

Elmer G Biddick

CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

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

Peggy J. Biddick
Robin M. Masters
James W. Neuenhof
Rebecca Stevicks

Brian D. Nodolf - President
Kachel L. Jordan - Vice-President
Bradley D. Biddick - Secretary/Treasurer

GRANT APPLICATION

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

Due Dates April 15th and October 15th

Date: February 15, 2019

Name of Organization (must match IRS 501(c)(3) designation) Food, Faith and Farming Network, Inc.

Address Post Office Box 203

City, State, Zip Monticello, WI 53570-0203

Phone 608: 839-4758

Person Responsible for the Grant Roger T. Williams

Position in the Organization Board of Directors and Treasurer

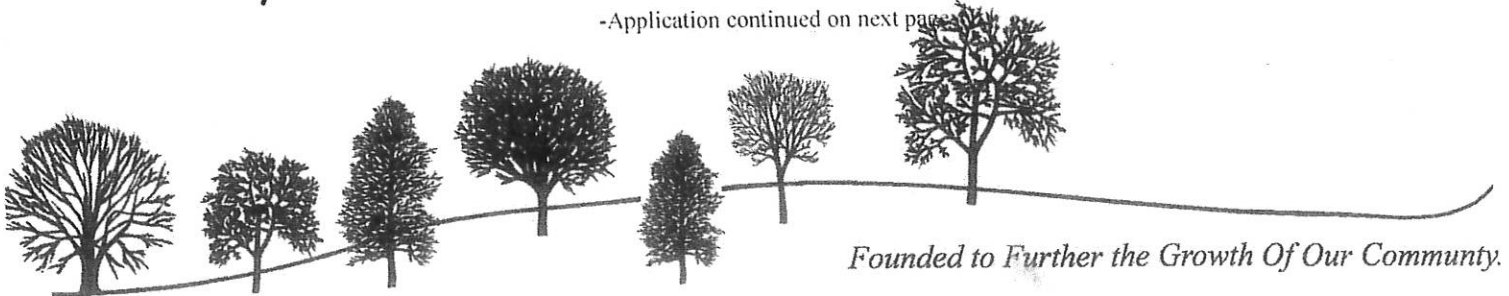
Organization's Purpose Food, Faith and Farming Network gives voice to the sacred connections between land and people. We foster rural and urban relationships and promote earth stewardship, community, spirituality and economic justice through healthy food and sustainable farming practices. We collaborate with others that share our vision.

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 \$ 5,000

Describe the reason for this grant request in the space below: We are working with local communities in southwestern Wisconsin to launch several projects that are responsive to challenges growing out of our Rural Listening/Networking project in the winter of 2018. Our goal is to partner with groups in local communities to foster community and economic development through projects deemed important to people in these local communities, utilizing three important principles: 1) Go where the energy is; 2) Foster local networking; and 3) Seek innovative solutions to community issues.

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Founded to Further the Growth Of Our Community.

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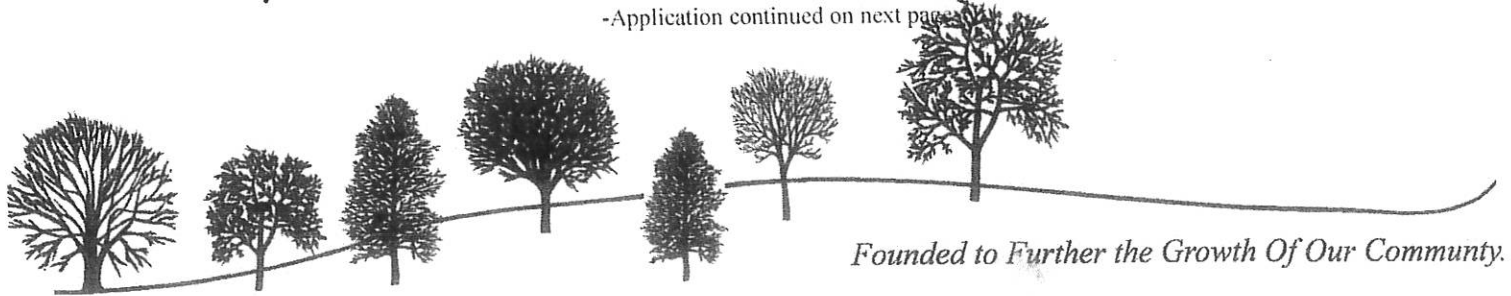
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Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation

