WY 82331

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

*Thank you for the opportunity to state the whole-hearted support of the Town Council of Saratoga, and me personally as Mayor, on the Grant submission by Valley Village Childcare. We are in full support of the proposal that has been submitted, asking for funding for a much-needed investment in the outdoor education and play area and the funds needed to repair the Childcare's parking lot, which has been deemed, by insurance providers, as unsafe and dangerous for our children, families, and staff.*

*The Town is pleased to be partnering with Valley Village Childcare as they are providing broad impact on the quality of life in Carbon County and are addressing an important community issue and problem - the need for quality childcare for our youngest children.*

*We, the Town Council of Saratoga WY, knew that childcare was critical to the North Platte River Valley; we knew because the community said so as early as 2016 when we developed the 2016 Master Plan for the Valley. We knew when staffing the new Critical Care Hospital needed childcare services to support the incoming professionals' children; we knew when the local internationally renowned Brush Creek Ranch was considering creating their own daycare to support their hundreds of semi seasonal employees; and we certainly knew when our own friends and families had issues either hiring or being able to work due to lack of childcare for young children.*

*Because of the obvious need, we supported Valley Village Childcare in acquiring a suitable building to house a sizable commercial operation. In May 2023, we sold the building which formally housed a medical clinic to Valley Village Childcare for \$1.00. Our objective was to expand daycare in line with the Town's long-range Master Plan and, at the same time, have childcare in the same building with Developmental Assessment and Preschool, enabling children to move between the services, in a single building.*

*Our 30-year-old building required significant maintenance and repairs, while the parking lot needed significant repair. Our Town budget could not*

*consider undertaking this financial burden nor the upgrades needed to meet the State and local regulations to make it a Childcare facility. Nor could we have undertaken the construction of a suitable play area.*

*We were able to assist with timely water taps, 4-way stops, easements and legal reviews.*

*The Valley Village Board of Directors have been successful in raising the funds needed for the remodel, having raised \$1,000,000 from individuals, functions, foundations, and grant organizations. Your support to complete the play area and repair the parking lot will help us finish this important community resource.*

*As of June 1, 2024 Valley Village will be the only licensed Childcare operation in the North Platte River Valley. The Childcare facility is licensed for forty-eight children, and now has 34 enrolled kiddos. We anticipate we will be at full capacity early next year.*

*The proof of need and success are in the numbers:*

- ✓ *The Center provides childcare services to those employed in Encampment (1), Rawlins (3), rural county (4), Sinclair (2), remote workers (4), and Saratoga (37) .*
- ✓ *The center currently employs 11 staff distributed across Saratoga (6) Hanna (1) Rawlins (1) Encampment (1) rural county (2).*

*Thank you for your consideration of the Valley village Childcare submission.*

*Sincerely,*

*Chuck Davis – Mayor  
Town of Saratoga, WY*