

11/5/12 - Spoke with Robin Cline to advise her the grant request would be on the agenda for the December Board of Directors meeting.

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CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
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GRANT APPLICATION. Due Dates April 15th and November 1st

Date: October 31, 2012

Name of Organization (must match IRS 501(c)(3) designation) Kickapoo Cultural Exchange (KCE).
Ridge and Valley Restorative Justice (RVRJ) is a project of KCE.

Address KCE P.O. Box 276 Gays Mills, WI 54631 / RVRJ P.O. Box 435 Prairie du Chien, WI 53821

City, State, Zip Prairie du Chien, WI 53821

Phone (608) 326-2407

Person Responsible for the Grant Robin Cline, Program Director

Position in the Organization Program Director

Organization's Purpose KCE works to support cultural, educational and environmental causes throughout the region. RVRJ seeks to promote the well-being of the region ~~through~~ by providing opportunities for conflict resolution through mediated dialogue and negotiation.

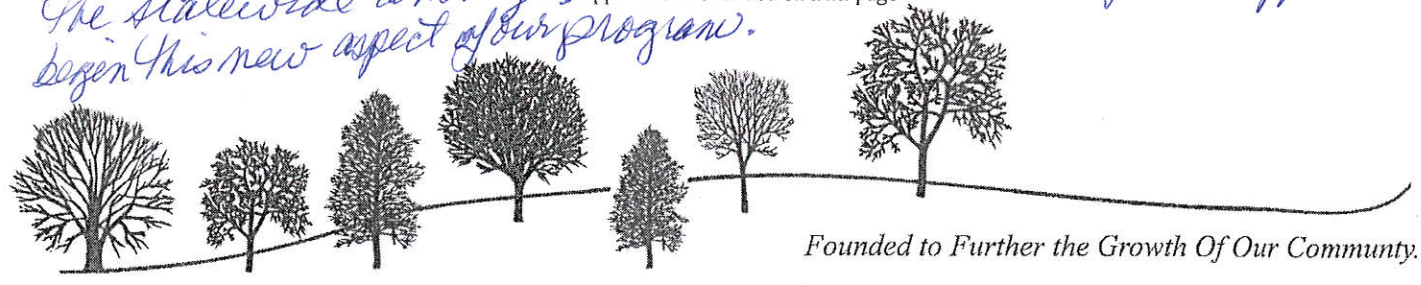
This application must include your organization's latest IRS Letter of Determination showing exemption and public support status. (Not required for units of Government & public schools).

Grant Request \$ 450.-

Describe the reason for this grant request in the space below:

RVRJ has been asked by The Grant County Court Judge and by Grant County Human Services to provide Victim-Impact Panels to address driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Offenders are court-ordered to attend and to pay a fee. Those who have been harmed volunteer to share the effect of the accident on them and their family. Grant County has a higher rate of driving under the influence than the statewide average. We ask for support to begin this new aspect of our program.

-Application continued on next page-



Founded to Further the Growth Of Our Community.

Attachments to this grant that we find useful in considering your grant request.

- A. Supporting information.
 - 1. Specific use of grant.
 - 2. Time schedule.
 - 3. Other sources of funding.
 - 4. Describe the effect of postponing your request to another time.
 - 5. Describe who, when, how and where will the effects of this grant be felt.

- B. Your organization's history, activities, services, and composition. (Videos are of limited use.)

Applications are considered in June and December of each year. The corresponding deadlines are May 1st and November 1st. Concise grants that address the needed information are appreciated.

PLEASE SEND THIS APPLICATION TO ELMER G BIDDICK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION:

Biddick, Inc.
11623 State Road 80
Livingston, WI 53554
Phone (608) 943-6363
Fax (608) 943-6365

Attachments

Specific use of grant

The grant money would be used to establish a fund for those who have suffered harm due to a driver under the influence to provide a stipend towards their travel expenses related to serving in a voluntary capacity on a Victim Impact Panel. This request was recent and so there was no allowance in our current budget (fiscal year June 1 – May 31) for starting Victim Impact Panels.

Time Schedule

We hope to begin the Victim Impact Panels in January, 2013.

Other Sources of Funding

We have applied to the Alliant Energy Foundation and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Foundation.

Describe the effect if the activities of the grant are put off to another time

The primary goal of this effort is to reduce incidences of driving under the influence of alcohol. Grant County has a consistent record of fatal accidents due to driving under the influence that is approximately twice that of the state average. Research shows that participation in Victim Impact Panels results in long-term changes in offenders including emotional development and reduction of repeated occurrences. The goal of the Panels includes helping offenders become more whole, responsible members of our communities. Victims also experience healing effects that result from sharing the impact to their lives and their family members' lives.

