

December 3, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to write this letter on behalf of Ruth Martin.

Since we first met in August 2018, I have been impressed by Ruth's practical empathy and pragmatic problem solving. As an emotional care provider, I can attest to Ruth's quick problem solving in the context of Maitri, a residential HIV/ AIDS facility in San Francisco.

At Maitri, Ruth immersed herself in the culture of the house immediately. Ruth came to Maitri through San Francisco City College's Community Health Worker program. At Maitri, she works as a Therapeutic Interaction Intern leading a weekly art group with Maitri's residence. As group facilitator, she created new curriculum for our residence incorporating their interests, hobbies, and strengths. Ruth quickly established herself as the go-to person to get things done at Maitri, including taking residence to medical appointments as well as helping out around the 'house'. I often found Ruth sitting with a resident in their space, attentively listening to their stories with a warm smile on her face.

Maitri has a diverse community that needs a lot of care, both emotionally and physically. Ruth is welcoming to everyone who walks through Maitri's doors and makes a point to welcome newcomers. In addition to her intern tasks, Ruth also made herself available as a mentor to a resident who would like to attend SF City College. Hearing Ruth apply her arsenal of skills towards another individual's educational goals attests to her education and how she'll be an asset wherever she goes.

I am profoundly proud of the work Ruth has done at Maitri. Ruth will be an added joy wherever she goes.

Best Wishes,

Tajalei Willard

Former Interim Volunteer Coordinator