

# Tallmadge City Schools

## TRADITION • VISION • EXCELLENCE

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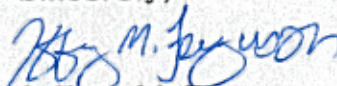
My name is Jeffrey M. Ferguson and I am the Superintendent of the Tallmadge City Schools. I am writing this testimony on behalf of the United Way of Summit County's Bridges Out of Poverty training program. I have served as the Superintendent for twelve years and in that time have had few training programs as powerful as the Bridges Out of Poverty program. Engaging two hundred teachers is no easy task but the United Way staff did it in a personal and professional manner. The day was a powerful, eye opening experience for my staff about the obstacles our children of poverty face each day. Equally powerful was the Bridges staff's ability to help us begin to create action steps for our district.

As a result of the training, we now have a District Steering Committee dedicated to assisting our children of poverty break the cycle. This training should be a catalyst for communities across Ohio to break the cycle of poverty. It is a unique training program that brings together all the stakeholders invested in a community.

First and foremost we have a moral obligation to assist our neighbors when they are in need. However, equally important is getting people back to work with the skills to contribute to a community economically and socially. When we break the cycle of poverty, we are empowering individuals to become contributors to a community.

Finally, I hope you will consider continuing to support this work through HBC. The benefit to communities they serve will exceed the investment significantly. I have already seen the change in the Tallmadge City Schools staff from the first day of training.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey M. Ferguson  
Superintendent