



Carolyn Bingham <cbaqua5@gmail.com>

Carolyn Bingham Swimming

MEG MURPHY <meg.isaac@gmail.com>

Thu, Mar 14, 2019 at 8:04 AM

To: wethridge@westtown.org

Bcc: cbaqua5@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Etheridge,

I am writing to let you know about our positive experience with Carolyn Bingham and her swimming instruction. I am Meg Murphy of Downingtown and the mother of three children. My oldest son, Finn, is 8 and has nonverbal autism. Finn has always loved the water ever since he was a little baby. As he grew and began to walk we realized this love could become very dangerous for him, and we always had to keep a very close eye on him whenever we were close to any type of water. On Father's Day 2016 our worst nightmare came true. He was five years old at the time and we were at my sister in law's house with all of our family celebrating the amazing fathers in our lives. Finn snuck away, despite the many watchful eyes of loved ones, and moments later we found him face down in the large pond on the property. My husband spotted him as he was running to him from across the yard, and saw him trying to regain his footing, but the muddy pond bottom just sucked him under. Luckily, my husband got to him in time and Finn was ok. But from that moment on we knew we had to get really serious about Finn learning to swim. We had done private lessons at ACAC for many sessions with little success. Then a friend told us about Carolyn Bingham. We learned through the grapevine that four of our friends with special needs actually used her to learn how to swim. We were thrilled at the possibility. When we went to see Carolyn Finn liked her right away. She treated him with respect and helped him to develop confidence in the water. She taught him that he was capable and he could do it. After three lessons he was successfully treading water and getting to the side of the pool from a few feet away. I was blown away. She truly has a gift with kids like our Finn, and we will be forever in her debt for teaching him to swim. For us it's not just a leisure activity or a fun sport, but a matter of life and death. Finn still has a lot to learn in the water, and we look forward to continuing lessons with Carolyn this spring. I understand that her neighbor has found her swim instructions inconvenient, and I hope hearing from families like ours will help convince the township of the impact she is making for families and children in our community. She has always been very careful that we park in the correct locations and we have always been sure to abide by those instructions. Thanks so much for your time,

Meg Murphy

610-620-3894



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Document 30

March 14, 2019

Dear Mr. Will Ethridge:

I am pleased to write a letter of support on behalf of Ms. Carolyn Bingham, who I understand is seeking a Zoning Home Occupational Permit to offer swimming classes at her residence.

I have known Carolyn for more than three years in my previous capacity as Associate Professor and Chair of Hospitality & Recreation Management and now as Professor and Coordinator of Hotel, Restaurant & Tourism Management. I have had the opportunity in diverse settings to weigh Carolyn's qualifications, observe her class interactions, and work alongside her, and can attest that she is a talented, positive, and safety-conscious professional, who adeptly engages students and has contributed a great deal to our University.

For your information, Carolyn has taught such courses as Beginning Swimming, Intermediate Swimming, Health & Wellness, and First Aid & CPR in the Recreation & Leisure Management Program, now in the Department of Business, Education & Professional Studies. She has been quite successful at teaching students to swim, enhancing their aquatic abilities, educating them about health, and helping them attain applicable certification.

I strongly support Carolyn's endeavors and invite you to contact me with any related questions. I am available via email at iturnipseed@cheyney.edu and by phone at 702-767-0620 (cell) and 610-399-2559 (office).

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ivan B. Turnipseed".

Ivan B. Turnipseed, PhD, Professor and Coordinator
Hotel, Restaurant & Tourism Management Program
Department of Business, Education & Professional Studies



Carolyn Bingham <cbaqua5@gmail.com>

Letter of Support - Carolyn Bingham

Thu, Mar 14, 2019 at 12:33 AM

Ivan Turnipseed <ITurnipseed@cheyney.edu>

To: "wethridge@westtown.org" <wethridge@westtown.org>

Cc: Carolyn Bingham <CBingham@cheyney.edu>, "cbaqua5@gmail.com" <cbaqua5@gmail.com>

Dear Will,

Attached, please find a formal letter of support on behalf of Carolyn Bingham.

Feel free to reach out with any related questions.

Regards,

Ivan

Ivan B. Turnipseed, PhD

Professor and Coordinator - Hotel, Restaurant & Tourism Management

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<http://www.cheyney.edu/hrm/index.cfm>

President, HBCU Hospitality Management Consortium

 **Letter of Support for Carolyn Bingham - 3.14.19.pdf**
348K

Sunday, 2.24.19

Dear Zoning Board in West Chester, PA

Hi. My name is Pete Lake. I'm writing a note to commend my friend and mentor, Carolyn Bingham. She lives at 931 Sage Road in West Chester.

Carolyn has a swimming pool in her back yard. It has a retractable cover over it.

I visit her pool six days a week, to co-teach with her five of those days and clean the pool on the sixth day. To say I co-teach with her is a bit misleading. I teach, yes, but Carolyn teaches me to teach better. I think she's one of the finest swimming instructor in the mid-Atlantic region. She helps kids on the spectrum and those who aren't. She works her magic every day, every lesson. She's a cutting-edge instructor.

I met Carolyn in the fall of 2017. We taught swimming together at Strath Haven High School on Saturday mornings. She developed and ran the weekend program. She hired her instructors and lifeguards and put us all to work. But she led the way. She showed us how to do it. She was in the water with us. Every week, she would give me hints to make my lessons better. And we all had fun in the process. The kids who came for lessons learned how to swim. *All* of them.

During the first week in January 2018, the cover for her home pool was installed. Instead of Strath Haven 82 degree water (good for swim team kids), she has her water set at 87 or 88 degrees, 24/7. The water in her pool is impeccably clean, too. She keeps it balanced. [I'm a CPO (Certified Pool Operator) and I know this to be true.]

On June 30, 2018, Carolyn resigned from her position at Strath Haven and went "full time" in her pool in West Chester. Then she invited me to join up with her in October 2018. It's been the best "job" I've ever had. You see, I'm a retired school teacher of 27 years. So I have time on my hands these days. I write and teach swimming in my free time. Thus, I've chosen to volunteer my time to her and the students who are drawn to her pool. I find few things compare to seeing a non-swimmer become a competent swimmer.

I made a list of descriptors that speak of Carolyn's character.

- 1) Wise.
- 2) Skilled.
- 3) Always improving.
- 4) Master Teacher.
- 5) Firm but gentle.
- 6) Safety-minded.
- 7) Joyful.
- 8) Faithful to the children and parents.
- 9) Honest.
- 10) A gift to the community of West Chester (and many other townships).

I am a richer man for the opportunity she's given me to work at her establishment.

~

That said, I sincerely hope that you will allow Carolyn Bingham to move forward in the good work she began years ago.

Hundreds .. no, **thousands** have benefitted from her instruction. They have become not only "water-safe", but competent and confident swimmers along the way.

We need more people like her in the world, I think.

~

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Feel free to contact me.

Yours,



Pete Lake
swimming instructor

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484-486-0050