Grant Application

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY, ACTIVITIES, SERVICES AND COMPOSITION

History: The Food, Faith and Farming Network (FFFN or the Network) came into being in the late 1980s in the midst of a major farm crisis. Many small to medium sized farmers were being forced out of business or struggling to find a way to continue a rural way of life. This organization offered hope and inspiration in those challenging times by offering a listening ear and developing support mechanisms to aid in transitions that were required. This need continues to persist in rural communities today. It has been a difficult time for Wisconsin farm families: they have been hit with escalating farm expenses and low commodity prices (milk, corn, soybean and pork prices have been extremely low for the past four years) as well as extreme climactic conditions. The “monsoon season” (excessive rains) in 2018 made it very difficult for Wisconsin farmers to get their crops planted and to get their hay, corn and soybeans harvested. As a result, Wisconsin has been losing over 500 dairy farms a year for the past 15 years and the total number of dairy farms has shrunk from over 16,000 in 2003 to just over 8,000 in 2018.

Activities/Services: FFFN has worked with faith communities in southern Wisconsin to sponsor Winter Farmer’s Markets for the past 14 years. These markets are held in congregational halls; they bring local and sustainable farmers together with parishioners and members of the wider community to achieve several goals: 1) provide local and sustainable farmers with opportunities to earn income in the winter months; 2) offer parishioners a chance to purchase local and sustainable products directly from the farmers that produce these goods; and 3) give faith communities opportunities for building rural-urban relationships while supporting earth stewardship and economic justice for farm families. Most of these Winter Farmer’s Markets have included a breakfast or brunch using products from local farmers so parishioners have a chance to taste, then purchase, locally and sustainably-produced products. We are offering 13 Winter Farmer’s Markets this winter: nine in the Milwaukee area and four in the Madison area.

The recent downturn in the agricultural economy prompted us to do a series of Rural Listening/Networking Sessions in southwestern Wisconsin in February and March 2018. We invited farmers, food producers and rural community members to share their thoughts about Strengths/Assets as well as Challenges/Issues they experience in their rural communities. Five locations and dates were chosen with two goals in mind: 1) keeping locations within reasonable driving distances of all residents in southwestern Wisconsin, and 2) holding sessions in the late winter months when farming activities are at their lowest ebb. The locations were as follows: Monroe, Fennimore, Viroqua, Dodgeville and Richland Center. Attendance at sessions varied from 18 to 65 with an average attendance of 34. There were unique Strengths/Assets and Challenges/Issues that surfaced in each of the five locations, but the most common challenges facing participants from southwestern Wisconsin were as follows:

Internal Revenue Service
P.O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

Department of the Treasury

Date: December 7, 2015

FOOD FAITH AND FARMING NETWORK INC
% TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
3768 BOHNSACK LN
COTTAGE GROVE, WI 53527

Person to Contact:

Mr. Flammer #0203064

Toll Free Telephone Number:

877-829-5500

Employer Identification Number:

39-1692402

Form 990 Required:

Yes

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is in response to your request dated November 12, 2015 regarding your tax-exempt status.

We issued you a determination letter in March 1992, recognizing you as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) 501(c)(3).

Our records also indicate you're not a private foundation as defined under IRC Section 509(a) because you're described in IRC Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Donors can deduct contributions they make to you as provided in IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts under IRC Sections 2055, 2106, and 2522.

In the heading of this letter, we indicated whether you must file an annual information return. If a return is required, you must file Form 990, 990-EZ, 990-N, or 990-PF by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of your annual accounting period. IRC Section 6033(j) provides that, if you don't file a required annual information return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked on the filing due date of the third required return or notice.

For tax forms, instructions, and publications, visit www.irs.gov or call 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

If you have questions, call 1-877-829-5500 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., local time, Monday through Friday (Alaska and Hawaii follow Pacific Time).

