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GRANT OPPORTUNITY RESEARCH
SUMMARY

FOR
OPEN BASKETS

JUNE 2, 2010

GRANT OPPORTUNITY RESEARCH RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

OVERVIEW

This report summarizes research of possible grant funding opportunities for the search criteria:

- Mental Illness
- Minnesota Foundations
- Human Services
- Volunteer Services
- Grants to Organizations in Minnesota
- Funding Types
 - General Operating Expenses
 - Donated Goods

This research explored **foundation** funding opportunities through the following resources:

1. THE FOUNDATION CENTER DIRECTORY

In a review of thousands of Foundations, through the subscription online directory service of the [Foundation Center](#), some **possible matches** were found. This resource (Foundation Center) provides a searchable database of over 98,000 U.S. foundations and corporate donors. **An Excel spreadsheet is attached to this report** which lists foundations which might match Open Baskets' services and funding needs.

2. NATIONAL CENTER FOR CHARITABLE STATISTICS

The National Center for Charitable Statistics (NCCS) is the national clearinghouse of data on the nonprofit sector in the United States.

3. RANDOM INTERNET SEARCH.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Open Baskets is attempting to increase its reach to more individuals with mental illness based on the response to the services it has provided with limited funds from small individual donations and corporate sponsorships and donations of goods. The organization would also like to rent storage space for the items gathered for gift baskets.

Submission of grant proposals and the review process can take several weeks to several months; sometimes more than six months to a year. And the competition is very heavy. **In my opinion, it would be best to begin by expanding your reach to local churches and service organizations, additional locally headquartered corporations, and family foundations.** Because nonprofit organizations receive, on average, 29% of their revenue from grants, it is important to have a funding plan that draws income from a diverse set of sources.

It is common to request grants from several funders since the current rate of success averages below 50% for all requests made. And each proposal should be a request for only a portion of the organization's total operating budget. Also, most grants are given for a specific project with a predetermined (estimated) budget. You may ask one funder for the full project cost or for part.

In regard to hiring a grant writer, you can expect to pay an hourly rate for work performed. In the grant writing profession it is considered unethical to charge on commission or contingency. You may also choose just to get the assistance of a grant writer in preparing your own proposals since the organization is obviously effective in attracting funders and sponsors locally.

ATTACHMENT:

Grant Tracking Form