

2. Sample letter to a business where you don't personally know anyone you could ask about encouraging the company to donate to WPA.

First, call the company and ask the person who answers the phone for the name of the person who makes decisions about donations the company makes. Ask for the correct spelling of the person's name and their title. Address this letter to that person.

Feel free to use as much of this letter as you want to and to change anything that you think should be changed.

When you meet with the person, explain more about how important both homeschooling and WPA are to you and your family. You may want to include some of the information from the letter below dated November, 2008 that begins "Dear WPA Member."

If you want more ideas or have questions, call the WPA voice mail at 608-283-3131 and leave a message.

Dear [Name of potential donor]:

Mr. Miller needed a reliable administrative assistant who could assume increasing responsibility as his new business grew. As Mr. Miller was already familiar with the strong attributes homeschoolers generally possess, he looked first among homeschool graduates. Thanks to Aaron's homeschooling experience, he was a quick study. He wanted to know the "why" behind operations. He was good with people. With Aaron's initiative, creativity, and commitment, Mr. Miller's business thrives.

Homeschoolers make outstanding employees. Increasingly employers, institutions of higher education, and the general public recognize the value of grown homeschoolers. These young people have solid academic skills. They have experience in the real world. They are accustomed to taking initiative and exercising responsibility.

Homeschooling strengthens families. Homeschooling families take personal responsibility for their children's education. They learn to stand up for themselves. Recognizing that government regulations always accompany government funds, they choose independence.

Homeschooling saves taxpayers money. Wisconsin taxpayers pay over \$12,000 each year for each public school student. If the 20,000 homeschoolers went to public schools, it would cost taxpayers \$240 million dollars - nearly a quarter of a billion.

Homeschooling represents a true choice in education. It has a proven track record. Along with other approaches to education, it needs and deserves donations from private sources.

In a society dominated by public schools, homeschoolers need information and support. For 25 years, the Wisconsin Parents Association (WPA) has supported homeschoolers.

- WPA has taken on the bureaucratic schools, created a true alternative, empowered families, and won.
- In 1984, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction tried to gain control of homeschools. WPA was founded to stop them. WPA succeeded.
- Nearly every year since 1984, someone has tried to increase state control of homeschooling. Each time, WPA has fought back. Each time, WPA has won.
- WPA has a strong reputation in the Wisconsin Legislature. It doesn't want government money or favors. It is not a lobbying organization. Instead, it is a nonprofit educational organization that informs parents and policy makers. It works to maintain homeschooling freedoms and to empower parents and families to be strong and independent.

Jason has Down syndrome. By the time Jason was twelve, it was clear that the public schools were not meeting his individual needs. WPA gave Jason's parents the information and encouragement they

needed. Parents are in the best position to understand the unique characteristics, abilities, and challenges of each child. Through homeschooling, Jason blossomed. He is now able to read books and music, play the piano, and write simple sentences – success beyond the expectations of the public school he attended.

By empowering families, WPA has helped craft a true alternative to the public school. Since 1984, WPA has contributed to a solid education for thousands of students by strengthening families.

Professional associations such as those for teachers and mental health workers are working to take on key functions traditionally held by the family. WPA informs parents of their rights and responsibilities. This key information gives parents the strength to stand up to professionals who are intruding in decisions parents should make based on their own family's needs and values.

As you undoubtedly know, our society needs strong grassroots organizations to stand up to government bureaucracies and other impersonal institutions. Independent organizations are needed that teach people how to fish rather than handing them a prepared dinner. Organizations need to fight for the family. WPA is such an organization.

When you donate to WPA:

- You support an approach to education that consistently produces outstanding workers.
- You strengthen families, the foundation of society and a strong economy.
- You save yourself and other Wisconsin taxpayers a quarter of a billion dollars each year.
- You support true choice in education. Homeschooling gives parents the opportunity to choose an education for their children that is consistent with their principles and beliefs.
- You ensure that parents are able to stand up to bureaucracies and professionals.

Your tax-deductible donation will:

- Enable WPA to improve and expand its website to meet the increasing demand for readily available information.
- Allow WPA to work with parents to ensure that public policy and professional and bureaucratic interests do not usurp parents' critical role during the preschool years. Help WPA launch a new program for parents seeking better choices than the aggressively-growing universal preschool movement.

I'll call you next week to set up a meeting to discuss WPA's work and the benefits of donating to WPA.

Sincerely,

[Your signature]

[Your full name]

P. S. Strong families mean successful educational experiences and a strong economy, and homeschooling strengthens families.