Sincerely yours,



Jeffrey I. Cooper
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements

The current farm economic crisis
Transitioning farms to the next generation
Providing young farmers access to land and resources
Providing mentors to new/young farmers
Existence of food deserts in small, rural communities
Providing local farmers with access to local food markets
Need for skilled farm and non-farm labor
Need for agricultural processing facilities
Fostering communication between agricultural sectors
Lack of access to the internet
Lack of affordable rural housing
Low incomes and poverty in small, rural communities

Composition: The FFFN Network is an all-volunteer organization which contracts with two individuals to coordinate our Winter Farmer's Markets in the Milwaukee and Madison areas. Our Board of Directors consists of the following persons:

Tom Nelson, Chair	Representing Catholic Multicultural Center
Sheila Fitzgerald, Vice Chair	Representing Sinsinawa Dominicans
Trudi Jenny, Secretary	Representing Pax Christi Madison
Roger Williams, Treasurer	Representing Harvest of Hope Fund
Jay Salinas, Board Member	Representing Wormfarm Institute
Christin Tomy, Board Member	Representing Sinsinawa Dominicans
Nick Utphall, Board Member	Representing Advent ELCA Lutheran Church

We solicit donations from individuals and organizations that share our vision and mission. We also seek input and collaborate with various organizations, including the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection; University of Wisconsin-Extension; Wisconsin Vocational/Technical College System; Wisconsin Farmers Union; Family Farm Defenders; and Wisconsin Local Food Network. As an example, we are collaborating with UW-Extension and the Wisconsin Local Food Network to promote an Agriculture-Supported Community Development initiative with the new Evers Administration in state government.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Specific Use of Grant: As a follow-up to our Rural Listening/Networking Project, we are working with local communities in southwestern Wisconsin to launch several projects that are responsive to the challenges outlined above, utilizing three principles: 1) Go where the energy is, 2) Foster local networking, and 3) Seek innovative solutions to community issues. Our goal is to partner with local communities in southwestern Wisconsin to foster community and economic development through projects that are deemed important to people in these local communities.

With the support of grants from the Sinsinawa Dominicans and the Alliant Energy Foundation we put out a request for innovative projects that would receive up to \$1,500 in seed monies to help launch the projects. We are finding that this request for seed monies has triggered a great deal of interest in local communities across southwestern Wisconsin. In explaining the initiative to a group of Farmer's Market Managers at a recent meeting in Boscobel, one of the managers commented "We are so used to working with no resources, that \$1,500 seems like a lot of money!"

We are seeking \$5,000 from the Elmer E. Biddick Foundation to expand the number of projects we can support through this "Seed Money" initiative. While our overall initiative is aimed at projects across southwestern Wisconsin, we would use Biddick Foundation grant monies to support projects in Iowa and Grant Counties...the primary focus of your foundation.

The following criteria will be used in choosing projects to support through this initiative: 1) Aligns with the mission of our Network; 2) Addresses one of our prioritized areas (outlined above); 3) Is supported by a network of interested parties; 4) Has clearly defined actions and outcomes; and 5) Informs the Network of progress with their project. In return, projects can expect the following support from our Network: 1) Provide seed money to advance projects; 2) Serve as a sounding board for projects; 3) Provide input on networking possibilities; 4) Publicize projects on our website; and 5) Provide help in publicizing projects.

Time Schedule: We are making decisions about the initial round of local projects right now and expect that they will run through the balance of 2019 and 2020. If Biddick Foundation support is provided in June 2019, we will launch another round of local projects at that time, with an anticipated time frame of 2019 and 2020. We will want to work with these local projects to evaluate their impact by December 2020.

Other Sources of Funding: We currently have a \$13,000 grant from the Sinsinawa Dominicans and a \$2,000 grant from the Alliant Energy Foundation to support this initiative. In addition, Board members provide an in-kind contribution of volunteer hours estimated as follows: 500 hours @ \$25 = \$12,500. Biddick Foundation funding is the only other support we are seeking currently.

Effect of Postponing our Request: This initiative is gaining momentum as people and communities in southwestern Wisconsin become aware of our networking project. So, the June 2019 grant cycle of the Biddick Foundation is perfect timing for this initiative; a delay would thwart this growing energy!

