

Barack Obama

July 30, 2007

Victory Outreach International
Attn: Joann Parra
250 West Arrow Highway
San Dimas, CA 91773

Dear Victory Outreach International,

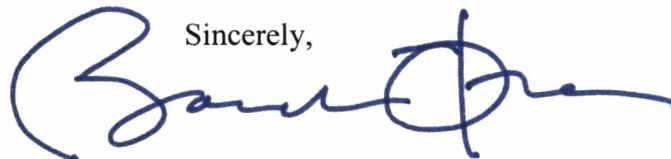
This letter is to congratulate your organization on forty years of bringing hope and opportunity to the neediest Americans, and to wish you many more years of success. I particularly appreciate the opportunity to share these greetings because we share a common mission – to uplift and instill Americans with a feeling of dignity and belonging.

All across the country, people are hungry for change. But when I travel from coast to coast I sense a hunger deeper than any one cause or concern. Americans are deciding that something is missing – that their work, their possessions and their distractions are not enough. They are looking for a sense of purpose.

Victory Outreach International has helped thousands of people reach the same conclusion I did many years ago: that without an anchor for my beliefs – without a commitment to a particular community of faith – I could not be fulfilled.

Too often in these cynical times we forget the abiding truth that we all have the power to create a better world – if only we do God's work here on earth. You and your organization have not only remembered that truth, but have also confirmed it anew. We inhabit a better world thanks to all of you.

I am proud to take this moment to commend Sonny and Julie Arguinzoni and the leadership and members of Victory Outreach International, and I look forward to working with you further in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,


Barack Obama



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