



Center for Community Engagement
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To Whom It May Concern:

The University of Cincinnati Center for Community Engagement would like to formally recommend that you extend Brooke & Keith Desserich an invitation to speak at your organization on behalf of *The Cure Starts Now*.

In February 2010, the U.C. Center for Community Engagement, Community Engagement Leadership House (CCE House) students brought the authors of *Notes Left Behind* – Brooke & Keith Desserich to U.C. as a part of their house service project. The CCE House offers a 24-hour-a-day learning, living and social community dedicated to building student leadership through service. Students in this service-themed housing community have three primary commitments throughout the year. First, they must attend a one-day retreat before fall quarter begins. Secondly, students participate monthly in CCE House events that are service, academic or social-related. Finally, students work together on a group house service project, which is identified and enacted by the students throughout the academic year.

Bringing the Desserich's to the University of Cincinnati was initially proposed by a CCE House student resident; a second-year nursing student who was deeply affected by the book after reading it last summer. When the rest of the residents read the book, they were immediately touched by the story and collectively they explored ways that they could advocate on behalf of *The Cure Starts Now Foundation*.

Inviting the Desserich's to U.C. vaulted the students into a journey of letter writing campaigns, bake sales, fundraising events, marketing plans, and ultimately led to a campus-wide event in which the Desserich's story touched a diverse group of students, faculty and staff, bringing some to tears. Additionally, a number of U.C. students were so inspired by this event that they were empowered to become more involved in *The Cure Starts Now* through donations and direct service.

The Desserich's are some of the most kind and giving people. They have been compelled to tell their story solely for the purpose of increasing the quality of life for others through the search for a "homerun" cure for all forms of cancer. Their motivation is pure, and this resonates in both their presentation and in the work of the *The Cure Starts Now Foundation*.

We highly recommend Brooke and Keith Desserich. Their message is genuine and the Desserich's desire to make a difference can be felt through each teardrop shed by the audience as they listen to this journey of life, love, and the importance of enjoying the simple moments in life.

Sincerely,
The Center for Community Engagement
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