

To Whom It May Concern:

I first met Steven Reece in 2014 during a visit to the Jewish cemetery in Oświęcim. Steven was working there with a crew from The Matzevah Foundation and we talked. In 2015 while I was working in Warsaw at the Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland (FODZ), Steven and I met up, this time to discuss FODZ's launching of a new project - Adopt A Cemetery - intended to inspire Jewish descendants to become working partners with FODZ in the care and annual maintenance of Jewish cemeteries connected with their family roots. I was already aware of past partnership projects Steven had had with FODZ, and that those projects had received a lot of very positive feedback from Jewish descendant groups abroad. Together we identified cemetery projects, several of which were realized between TMF and FODZ in 2015 and 2016. Steven and I worked closely together throughout this period, mostly via email, but there were also times when Steven came to Warsaw. I participated with him in meetings with FODZ's CEO and accompanied him on one or two occasions to meet with local Polish city administration officials. I was always very impressed with Steven's deferential treatment, his understanding of the practical demands of organizing these projects, and his sensitivity to issues important to Jewish and non-Jewish stakeholders.

During this same 2-year period, my husband and I twice joined TMF as off-time volunteers clearing at the Jewish cemetery in Nasielsk; doing so gave me hands-on experience with tools, a feel for on-the-ground issues posed by the terrain itself (plants, garbage, adjacent neighbors, etc), and seeing firsthand Steven's motivational methods with volunteers. I was particularly impressed with his practice of having volunteers share their daily experiences with the group, and his push

to get volunteers to extrapolate greater meaning from the day-to-day physical demands of the clearing tasks. The two positive experiences in Nasielsk motivated me to ask Steven to come to Rohatyn in western Ukraine to work at the old Jewish cemetery there (where I have had a heritage project for nearly eight years), and that project was realized in summer 2018. Steven's presence in Rohatyn solidified for me what I saw and learned firsthand from Steven in Nasielsk; specifically, successfully stimulating broader ideals to motivate people to become volunteers, even at cemeteries in which they have no family connection. I feel confident that going forward, these skills will be of great use when we return to work again in Rohatyn's cemeteries in summer 2019.

Sincerely,

Marla Raucher Osborn

Founder and CEO of Rohatyn Jewish Heritage

www.rohatynjewishheritage.org