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April 28, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Old National Bank, this letter serves as a reference in support of The Black Jew Dialogues. As a major sponsor of Evansville's Celebration of Diversity Distinguished Lecture Series, Old National was pleased to take part in a free community event featuring Ron Jones and Larry Tish as the show took the audience on a ride through the duo's imaginary three days spent in a cheap hotel discussing history, their experiences and offering solutions. The two-member act play chronicles the experience of blacks and Jews in America and tackles racism and prejudice head-on in both a humorous and poignant way. It was entertaining, humbling, and very saddening at times to put yourself in the characters these gentlemen's represented along with their struggles and was a very thought-provoking, yet lively evening with an uplifting overall message to a nearly full house at The Victory Theatre in Evansville, Indiana, on Tuesday, February 15, 2011.

Old National was also fortunate to participate in a unique opportunity to offer a cultural sensitivity development workshop led by this dynamic duo to a limited number of associates. The training program was designed to provide heightened understanding of ethnic, religious, and socio-economic diversity while providing participants with additional resources to use in personal and workplace settings. All of our associates were glad they participated and even felt as though the 90-minute interactive workshop could have lasted longer as the time went by so quickly.

As part of the five-day community impact visit to the tri-state community, both Ron and Larry took the time to not only get out in the community and attended several church services in both the African-American and Jewish communities, where they spoke to members to learn more about some of our local issues and concerns. This investment of time was greatly appreciated by the sponsors and the Evansville community.

In summary, it is with sincere appreciation that I support The Black Dialogues to other organizations and communities who seek to facilitate diversity initiatives in a respectful and engaging manner.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Janet Heldt'.

Janet Heldt, SPHR  
SVP, Diversity & Work Life Programs