

**Kristin Cavanaugh**

Teacher

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**To Whom It May Concern,**

It is with great enthusiasm and heartfelt support that I write this letter of recommendation for Renee Pitera as she applies for a grant to support her extraordinary work with the Julian Sunny Side Up Animal Sanctuary.

I have known Renee for over 20 years, and in that time, I have come to admire her not only as a successful businesswoman but also as one of the most compassionate and community-minded individuals I've had the pleasure to know. Renee has poured her heart, time, and resources into creating a safe and loving haven for animals in need. Her sanctuary is more than a shelter—it is a place of healing, care, and hope for animals who might not otherwise have a second chance.

What makes Renee truly remarkable is the balance she maintains between running a thriving business and dedicating herself fully to the animals under her care. She is driven, dependable, and endlessly kind. Her work ethic is second to none, and her heart is equally large. She is the kind of person who shows up—for animals, for people, and for her community.

As a teacher, I value individuals who lead by example and inspire others to be better, more caring citizens. Renee does exactly that. She not only rescues animals but also raises awareness, fosters empathy, and brings people together around a shared purpose of kindness and compassion.

An example of this is when Renee and her daughter Adrienne brought Stella to visit my first grade class. Stella is a paralyzed dog who uses wheels to support her back legs in order to move. My students instantly connected with her story as Renee shared how even disabled animals can adjust and flourish with the proper support. Afterwards, we ran with Stella on the track, to the delight of all the students.

A grant would empower Renee to expand the incredible work she is already doing and help even more animals in need. I can think of no one more deserving.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information. I give Renee my highest recommendation.

Warmly,

**Kristin Cavanaugh**

Teacher, La Mesa Spring Valley School District