Sustainability of such a community resource as RVRJ is dependent upon finding programs that are in demand and which can support themselves as well as aid in covering some of the programs overhead. We feel, after researching other communities' Victim Impact Panels, that this program is one that will, after the initial set up period, provide a source of income to the RVRJ Program primarily from fees paid by participants.

Describe who, when, how, where the effects of the grant will be felt

In Grant County, a judge has studied the beneficial effect of Victim Impact Panels on driving under the influence and has decided to work toward establishing these in the county. He has asked RVRJ to lead this effort and offered his support. The concern for youth involved in driving under the influence is of particular concern. Barring a fatal accident, injuries as well as a poor driving record can mar a young person's success. Furthermore, for those who eventually become incarcerated due to multiple offenses, there is the threat of young people becoming caught in cyclic incarceration. More than 60% of those who complete a prison sentence are

unsuccessful at integrating into society through employment and civic engagement. They often commit another offense and return to prison. Beyond the societal cost of an average of \$32,000 per year, the far greater loss is of an actively employed, civically engaged individual in the community.

Participation in the listening process and development of empathy for the victims of driving under the influence is shown in studies to be most beneficial for first-time offenders. Development of the ability to see the results of one's actions, to feel empathy for victims and to take responsibility for one's self is critical to one's ability to resist driving under the influence in the future. Through surveys, those who have driven under the influence and caused harm have revealed often insightful, transformative experiences as a result of attending Victim Impact Panels, experiences that lead them to greater stability and value for their own lives and the lives of others. They are more likely to be able to maintain their role as viable members of a community.

Likewise, victims, whose participation is always on a strictly voluntary basis, find answers and some elements of closure within the restorative justice experience contributing to their personal healing process and that of their families. Research studies as well as victim evaluations have shown the significant restorative effect that participation in the panels imparts to victims themselves. Many suffer the death of family members and other long-term traumatic effects as a result of accidents from driving under the influence. The panels offer them a voluntary option to address a dysfunctional aspect of our society that personally impacted their lives. This helps them to heal themselves while at the same time impacting those who have made the tragic choice to drive while under the influence. Restorative justice practices through the avenue of Victim Impact Panels have proven to contribute to the overall health of communities.

According to a national three-year study by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Wisconsin has the highest drunken driving rate of all states in the nation. Our hope is that the Victim Impact Panels would be attended by criminal justice professionals, victim advocates and others in Grant County and that the Panels would work to reduce the incidences of driving under the influence.

Your organization's history, activities, services and composition

Kickapoo Cultural Exchange (KCE) has been promoting cultural, educational and environmental activities throughout the Driftless region since 1990 through the community-building and human service projects it sponsors such as Ridge and Valley Restorative Justice.

The philosophy and practice of KCE is one of empowerment and respect. Decisions are made by consensus. This requires listening to opposing views, seeking to understand the needs driving those views, and coming to win-win decisions that respect all those involved. Community is built in the process, and any changes that are made tend to endure because they

have the support of all the stakeholders. These values are closely allied to the vision and practice of Ridge and Valley Restorative Justice.

Ridge and Valley Restorative Justice (formerly Crawford County Restorative Justice) is a regional organization which seeks to provide opportunities for healing and restoring crime victims and offenders, and for promoting the well-being of the region through processes of mediated dialogue and negotiation. It also seeks to engage the region in building positive relationships and to provide education in the vision and practice of Restorative Justice.

RVRJ was begun in 2000 by a group of community members in consultation with professionals in the criminal justice system of Crawford County. Since 2001, we have served offenders, victims and their support people (usually family members) and have provided child custody and neighborhood mediation services. Our ongoing community education efforts involve presentations to civic, educational, and religious groups, consultations with individuals, and public media presentations. We have recently established a relationship with the University of Wisconsin-Platteville where our Program Director is working with the faculty in the Criminal Justice Program to present to classes, provide internships, and coordinate graduate and undergraduate research. We will also be holding a mini-conference at the university that will include restorative justice training for faculty and students.

The philosophy and practice of Restorative Justice are grounded in the dignity of the individual, the possibility of a change of heart, the responsibility of both the offender and other members of the community to help heal the victim, and the need of the offender to make reparation and then to experience forgiveness. Restorative Justice supports the offender's efforts to be directly accountable for the harm done, and to make changes that will encourage the offender not to harm others in the future. It supports the victim in reaching beyond the fear and anger that can trap both in a cycle of isolation, retribution and retaliation.

