



EDWARD A. DIANA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Dear Friend of Orange County:

Tragically, several Orange County communities have been affected by youth suicide and suicide attempts in recent months; a number of serious incidents have also been attributed to bullying, cyber bullying, and other issues of youth violence. So that others may be spared the heartache of similar tragedy, the need for us to speak directly to our youth is now more critical than ever. That's why I'm pleased to announce that Orange County will be supporting and sponsoring the musical production "Letters to Daddy – *the Musical Key to Bully Free*" from 4eProductions.

I invite you to show your support as well.

Through the efforts of Orange County Department of Social Services, Youth Bureau, System of Care, and Probation, as well as many other County departments and community-based not-for-profit organizations, we work diligently to provide a safe environment for our youth. Bullying, especially with the pervasive nature of social media sites, texting, and cell phones today, is a serious issue requiring the attention and concerted efforts of the community. That's why County Government, Orange-Ulster BOCES, and the school districts in Orange County, to mention just a few, have been working collaboratively to ensure we have quality programs in place to address this critical issue.

4eProductions now joins the ranks of those committed to helping our community's young people. Beginning later this year, they will provide each and every interested elementary and middle school in Orange County's 17 school districts with an engaging musical production that will create opportunities for dialogue and education on relevant social issues faced by our youth.

A member business in the Orange County Business Accelerator, 4eProductions creates and produces multi-media programs for children that carefully balance entertainment and education. "Letters to Daddy--*The Musical Key to Bully Free*" uses the power of peer-influence and development of positive role models to address many life issues, such as bullying, that confront our kids today. The "Letters to Daddy" cast will be comprised entirely of young people from Orange County.

4e Productions was founded by John O'Neill, an Orange County elementary school teacher, and Will Rodman, a former Executive Producer at ESPN. The two life-long friends were inspired to create original programs that promote values, strengthen character and encourage conscious choices. The four "e"s were carefully chosen to

effectively spell out the company's mission to "enlighten, empower, and enrich everyone."

To make this program a success and maximize the positive impact it can have on the young people in our community, I am asking you to consider providing additional funding to help our schools enjoy this incredible program. A variety of sponsorship and advertising opportunities are available that will put your organization's name in front of the more than 50,000 families of schoolchildren throughout our County. The 4eProductions team will soon be reaching out to you to provide additional information and program costs. I encourage you to please find some time in your schedule to meet with them.

Together, we can rally the entire community to promote a culture of caring and kindness in Orange County.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Diana", written in a cursive style.

Edward A. Diana  
County Executive

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