**Williamston Sunrise Rotary**

**Grant Application**

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| **Name of Applicant Organization: Refugee Development Center** | |
| **Briefly describe your organization’s mission or purpose:**  Our mission is to cultivate a welcoming, thriving community that collaborates with refugees and newcomers through education, engagement, and support. | |
| **Contact Name: Erika Brown-Binion** | **Phone Number: 562-290-3660** |
| **Contact : executive director** | **Email Address: ebrown@rdclansing.org** |
| **Grant Amount Requested: $ 3,000** | **Mailing Address**  **600 W. Maple St. Suite A**  **Lansing, MI 48906** |
| **Projected Start Date: July 1, 2022** |
| **Projected Completion Date: June 30, 2023** |
| **Is applicant a 501C3 Organization?**  \_\_x\_ **Yes** \_\_\_\_**No** |
| If yes, **Federal Tax ID#: 26-3936253** |
| **Does the project affect any of these Rotary Causes (see guideline definitions)?**  \_\_\_ Supporting Environment;  \_x Promoting Equity, Inclusion and Diversity;  \_\_\_ Promoting Peace;   \_\_\_Fighting Disease;   \_\_\_Saving Mothers and Children;  \_x\_\_ Supporting Education;  \_\_\_Providing Clean Water, Sanitation & Hygiene  \_\_\_ Supporting Local Economies;  \_\_\_Fighting Hunger;  \_\_\_Promoting Arts and Humanities  **Briefly describe how the project supports one or more of the above:**  Our project is focused on supporting early literacy education of refugees in mid-Michigan. Refugees are people who have had to flee their homeland due to persecution and war and are forced to start completely over in a foreign land. Refugees arrive in our community from all over the globe making our programs some of the most diverse around. One of our core values is inclusivity--believing in the equal value of all humans and the importance of respecting and honoring each individual. This is of utmost importance in our programs with students from around the globe with rich cultural traditions and speaking a multitude of languages. | |
| **How many people will this project serve?** \_\_150\_\_\_ **annually or**  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **generally?** | |
| Describe the **community need(s) or problem(s) this project will address:**  Lansing is home to thousands of resettled refugees who have fled war and persecution. Most recently, hundreds of Afghan refugees have made Lansing home after fleeing the Taliban. All have experienced some level of trauma and need specialized support. Many of these refugees are families with young children and have limited experience with the English language. Refugees are vital to Michigan’s growth and play an important role economically, socially, and culturally in making our state strong and prosperous. Key to this role is the ability for newcomers to learn English and gain the necessary skills to become active members of the community. The RDC offers unique, unduplicated services in Mid-Michigan to help families thrive.  Our ‘Engaging Families in Early Literacy’ program provides a multi-generation approach to learning for all family members each week. Lessons are designed to support all literacy levels and help improve skills for both caregivers and children.  Utilizing an evidence-based literacy curriculum, we provide instruction and a framework to support the development of foundational literacy skills to improve success early literacy. Sessions are taught by a trained teacher along with a cultural broker leader who speaks the native language of the family.  While addressing linguistic and educational needs, EFEL is a unique program centering on the experiences and knowledge of the newcomer families.  The layered complexity of interrupted education, cultural differences, and the trauma associated with fleeing war-torn countries requires academic enrichment strategies, cultural competency, and grass roots relationships in ethnic communities. With 20 years of experience as a refugee service provider, a staff of diverse professional, cultural and linguistic backgrounds, grass-roots reach into ethnic communities, and successful local collaboration, the RDC is well positioned to offer ‘Engaging Families in Early Literacy’ programming for Lansing’s refugee community. | |
| **Describe the projected benchmarks of success (steps) of this project:**  Programming is offered weekly at two different sites both in the morning and in the evening close to where refugees live. Baseline literacy assessments are conducted by trained teachers to determine English proficiency level for adults and basic literacy skills for the youth. At the end of each session, parents are surveyed to report what they learned, liked, and hoped for. This helps guide further instruction and growth of the program. At the end of the program, the following outcomes are expected:   1. 150 refugees will participate in Engaging Families in Early Literacy Programming 2. At least 90% of adult participants will report increased confidence in helping their children learn. 3. 100% of families will receive a new book to add to their home library each time they attend. | |
| **Provide a timeline of the proposed project:**  The full year program operates July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023.  Our program is designed to be open and inclusive of all students. Thus, all students can enroll in the program on a rolling basis and all will be assessed with the same frequency based on hours in attendance. | |
| **Explain how Rotary will be recognized for this support:** If awarded funding, we will highlight Rotary’s generosity in our monthly newsletter and on our social media channels. We will be happy to work with Rotary to determine other ways to recognize the generous support. | |
| **Will there be matching funds from other sources? Explain.**  We do have a small amount of funding to support our EFEL programming from the United Way which has allowed us to work with 100 students. This additional funding from Rotary will allow us to increase the number of students we are able to serve in the project to 150. | |
| **Please submit application in electronic format:**  **To the Attention of: WSR President Elect,** [**williamstonsunriserotary@gmail.com**](mailto:williamstonsunriserotary@gmail.com) | |

**Grant Application Checklist:**

Prior to submitting, the Grant Contact, please review the following checklist:

* Is the Application LEGIBLE?
* Does the Application detail how the Project is aligned to one or more of  the Rotary Causes.
* Does the Application provide a detailed Project description & timeline?
* Does the Application provide achievable BENCHMARKS?
* Is the  Application SIGNED by Grant Contact?