Who, When, How and Where the Effects Will be Felt: The specific outcomes of this initiative will depend on the projects that are proposed: where they are located, their intended outcomes, their planned actions and their timeline for projects. A core principle of the initiative is encouraging people, organizations and agencies in local communities to network with each other in creating innovative solutions to local community problems. So, we expect a great deal of networking and innovative solutions to thorny community problems. A sampling of the projects that have been proposed at this time include the following:

- **Grant County:** In southwestern Wisconsin there are several farming models, including conventional, organic and Amish. There are often tensions between these farming styles as well as tensions between rural, non-farm residents and their farming neighbors. This project seeks to reduce these tensions by bringing all these groups together for a presentation on Regenerative Agriculture: an approach that can be used by all types of farmers to reduce the use of herbicides and pesticides, improve soil health and water quality, reduce wind and water erosion, reduce labor and equipment costs and improve farm profitability. Project partners include: Grant County Rural Stewardship, UW-Platteville, Crawford County Stewardship Project, Sinsinawa Mound Collaborative Farm, Sustain Rural Wisconsin Network, Socially Responsible Agriculture Project, Wisconsin Farmers Union, Southwest Badger RC&D, and Driftless Area Land Conservancy.
- **Crawford County:** A project to connect and transport elderly and low-income residents to the Gays Mills and Ferryville Farmer's Markets in southwestern Wisconsin. This project will help integrate elderly and low-income residents into the wider community, give them a chance to purchase fresh-picked produce and provide farm vendors with greater income by providing them with a larger pool of consumers for their products. The local Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) will provide their van to transport people (covering the cost of vans, gas and maintenance) and project monies will be used to pay drivers for transporting people to the Gays Mills and Prairie du Chien markets. Involved organizations will include: Crawford County Farmers Market, Crawford County ADRC, Royal Bank of Gays Mills, Seneca and Gays Mills Lions Clubs, Coulee CAP of Southwest Wisconsin, and Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin.
- **Richland County:** In order to sustain the agricultural heritage of this county and capitalize on its impact, the next generation must value it and learn the necessary skills to keep it thriving. This project seeks to 1) Increase youth knowledge of food production through

the use of school gardens, and 2) Increase the volume of local food served in the school food service. Richland FIT is a coalition dedicated to health and wellness in Richland County and committed to reaching these two goals which will benefit local farmers and local youth. Local partners include: Richland County UW-Extension, Richland School District, Richland FIT and Richland County Master Gardeners. The short-term goal is to work with the Richland School District to update their Local Wellness Policy; a long-term goal is to have the district recognized as a Healthy Wisconsin School Award Winner in 2020.

- **Iowa, Grant and Lafayette Counties:** The Southwest Wisconsin Grasslands Network (SWGNG) is a partnership of federal and state agencies and non-profit organizations committed to conservation and stewardship of natural resources in Iowa, Grant and Lafayette counties. They plan to sponsor stakeholder meetings to further their outreach and education efforts with greater understanding of the issues that matter to local community members. This information will be shared with partnership members and integrated into workshops/programs and their website in the upcoming years. Their goal is to interview 100-150 community residents and civic leaders; this will be followed by a series of gatherings held across the region in the winter of 2020-21. Project partners include: Driftless Area Land Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; other agencies and organizations are expected to join the partnership as it unfolds over time.

This brief sampling of proposed projects should provide a sense for the Who, When, How and Where the effects of projects will be felt. And it should be clear from this sampling that our initiative is addressing the three basic principles outlined earlier in this proposal: 1) Go where the energy is, 2) Foster local networking, and 3) Seek innovative solutions to community issues. We believe it is also fostering hope in people and communities across southwestern Wisconsin...a commodity that has been sorely missing for some time as the deepening farm crisis has sucked vital energy out of rural communities.

From Roger T. Williams

Meetings: I've enclosed a grant application for the Food, Faith and Farming Network which focuses on fostering community and economic development through innovative networking initiatives in southwestern Wisconsin. This project grows out of five Rural Listening/Networking Sessions sponsored by our Network in February and March 2018.

We are grateful for the opportunity to seek Biddick Foundation funding and hope you find that this proposal matches your interests as a foundation. Please contact me after March 2 if you have questions or concerns about our project (unavailable until then).

Thanks much.

3768 Bohnsack Lane Roger Williams
Cottage Grove, WI 53527
608.839.4758
rtwillia@wisc.edu