



## Spokane Guilds' School

2118 W. Garland Ave.

Spokane, WA 99205

(509) 326-1651

February 26, 2016

Itron Inc.  
2111 North Molter Road  
Liberty Lake, WA 99019-9469  
USA

Dear -,

Itron has been well known for supporting a number of qualified non-profits in the community. Itron has helped fund projects benefitting areas in education and health services. At Spokane Guilds' School we follow our mission of, "We believe in the worth of every individual and their right to a meaningful life. Our purpose is to nurture the full potential of families and their children, from birth to three, with disabilities. We do this through a personalized, comprehensive program of assessment, therapy, education, and support." The Spokane Guilds' School is planning for a new project to allow updates to a timeworn paper file system to electronic medical records. This new technology would allow our school to run more efficiently. We are asking for \$30,000 for the first year to help get our project underway.

The Spokane Guilds' School opened in September of 1960 as a respite care center for families with children with disabilities. Since that time, our school has now grown into a full-time center with professional and specialized staff serving children, birth-to-three, with a diversity of disabilities. Our school provides children with special education programs and personalized treatment programs that include occupational, physical, and speech therapies. Spokane Guilds' School also houses Eastern Washington's first neuromuscular center directed by knowledgeable pediatric nurses, a pediatrician, and a medical needs social worker. Our center has become a major player in Spokane's medical community. In the 2013/2014 school years, Spokane Guilds' School served 234 children, a 9% increase from the previous year. Last year, our average enrollment was up 3% each month to 141 children and families. At Spokane Guilds' School we are proud to say that 18% of our graduates left our school needing no further therapeutic services and with age appropriate skills. The ability to pay is not an obstacle for families. As a non-profit we will never

turn a child away because of inability to pay. In fact, 80% of all families served live at or below the poverty line.

Every year, over 1,000 children in the Spokane area will be born with a developmental delay. Children who do not receive proper intervention for their personalized needs in their early years often require special education services throughout their schooling. The benefits of early intervention are undeniable. Washington State Department of Early Learning states, "29% of toddlers exiting early intervention did not qualify for special education at age 3" and that "86% of families surveyed reported early intervention helped them to help their child develop and learn." Without access to early intervention programs, schools would have an increase in children needing special education by the age of three. In addition, eligible children could need more extensive and costly specialized education and therapeutic services than they would have needed if they had received assistance from early intervention learning.

Itron has shown to have a major focus in the betterment of education in our community as a means for nurturing the growth of a vibrant society. Spokane Guilds' School requests assistance with the technology needed to update our system to electronic medical records. With access to this crucial technology, our school would be able to run medical record keeping more resourcefully. With this increased productivity, the advancement would increase the protection of patient records, patient safety, and overall reliable patient care. The digitalization of our medical records will allow an enhancement to our team approach by allowing smooth accessibility of records between therapist, medical staff, and teachers to design the most effective personalized care plan to each child. It is this team environment that truly separates the Spokane Guilds' School from other like agencies, and allows us to design the most optimal individualized care program for every student at the Spokane Guilds' School.

The Spokane Guilds' School truly appreciates your consideration for allowing us to submit a full proposal for funding of electronic medical records. Please do not hesitate to contact us at (509) 326-1651 with any questions about our program.

Sincerely,