

JAN 27 2003

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I N T E R N A T I O N A L
ASSOCIATION FOR BETTER LIVING AND EDUCATION

I think this is
a give away!!!!

January 23, 2003

JAN 27 2003

Dear Sir/Madam:

We are submitting this application to the [REDACTED] for a grant of \$25,000 for the *Qualified For Life* project serving the Compton, California community. This project's goal is to help develop participant's capacity to become more capable of making good decisions, being self-reliant and enhance their well-being. These individuals will achieve a better personal quality of life as well as the ability and willingness to help create a just, equitable, and secure society for others.

The Association for Better Living and Education (ABLE) is a, non-profit organization that assists the implementation of projects in more than 70 countries around the world — projects designed to address problems of illiteracy and poor education, substance abuse, unchecked criminality, and the general lowering or loss of a moral compass in our societies.

One of ABLE's programs is the World Literacy Crusade (WLC), based in Compton, CA. WLC has been providing literacy and leadership development services to at-risk youth and their families in South Central Los Angeles for over ten years.

The *Qualified For Life* project is a collaborative effort between the World Literacy Crusade, Locke High School, Gompers Middle Schools and the Watts Health Foundation located in South Central Los Angeles and Compton. The project will serve 240 minority and underprivileged youth over a 3-year period. The total cost of the project is \$279,000. The project has received funding from Tiger Woods Foundation - \$10,000 and the California Department of Public and Social Services - \$212,000.

Project Description:

The goal of the *Qualified For Life* project is to give at-risk youth in Elementary, Middle and High schools the necessary tools to successfully learn and apply valuable skills to achieve viability through innovative education methods and life skills/esteem building. The project is committed to improving the quality of life in the local community and encourages all participants to reach their fullest potential.

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ABLE is a non-profit public benefit corporation.

Qualified For Life project collaborating agency's studied the student needs reported in the Locke High School Attendance Area and agreed that there seems to be a strong need for a more holistic and comprehensive approach to reaching out to and serving students. While learning is a very important tool for future self-sufficiency, many barriers still exist that reduce effectiveness of teaching. Students lack treatment to basic problems of health (drug addiction, teen pregnancies) and need counseling services for behavioral/mental health problems. Students and families also report a more structured need for guidance (need for more parenting structure, wraparound family services and job employment training), and there also seems to be a lack of a sense of purpose (community responsibility). To respond to these needs, "Qualified For Life" project seeks to provide early intervention and prevention services to Gompers Middle School students to circumvent problems and strengthen youth and families before they are overcome by failure.

Students will participate in classes, workshops and field trips focusing on the development and enhancement of literacy and learning skills tutoring and life skills/esteem building. The project will also provide health screening; referrals to needed medical care; parent empowerment education; employment training and juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention counseling.

Tutoring/Literacy Services: WLC will determine baseline reading and levels of students via WRAT testing and personal interviews, work with students to improve their reading, math and learning skills. At the initial and beginning stages, tutors will work individually with students to improve basic learning and reading skills. As the student advances, learning in small groups will improve their school performance and reading rates. Students will learn about the barriers to studying, and how they can overcome them.

Life Skills/Esteem Building Education: WLC will provide education including: coping skills for stress, anger management, learning strategies, decision making, self-esteem, and drug/alcohol prevention. Project IMPACT provides similar services to parents of the students, to provide a more holistic and comprehensive service delivery approach. The two agencies will partner to assure no duplication of services occurs.

Follow-Up Services: Intake/Case Managers will assure that needs are being met and participants are reassessed at least once each semester to examine any change in needs. Case Managers will update client files as changes occur to assure services reflect changes in needs.

World Literacy Crusade has provided services in this local attendance area (Locke High School) since 1992. More than 30 dedicated volunteers and staff have helped over 700 students learn how to learn through the agency's project, with an average grade increase in reading of 1.5 grades within four months of the project. Providing these educational services is of crucial importance for students whose literacy skill deficiencies can be traced back to far earlier grade levels.

The youth referred to WLC are characterized by the following factors:

- 90% are between the ages of 10 and 17
- 70% are male
- 65% Latino, 30% African-American and 5% other
- 90% come from families with incomes at or below the federal poverty level
- 80% of the youth enrolled in our Genesys program are first time violent offenders
- 75% of the youth ages 16-17 are school drop-outs
- 90% are un or under-employed
- 25% do not read or write English
- 80% have little or no savings

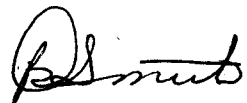
The World Literacy Crusade Compton has 10 full-time staff. These staff are 50% African-American, 40% Hispanic, and 10% white. There is a pool of 30 volunteers. These volunteers are 80% Caucasian American, 10% African-Americans and 10% Hispanic.

ABLE International will measure the effectiveness of the services using measurable data including:

- School records of grades;
- Attendance, including numbers of excused and unexcused absences;
- Student credits and attitudes, as reported by school personnel, DPSS and parents;
- Pre/Post test ratings, including, reading and math inventory tests;
- Self-reports, including initial interview before tutoring and self-reported progress reports;
- Number of participants who are involved in any type of crime;
- Feedback from quarterly participant surveys;
- Focus groups with teens and parents.

Thank you for your kind consideration. We look forward to your positive response to this application. Please contact me at 323-960-3530 or by email at bsmith@able.org if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Basil G. Smith
Vice President