

My name is Ademir Escobar, the Youth Services Program Manager at the Family Wise agency. In my role I oversee Family Wise's High-Fidelity Wraparound program. This letter of support is to share real life experiences of families that have gone through multiple services, Wraparound being the "last resort" before out-of-home placement is considered.

Rogelio C. is a young adult that has successfully completed Wraparound and has asked for his story to be heard in hopes to share the impact the Wraparound facilitator and his "Wrap Team" has made in his life. Rogelio was a youth that was placed on Extended Juvenile Jurisdiction Probation (EJJ) stemming from a felony charge. He described this incident as "something stupid I did because my head wasn't in the right place." Rogelio has shared multiple times that he felt that the Wraparound Facilitator took the time to understand his story and shared, "When I shared my story and I didn't feel judged by you." He explained that throughout his life he's had several case managers at school, therapist, mentors, but felt that Wraparound showed him a different perspective on making a change in his life. Rogelio described, "My Wraparound worker took the time to ask me what I valued and what I wanted to work on instead of telling me what I should be doing and how I should be doing it." As Wraparound Facilitators we value the input from the families we work with knowing that we have to meet them where they are at. We give opportunities for families to take control of their plans and as a team, we work towards their goals. Rogelio shared that Wraparound showed him that he does not always have to rely on service providers, rather expand his natural support system. "My therapist was not the only person I could turn to when I needed someone to complain to. In Wraparound, we encourage the families to build a support network that include "natural supports." Natural supports can range from a neighbor, uncle, pastor, friend, and basically anyone that is going to be in the families lives once Wraparound and/or social services start to close out. We want to ensure that the families can rely on these natural supports to help problem solve or turn to when needs arise. Rogelio was a youth that was

not very involved in his community. However, during the phase of picking natural supports, through a friend he heard about Brown Beret and how their organization taps into the Mexican culture. "I was always curious about my ancestry and my culture but never was that curious to get involved." Rogelio leads his own culture groups and practices traditional dancing and teaches the younger generation. Rogelio is a year into his HVAC certificate at the Minneapolis Community & Technical College and has a job with a big company installing roofs for big companies. "Through motivation from my Wraparound worker, I was able to plan ahead and see a future without me going to prison or be stuck in the same position I was in almost two years ago."