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To Whom It May Concern:

When I moved back to the Mississippi delta from Silicon Valley last year, I saw an opportunity to help our communities here by developing an advanced technology training program for high school students. The program is designed to offer basic office software training skills for underemployed *adults* and state-of-the-art programming skills to eager and bright *high school students*.

Such a vision for our community always starts at the organizational structure and organizational status level--incorporation as a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization.

As I approached these foundational steps (my first attempt, by the way), I was fortunate to enlist the services of Baird & Stallings. They assisted in structuring the corporate charter and founding documents, and in the completion of the 'considerable' paperwork for the IRS tax-exemption request.

I had been 'warned' by others that the process could take as long as six months--with numerous exchanges between the tax authorities and the CPA's--but our tax-exempt status was approved in less than 6 *weeks*. I attribute most of this efficiency to the expertise and savvy of Baird and Stallings. Their sage advice both in structuring the organization and in the completion of the filing documents greatly expedited the favorable consideration by the IRS, in my opinion.

On the basis of this initial experience with them, and after numerous subsequent discussions with them about other commercial ventures, I can heartily recommend their firm and service. They were efficient, professional, friendly to deal with--and clearly committed to the success of *my* project.

I hope to fulfill this vision for our community in the coming years, and I fully intend to enlist their further help in achieving this goal.



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