

Re: Sharon Zook – County Commissioner Reference Letter

To whom it may concern:

It gives me great pleasure to recommend Sharon Zook as a highly qualified and engaged community leader for consideration of the appointment as a County Commissioner for Lebanon, PA. Sharon has an outstanding academic pedigree but is better known as a community servant leader for her engagement in many projects and organizations. I make this recommendation not based on her community achievements and outstanding accomplishments but based on her character and integrity and her aptitude for learning and ambition to make a better place for kids and adults to thrive in the community.

I had the opportunity to meet Sharon several years ago as I was interested to provide a gift for some new basketball courts at the South 6<sup>th</sup> Street playground. When I called the municipality, they put in touch with Sharon who volunteered to set up a 501-c3 to keep the playground alive. She had a vision for how to rebuild the basketball courts as well. I was able to partner with Sharon and she helped raise \$110,000 to create two state-of-the-art basketball courts in heart of Lebanon County. She was able to do this mostly with private funding and sharing the stories and vision for making a difference for the kids in the community. Through my executive role as President of UPMC Hospitals with oversight of 40 hospitals, I interview and mentor many managers and executives and I have learned that these ‘get it done’ skills are so important for success and Sharon has all of them and much more.

Over the past several years Sharon had the vision and followed-up on every detail with fundraising efforts, accounting, vendors, contractors, landscaping etc. Everyone she interacted with knew Sharon was all business and was focused on results and relationships. Sharon impressed everyone with her enthusiasm and professionalism. She has a wonderful presence about her and is she very humble. She understands the importance of values and treats everyone with the utmost dignity and respect.

As a donor, I was always impressed with her work-ethic and ability to execute and get things done. I frequently interview top executives. I rate Sharon among the top community servant leaders I have interacted with throughout the 40 hospital communities that I manage with hospitals across the state of PA. In my dealing with Sharon, she always demonstrated preparedness, thoughtfulness, clear articulation, and a level of personal-professional introspection. Sharon is an outstanding communicator who can tailor her message to the community and key stakeholders. This is an important skill that usually takes much time to develop; it is a marker of Sharon’s maturity and ability to lead.

I observe Sharon to be extraordinarily thoughtful. She understands the importance of establishing strong relationships with community leaders and businesses. Sharon is passionate about becoming a County Commissioner because she truly wants to make a difference and improve the community and the lives of many. Based on her work ethic and compassion, I am confident she will deliver results at a very high level. In closing, Sharon is a bright, motivated, and a deeply committed individual with outstanding community service skills. The combination of these personal traits along with her outstanding drive and energy makes Sharon an outstanding candidate for County Commissioner. I am proud to provide Sharon this letter of recommendation and strongly hope you will give her your fullest consideration.

Sincerely,

*Mark S. Sevco*

Mark S. Sevco  
President, UPMC Hospitals  
UPMC Health Services Division