

MultiCultural 
Outreach Program

3/23/15 left message with the MCOP office.
Told the secretary that the grant request had been
Rec'd and would be included on agenda for
Next Board of Directors meeting.
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March 20, 2015

Mr. Jack Carlson
Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation
11623 State Road 80
Livingston, WI 53554

Dear Mr. Carlson:

Enclosed you will find a grant application on behalf of the MultiCultural Outreach Program and specifically on behalf of our English Language Learner (ELL) pilot program for Grant County.

This volunteer-based program will contribute significantly to the Grant County community in several ways. Local dairy farmers and small manufacturers who are increasingly dependent on Hispanic workers to fill their unmet labor demands will enjoy better communications with their workers. The immigrants themselves will be better prepared to assimilate into our local culture and the wider community will benefit from improved multicultural understanding and interaction.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this application. Please don't hesitate to let me know at 608-623-2109 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Shirley Barnes, co-chair, MultiCultural Outreach Program

Elmer G Biddick

CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

11623 State Road 80 Livingston, WI 53554
Phone (608) 943-6363 Fax (608) 943-6365
www.biddickfoundation.com

GRANT APPLICATION

***Must be received in our office on or before the due dates below**

Due Dates April 15th and October 15th

Date: March 24, 2015

Name of organization (must match IRS 501(c)(3) designation:

Southwestern Community Action Program (SWCAP) for its new MultiCultural Outreach Program (MCOP),

a program of SWCAP

Address MCOP, a program of SWCAP, 149 N. Iowa Street

City, State, Dodgeville, WI 53533

Phone 608-623-2109

Person Responsible for the Grant Shirley J. Barnes

Position in the Organization Co-chair, MultiCultural Outreach Program, a program of SWCAP

Organization's Purpose 1) to strengthen SW Wisconsin communities by teaching practical English language skills and providing relevant social, cultural and work-related knowledge to English language learners,

2) to be the only resource, referral and assistance program for the immigrant population in this area, and

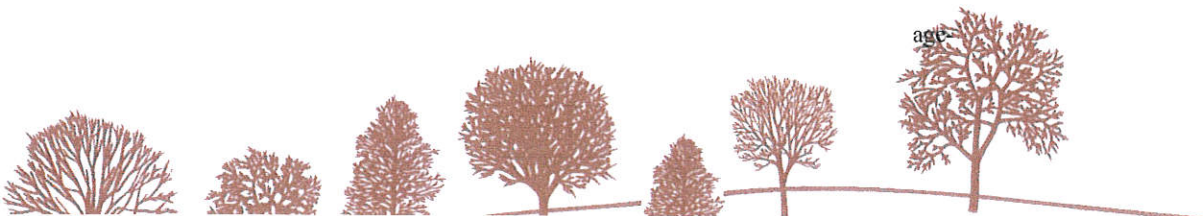
3) to contribute to the welfare of our communities by encouraging multicultural understand and interaction.

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 \$ 3,000

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

The grant would help fund a new model English Language Learner (ELL) program for Grant County, designed Specifically for adult language students. Students are the growing number of immigrant farm workers, cheese factory employees and store owners who keep our local dairy farms and small manufacturers in business. Because of their demanding work schedules, sometimes three shifts a day, these workers cannot attend traditional ELL classes. Our volunteer-based ELL program will take the learning experience to the students – at their farms, local libraries and in their homes. In addition, the program has the unique goal of encouraging intercultural understanding by connecting the immigrant community with our local residents through social events and learning opportunities hosted in local venues.



SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Specific use of grant.

The grant will be used for 1) the purchase of training and teaching materials, 3) initial training courses for volunteer tutors and volunteer tutor trainers, and 4) the evaluation of the program during its first year of operation. The program is to be primarily sustained by volunteers.

Time schedule

With the assistance of a volunteer from the Platteville Area Literacy Council, we are currently identifying Grant County volunteers and students. We hope to begin tutor training workshops in late Summer, 2015.

Other sources of funding

Over 120 individuals are among MCOP contributors. We have also received grants from private, church and corporate foundations. SWCAP has provided us with an office and accounting assistance pro bono. We have no additional funding from SWCAP.

The effect of postponing this request to another time.

We recently became aware that Jesse Abing, whose family owns the Majestic View Dairy in Lancaster, is available for a limited time to assist in the initial development and implementation of this program. Abing is a Hispanic Linguistics specialist and PhD candidate in Hispanic Linguistics. Because of his farming background as well as his language expertise, he brings a unique perspective to this project. We hope to eventually expand this project for advancing English language learning and multicultural understanding throughout rural SW Wisconsin but it will be piloted in Grant County.

Who, when, how and where will the effects of this grant be felt.

Among those benefiting from this grant are 1) our immigrant students and their families who will be better prepared to assimilate into our local culture, 2) their employers who will enjoy better communications with their workers, 3) their childrens' schools which will be able to communicate with parents more effectively and 4) our local communities which will benefit from improved multicultural understanding between our residents.

OUR ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY, ACTIVITIES, SERVICES AND COMPOSITION

Four years ago a group of local citizens started a volunteer ELL program to teach English to immigrants in Iowa County. Among our partners have been the Community Connections Free Clinic in Dodgeville, Plymouth Congregational Church, the Iowa County Literacy Council, Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin, SWCAP, UW Extension and Neighborhood Housing Services of SW Wisconsin.

The program quickly expanded into Lafayette and northern Grant County – because of the fact that our dairy farms, cheese factories and small manufacturers increasingly depend on immigrant employees, primarily Hispanic, to fill their unmet labor demands. To date, we have trained over 70 volunteer tutors and served over 100 students.

Discovering that the new immigrants face challenges beyond language instruction, we expanded our services by launching the MultiCultural Outreach Program (MCOP), a program of SWCAP, in 2014. Its mission is to serve as a resource, referral and assistance program for Hispanic immigrants in the five-county SW Wisconsin area.

At the same time, we determined our four-year-old ELL program needed improvement. Like volunteer-based ELL programs nationwide, we struggle with retention of students and tutors. A unique opportunity presented itself to test a new ELL model developed by Jesse Abing, a Hispanic Linguistics specialist, whose family owns the Majestic View Dairy in Lancaster. Abing is providing us with the tools and intellectual property rights to a new educational model which we hope to eventually use in all five SWCAP counties. We plan to test it in Grant County. Abing will conduct up to three workshops to train volunteers to fill three essential positions – tutors, tutor trainers and match specialists. The bilingual match specialist will interview potential students and tutors, pairing them based on these interviews and supporting them on an on-going basis. Student progress will be assessed on a bimonthly basis. Sharing of ideas within small tutor groups will be encouraged to give the tutors the support they need to maintain long-term relationships with their students. Tutors do not need to speak Spanish. Another feature of the program will be weekly “English Corners” at a local Platteville area coffee shop – where students, tutors and other local citizens will meet in an informal setting to practice their new language skills. In the future we hope to add a “Spanish Corner” where local citizens who want to learn Spanish come together with our ELL students. The ultimate aim of the program is not only to teach new language skills but to promote good relationships between our established and immigrant communities.

Applications are considered in June and December of each year. The corresponding deadlines are April 15 and October 15. 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