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To Whom It May Concern:

I had the pleasure of working with **Mohamed Safaoui** in the late winter and into the summer of 2023, while he worked with his team at the Apple Developer Academy to create an app for Mittens for Detroit, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity. The team approached me with an amazing solution to a very real problem that we, like most nonprofits, have – how to manage volunteer data effectively and efficiently.

Mohamed had volunteered with an Apple team to participate in our main volunteer activity – the Big Sort. In an average year, we have about 300 volunteers come to sort, count, and box pairs of new mittens and gloves. I have been using a paper form for the volunteers to use to track their information, hours, and comments that are then transferred manually onto a spreadsheet. Over the ten years that I have been the Executive Director here, volunteer data has been difficult to keep up with, as we have a 1-person office making it difficult to devote the time to work on this as it is collected. Instead, the tracking has been done in bunches. Time spent in this kind of transcription takes valuable time away from working on grants, purchasing mittens, managing our Community Collection Partners, and much more.

Mohamed and his team asked me if we would be interested in having a volunteer tracking app specifically designed to manage and maintain volunteer information and digitally record volunteer work hours. Their primary goal was to simply the process of volunteer management, reducing the Executive Director's administrative workload, allowing me more time to focus on our mission.

I agreed immediately because I had been researching volunteer tracking programs, and they were FAR beyond our small but mighty nonprofit's budget. Mohamed and his team were able to illustrate that the impact of this project would be significant, not only for me but also for the volunteers who would find it easier to sign in and track their hours. It was easy to see that this would also allow for better delivery of our program services by allowing me to have accurate data for grant applications and donor communications. Small nonprofits are often hindered by being under-capitalized and not being able to access programs and apps like this that are so very much needed.

The app is fabulous! The team put together a wonderful product, and I'm excited to roll it out in the fall when we start our next season of volunteers. I have enjoyed working with Mohamed as he is professional, pleasant, and extremely easy to work with. He and the team worked with me step by step to make sure that they understood what I needed, and they included me very much in the process. I am so grateful to Mohamed for having this great idea and then making it happen. This app is going to make a huge difference in our work going forward. I would love to work with Mohamed again, as he is a great and thoughtful team member.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like further information on this great partnership.

Warmly,

Wendy Shepherd

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