

February 26, 2009

Greetings:

I would like to recommend Jennifer Reinke. I was Jennifer's supervisor at Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers (since renamed Milwaukee Riverkeeper) for eight months, and I was consistently impressed with her enthusiasm, passion for learning, and sensitivity to others. Jennifer's high level of organization made it easy for her to work both independently and collaboratively. Her knack for project coordination, skill at managing diverse volunteers, keen writing ability and attention to detail made her a great asset to the organization.

Jennifer never hesitated to assist with projects or take on additional responsibilities, and always worked hard to meet deadlines. Whenever FMR was invited to an event, she volunteered to attend, regardless of the size of the event. She reasoned that it was important to spread our name and message, and did her best to ensure this happened. From supporting me in event and volunteer coordination, as well as writing media advisories, press releases, outreach materials and website articles, to supporting the entire office by cleaning and organizing after large events, Jennifer's ability to see multiple projects through to completion enabled FMR to better fulfill its mission.

Jennifer also exhibits a passion for learning and the arts that I've rarely seen. During her time at FMR, she volunteered to develop a program to involve local students in the arts while learning about the issues that face our rivers. She created the River Art Project and curriculum for local school groups. Jennifer, along with an artist-in-residence, traveled to urban elementary schools to teach kids about the importance of clean rivers and art. She involved students in FMR's annual river cleanup and assisted them in creating sculptures from debris gathered at the cleanup. This was an especially significant project for one of the schools, which lacked an art department and programming. The completed sculptures were exhibited at FMR's Thank You! Event, and the students were invited to join the celebration and share what they learned with our volunteers and members. This project was not initially in her program description, but Jennifer was insistent that it be included as she was eager to teach kids the importance of our rivers through an art project, and felt it would be invaluable to our mission.

Jennifer is an outstanding individual, and I recommend her without hesitation, as I am certain she would be an asset. If you are in need of any further information, feel free to contact me at ehartman@uwalumni.com, or 262-620-6762.

Sincerely,

Erin Hartman
Former Outreach Coordinator
Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers (Milwaukee Riverkeeper)