Dear Friend of **Grade A Plus**,

 I am excited to finally communicate with you through an email newsletter! I obtained your name and address by an exchange of business cards during a meeting or networking event. As the Executive Director of **Grade A Plus** Incorporated, a small, local, Not- For-Profit business organization that relies on volunteers to help develop marketing strategies, create a brand, develop videos and a website, utilize social media marketing and finally to create an E-Newsletter, am I pleased to be able to send this to you today.

 I am using a regular email account for today because I have to have your permission to send you something via Mailchimp. To continue to receive our future newsletters in ***the Mailchimp*** format, please reply to this email giving permission for us to **SUBSCRIBE** you into Mailchimp, otherwise we’ll just send you a friendly email in this format from time to time. If you don’t want to receive anything from us in any format, just hit reply and indicate that you would like to be removed from our contact list.

 It is our plan to share news about the **Grade A Plus** program, information on the progress and achievement of delivering services, and information that should prove helpful to those who have children or know those who have children needing academic support and enrichment. As a former professor, researcher and scholar, I look forward to sharing information about the work **Grade A Plus** is doing, as well as how similar programs around the country are tackling what are now national concerns regarding educating tomorrow’s youth. Community based programs can make a difference and **Grade A Plus** is doing that very well!

 So, for this first newsletter, I’d like you to know where other sources of information about the **Grade A Plus** program can be found and to know that we are anticipating activating Twitter, Instagram and Blogger accounts by Spring 2020. I hope you’ll stay subscribed to our newsletter to watch and learn how the **Grade A Plus** program is making a difference in Columbia, MO. I’m also attaching a PDF version so you can share it with others on your mailing list.

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/GradeAProgram/>

**Website:** www.gradeaplusinc.com

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6wkeoWd1Xo8&t=1s>



**COMOGIVES is Dec. 1 to 31, 2019!**

  **Grade A Plus** is a participant in this marvelous city-wide appeal that helps Not-For-Profit business organizations come to the attention of the community between Dec. 1-31, 2019. COMOGIVES is a campaign that allows you to donate funds through their digital website using your credit card. Contributions can be helpful in your qualifying for a tax deduction. **Or** you can mail a check directly to **Grade A Plus** at PO Box 30843, Columbia, MO 65205. For those of you who don’t like handling your money through a digital process.

 Your contributions will help **Grade A Plus** accomplish three things in 2020.

**1)** Provide a week of summer camp (their choice) which will include transportation support for a Grade A Plus student who participated in the After School Academic Support Program during the 2019-2020 school year.

**2)** It will increase the **Grade A Plus** transportation support service in 2020. We need more drivers, vehicles and routes to support the children and families that want to participate in the After School Academic Support Program.

**3)** Increase staff support to accommodate the increased enrollment of students and families in 2020.

 Grade A Plus is growing! In 2020, **Grade A Plus** intends to:

* maintain no more than a 1:2 ratio for tutor to student pairings
* maintain transportation time to less than 30 minutes per van trip
* increase personal communication and support for family leaders
* increase the marketing and data collection teams
* increase outreach into the community and increase opportunity for more community participation.

**Your COMOGIVES contribution will help us accomplish these goals in 2020!**

<https://comogives.com/product/grade-a-plus-3/>

**Grade A Plus** has several communication captains helping us this year throughout the month of December to spread the word about the campaign. They are:

Kay Whittler: Board and Staff communications

Julia Angell: Student communications

April Ferraro: Business communications

Janice Threat: Community communications

Watch for our emails, nudges and reminders throughout the remaining month of December!

 **You’re Invited!**

**Grade A Plus** moved into a new office on August 1, 2019 and we’d like to encourage you to stop in and visit us during our first Open House on Thursday, Dec. 12th between 4:30-7:00p.m. Consider it an Afterwork Mixer! Call or text us at 573-268-4372 or email ExecDirector@gradeaplusinc.com to let us know if you can stop by. We’d love to see you and show off our new office space. (310 Tiger Lane, Suite 202A)

 This might also be a good time to drop off a paper contribution for Grade A Plus, see our office and have an after-work snack as well. (P.S.- I’ve asked for all bad weather to be delayed until after the 12th. Let’s see if my request is answered.)

**Passionate about Grade A! Plus**

**Dr. J**