



January 25, 2008

To Whom It May Concern;

In February 2007, Safe and Sound was bound and determined to pull off the impossible – plan and execute a city-wide summit designed to attract thousands of Baltimore citizens in the span of a few short months. We knew we needed help, perhaps even divine intervention, to achieve our ambitious goals and, to our good fortune, that assistance came in the form of Dani Johnson of Special Gatherings, LLC.

We first met Dani at the Maryland Association of Non-Profit Organizations annual Event Planning Expo. In a room full of event planners, Dani's creativity, strength of spirit, and positive energy made her our standout choice. In our first meeting, she quickly assessed our situation, and connected personally with our mission. We were also impressed with her ability to take something grand in scale and parse it out into manageable pieces. Her network of professional connections brought us fantastic vendors who did amazing work in exhibit design, installation and general event support.

From the beginning of March to event day on May 12, 2007, in addition to being a crackerjack manger of logistics, Dani was our go-to person, our cheerleader, and our touchstone. On a practical level Dani's responsibilities included keeping us on schedule and on mission with a sophisticated work-plan and production map; recruiting and managing vendors, volunteers and exhibitors; and providing coordination on-site of the event day. On a personal level, she provided on-going encouragement, eased anxieties, smoothed out conflict and buffered us from the inevitable bumps along the way.

The proof is always in the pudding. The Baltimore Opportunity Summit was a resounding success. Everyone who participated in the event including vendors, volunteers, exhibitors, performers and people just attending commented on how enjoyable, professional, and well run the day was. We share a generous portion of the credit with Dani and her invaluable guidance and assistance. While Dani is clearly focused on providing excellent service for mission driven events, we would enthusiastically, and without reservation or caveat, recommend Dani's event planning services to anyone in need of her special touch.

Sincerely,

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