

# Elmer G Biddick

## CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

11623 State Road 80 Livingston, WI 53554  
Phone (608) 943-6363  
[www.biddickfoundation.com](http://www.biddickfoundation.com)

### GRANT APPLICATION

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

Due Dates April 15<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup>

Date: April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Name of Organization (must match IRS 501(c)(3) designation) Mineral Point Elementary

Address 1011 Cothurn St.

City, State, Zip Mineral Point, WI 53565

Phone (608) 987-0710

Person Responsible for the Grant Jessica Scots

Position in the Organization First Grade Teacher School Garden Leader

Organization's Purpose Our mission in the Mineral Point Elementary School Garden is to foster a deep understanding and appreciation of healthy food production among all students, staff and community members. Through hands-on experiences, we seek to instill values of responsibility, patience and a strong work ethic while promoting the benefits of growing and consuming nutritious foods.

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 \$ 1,500

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

We are requesting this grant to make our outdoor garden and learning space more accessible to our students and community. The Mineral Point Elem. School currently has two students who use wheelchairs or walkers and we anticipate more. Our present space does not have the appropriate accommodations for those with mobile limitations. We would like to change that by expanding our garden into a more level space, building and replacing ramps and walkways, and enlisting the help of our high school students to build handicap accessible garden beds.

Application continued on next page



Founded to Further the Growth Of Our Community.

# Grant Application for the Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation

Submitted by:

Jessica Soots, First Grade Teacher at Mineral Point Elementary School

[jessica.soots@mp.k12.wi.us](mailto:jessica.soots@mp.k12.wi.us)

## A. Supporting Information:

### 1. Specific use of Grant

The Mineral Point Elementary School has a growing number of students who have mobile limitations. We need financial support to make our school garden more handicap accessible, so the Mineral Point School Garden Program would use this money to purchase materials that are necessary for this project.

With the help of our high school technology education students, we plan to build 2-4 handicap accessible garden beds and ramps for individuals with mobile limitations to easily gain access into our school garden. Our shop class teacher has estimated that the materials for these specific projects will cost between \$500-\$600. High school shop class students will gain hands-on experience with the implementation of this project.

This grant would further be used to purchase Access Trax Mats to turn the walkways into paths that a wheelchair or walker can easily be maneuvered through. These mats can range in price from \$80-\$100 and it is estimated that we would need at least 10 mats for our space. These mats would give everyone easy access to our outdoor learning space.

We would also like to use money from this grant to build a 60 foot length of fence to define a more level garden space we hope to expand into. This fence would assist in deterring deer and other animals from invading our garden, while also making the space a safe and special place for our young learners to experience nature.

### 2. Time Schedule

We hope to have this project completed and installed by the end of the summer of 2025. This would give students a chance to try it out right away and get things planted during our summer school sessions. If we are able to get things planted right away in June, students can come back in the fall and reap the benefits.

### 3. Other sources of funding

Our project does require more than \$1,500 in funding. We have applied for another grant hoping to add to the funds needed to support the expanding needs our garden has to maintain accessibility. We have already obtained \$400 from Uplands Garden Club to help support this accessibility project. Labor would be free, as this is a hands-on learning experience for the technology education class. Many community members support our garden by providing seeds, plants and other materials and we are confident that they would be interested in providing the manpower to build and maintain this project into the future.

### 4. Describe the effect of postponing your request to another time.

If this project were to be postponed, two of our current elementary students who use wheelchairs and walkers and community members with mobile limitations would have to wait another year longer to enjoy what our school garden has to offer. If our request is not granted, we would need to look into other grant opportunities.

**5. Describe who, when, how and where will the effects of this grant be felt.**

At the completion of this project our school garden would be available to anyone who visits the school garden to help with upkeep, harvest or to explore and learn together. This project would open the gates for so many more people. People with mobile limitations will be able to find sanctuary in and connection to our school garden by finally gaining access to it. The opportunity to allow high school students to help with the construction of a few of the components gives this grant an added educational benefit which will largely expand the impact of this grant. It will not only allow for students to grow plants together, but will teach logical thinking, engineering skills and foster inclusivity.

The impact of this project will go further than just our school and community. I have heard of families from surrounding communities mentioning how they find interest and inspiration in our school garden. We hope this impact can grow into new opportunities and inspiration well into the future.

**B. Your organization's history, activities, services and composition.**

Mineral Point Elementary School educates 360 students in grades 4K through fifth grade. Teaching students about the importance of the agriculture industry is very important to our school. With the foundation of the School Garden Project in place since 2014, our school has made it a priority to educate the whole child, socially, emotionally and academically through outdoor learning experiences. Listed below are some of the things our School Garden Project has done or is currently doing to incorporate agriculture into our students' educational experiences.

1. Each spring and fall our community and students are involved in a garden day. These special days give students opportunities to prepare the garden for planting, learn about composting, plant seedlings, learn from garden experts, and prepare the garden for the winter months.
2. Our school has our very own worm farm! Students learn about the importance of vermicomposting and the many benefits they provide in creating healthy soil.
3. A summer garden schedule is sent out to school families and community members so that the garden is maintained and food is harvested when ready. We have had an overwhelming amount of support with this opportunity.
4. Summer school sessions offer students the opportunity to be involved in the maintenance and care of our produce during those important months.
5. Currently, we are incubating eggs in our school's library so that all students can experience the chicken life cycle firsthand. The chicks that hatch will spend some time in our school garden with students.