Victim-Offender Mediation

The principles of Restorative Justice are expressed through a number of processes. Primarily, we have used Victim-Offender Mediation or Conferencing. Through this process, willing victims and their offenders are brought together for a face-to-face meeting, facilitated by our trained community volunteers. Victims can relate the impact of the crime to the offender, express their feelings about the offense and its aftermath, and directly inform the offender of their needs for reparation and healing. Offenders can become more aware of the impact of their actions, and be accountable directly to the victim – by having the opportunity to apologize, and by taking direct steps to repair the damage and heal the wounds caused by their unlawful actions. Community members can set standards of behavior, and support the individual and societal efforts toward positive change and reintegration.

Teen Court

RVRJ played a key role in meeting with Crawford County justice and human services professionals to develop a Teen Court. This is a practice in which teens who have committed an offense are tried by a jury of their peers rather than in a regular court. According to a study funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, participation in youth court proceedings showed only 6-9% recidivism, a significantly lower rate in comparison to control groups (Coggeshall, 2002). We have taken the responsibility for training of the teen jurors and provided this service to Crawford and Grant Counties. To date, we have trained 48 young people and 12 adults.

Teen Court is for first time offenders. It allows them to keep a clean record and to avoid youth identifying themselves as criminals, encouraging them to participate in pro-social behaviors. Another interesting and very successful aspect of the program is when youth offenders are required to be members of the jury panel then invited to remain as volunteers themselves. Our model is quite ideal, encouraging a thorough dialogue between the jurors and the offender to aid solution seeking and appropriate sanctions.

Long- and short-term goals for the program include improving the capacity of offenders, victims, and community members involved with youth crime to become responsible and productive citizens, providing youth with education and hands-on experience in the judicial system as well as education in conflict resolution skills. Another goal is to protect the community by holding youthful offenders accountable. A final goal is to decrease destructive behavior among the adolescents who participate in Teen Court by improving the ability of the justice system to respond effectively to juvenile crime (OJJDP-DOT Handbook, 1998).

Prisoner Reentry

In 2011, our project director was invited by staff at the Prairie du Chien Correctional Facility to make restorative justice seminars available to those incarcerated there. On a volunteer basis, inmates participated in an Introduction to Restorative Justice, an Apology-Letter Writing Workshop and a Reentry Discussion session. In the latter, inmates were engaged in a discussion about their concerns with reentry. One of the inmates' requests was for mentors. They also became open to the concept of volunteering, something some of them said they had never done in their lives. The time that the inmates spend in the Prairie du Chien facility is a precious opportunity to reach them. They are not on drugs and alcohol and do not have the stress of making a living. We have found those who participated receptive to emotional and social change as well as skill development and hope to continue this work. The prison is pleased with the restorative justice experiences for the inmates.

Healthy social integration requires that offenders can find ways to feel part of the communities. The inmates can receive educational certificates for forklift training through a well-established instate program and we have expanded on this concept by offering gardening

education providing them with opportunities for job skill training. We have presented to them and have worked to recruit others from the community with expertise in this field as well. Education and experience with restorative justice practices for inmates before reentry is a significant opportunity to address the human rights and inherent dignity of each human individual and provide them with some emotional and social tools for their lives within society.

Victim Impact Panels

In December, we will train our first volunteer staff on conducting a Victim-Impact Panel. In early 2013, we will offer a Victim Impact Panel which addressed driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Those who have suffered injury or the loss of a loved one volunteer to share their personal stories of the impact on their health, employment, lives and the lives of family and friends as a result of their unfortunate accident. Three to four victims present on the panel, oftentimes bringing loved ones to participate also. Surveys show that a high percentage of victims experience this sharing as part of their healing process. Care is taken to be relatively certain that the event for the victims can be a healing experience rather than a re-traumatizing one.

Offenders are court-ordered to attend or referred by a human service professional, a parole officer or a counselor. The opportunity to empathize with those affected by a careless driver provides elements key to restorative practices such as listening, taking responsibility for one's actions, developing empathy and changing one's future actions based on these experiences. In research studies, offenders have reported having emotional experiences during the panels and some have resolved never to drink and drive again. This is borne out by the statistics from studies which show that half or two-thirds of participants do not receive another DWI. Some report transitioning from feeling as if they are a victim of the criminal justice system to recognizing the importance of not victimizing others as a driver under the influence. The advisory board considers this a good way to advance restorative practices while addressing a pressing problem with often tragic results.

Composition

KCE is administered by a Board of Directors with four members and an accountant who has considerable experience working with non-profit organizations. RVRJ is overseen by an Advisory Board of five members, a paid half-time Program Director and a paid part-time Grant Writer. Direct services are provided by the Advisory Board members, the Program Director and 20 trained volunteers.