

Casey Toomay

From: David L. Corliss
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2012 2:42 PM
To: Aron Cromwell; Bob Schumm; Hugh Carter; Hugh Carter - work; Mike Amyx; Mike Dever (mdever@sunflower.com)
Cc: Casey Toomay
Subject: FW: Lawrence Children's Choir Scholarship Funding Request
Attachments: Scholarships_2011-2012,_Anonymous.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Commissioner Carter and other Commissioners,

Commissioner Carter is proposing to fund \$10,000 to the Lawrence Children's Choir in 2013. Please see Hugh's comments below. Staff would recommend that this funding come from the Special Recreation Fund. This fund currently provides support for Arts Center scholarships, Cultural Arts Commission, operation of recreation facilities, etc. This fund has adequate fund balance and contingency from our recommended 2013 budget to have this one-time expenditure. This would not be a mill levy increase or reduction of other services.

Please let me know your views/concerns individually without copying or forwarding to other commissioners; thanks, Dave.

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From: Hugh Carter [mailto:hughcarter@sunflower.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2012 1:56 PM
To: David L. Corliss
Subject: Fwd: Lawrence Children's Choir Scholarship Funding Request

Dave,

As discussed, i'd like to see if we can fund, say \$10K, for LCC scholarships this year only.

I've attached the info the LCC provided me in regards to scholarships. Can you share with the rest of the commission, please?

I'm proposing this be absorbed in the current Special Alcohol Recreation budget without mill levy increase or reduction in other things funded. I welcome yours and other commissioners thoughts!

Thanks,
Hugh

Sent from my iPhone. Please excuse typo's and brevity!

Begin forwarded message:

From: lccexecdirector@aol.com
Date: July 24, 2012 4:27:30 PM CDT
To: hughcarter@sunflower.com
Cc: micki1@sunflower.com
Subject: Lawrence Children's Choir Scholarship Funding Request

Dear Hugh,

Thank you for considering funding scholarships for students who need tuition assistance for the Lawrence Children's Choir. As you know, one of our goals is to ensure that any child who has the desire to sing has access to music education. Funding would help us meet that goal.

Our scholarship awards for one year would be \$12,000 for an anticipated 32 scholarship recipients.

Our board and volunteers are working diligently to provide a long term solution to our funding issues, with some success. We have hard work ahead of us in providing long term funding, but we know our students' futures are worth our efforts. A recent survey conducted by Chorus America found that choral singing is the most accessible of all the art forms. Reducing barriers to participation in the arts has always been a priority with Lawrence Children's Choir. Offering scholarships is one of the many ways LCC ensures that the joy and positive character development that comes from united voices is available to all the children in our community.

The past two seasons we have awarded over \$13,000 in scholarships to students whose families often do not have enough money to support basic necessities. It is not uncommon for us to serve families who have difficulty buying food, but who also hunger for release provided by song. Twenty-six of last season's thirty-two scholarship recipients' families meet the guidelines for free and reduced lunch, and of those, **nineteen live in families whose income is considered below poverty with annual salaries ranging from \$4,200 to \$19,000**. Six of the applicants applied under extenuating circumstances with health issues and lost jobs within the family.

We ask that the city help us to meet the challenge of providing music education for all children while we search for long-term funding. *Please help to ensure that no child is turned away from his or her dreams.*

Our program is unique in Lawrence, as one scholarship applicant affirms: *"My child has always wanted to be in a choir to sing. She shows little interest in sports and we have looked at LPRD programs for choir/singing and there are none. When we heard about Choristers her eyes lit up and she has been excited since."*

The Chorus America Chorus Impact Study shows that participating in a choir is strongly correlated with qualities that are associated with success in life. Choral singers exhibit increased social skills, civic involvement, volunteerism, philanthropy, and support of art forms when compared with non-singers. Children who participate in group singing have increased academic

skills and are more likely to stay in school. So helping LCC help our students means that Lawrence will have more volunteers, more philanthropy, and better citizens in general!

For twenty-one seasons, it has been our undertaking to have a profound and positive influence on the lives of our children, their families, and the audiences that attend our performances. Many organizations can measure success through accomplishments. We can measure our success through individuals too.

Here is an excerpt from one of our extenuating circumstance application letters with the names and identifiers removed *“It has been quite a learning experience to ask for help, including asking for a scholarship for my child. Cancer has been a harsh teacher. We have tried to provide our children with experiences that will gift them throughout their lives. I believe, for my child, the lessons he/she learns in LCC will be something that he/she takes with him/her, his/her whole life. . . . It would be nice to let my child continue in LCC as a way to keep some normality in his/her life. . . . It’s not like we didn’t try to plan for a rainy day, it just rained a whole bunch more than we ever imagined it would.”*

Another family wrote: *“LCC has really helped our child to learn discipline, the importance of practice, and most importantly, he/she has learned that if you work hard at something and you really want it, you will succeed. Financially, we need this scholarship . . . we are a family of five living on \$25,000 a year. So, we really can’t afford this without a scholarship. Our child has already started his/her NYC fund and is up to \$400. He/she has been babysitting, making crafts that he/she sells, and generally doing any odd job he/she can to make some money. Basically, our child loves singing, loves LCC, and really wants to be a part of it.”*

After having been awarded a scholarship, one mother wrote: *“One person can make a difference and even influence the course of human events. You have enriched the life of a little girl whose joy in life is to sing!”*

How will this grant support the mission of the organization?

The Lawrence Children’s Choir, Inc. provides the opportunity to experience musical excellence and to develop positive character qualities in young singers. Musical excellence is provided through the finest music, including challenging works by master composers; musicianship training in vocal technique; the inspiration and joy of shared musical harmony; and the fulfillment that comes from outstanding public performances. We believe that commitment to musical excellence engenders persistence, honesty, responsibility, stamina, courage, cooperation, and self-discipline. We believe positive character development comes from high quality musical education. We believe that every child can sing and that every child has the gift of his or her own innate musical instrument. *When only certain children can participate and others are turned away, we will no longer possess the commitment our mission requires.*

How many people will be served?

The Lawrence Children’s Choir directly serves about 250 students per season and their families, representing all but two schools within Lawrence in addition to ten different communities within Douglas County and northeast Kansas. The number of LCC students served directly through the scholarship program would be 30-32. Our program reaches beyond Lawrence through the Tour Choir’s annual tour, our recorded CD’s, and our Lending Library program. Schools throughout the state are able to borrow from our extensive music library for children’s choruses – free of charge. We will indirectly serve over 5,000 through audience participation.

Students from each of the choirs, Capo, Cadenza, Choristers, Tour Choir, and Ambassador Choir submit scholarship requests. The Crescendo Senior Choir is a service organization requiring no tuition.

Capo, meaning “the beginning,” serves children who are in their preschool and kindergarten years. Children and a care-giver are introduced to singing in a group setting and incorporating music into their daily lives. The developmentally appropriate sessions include songs, nursery rhymes, instrumental sessions, finger-plays, and movement activities to increase tune and lyric memory, concentration, and confidence. The overall goal is to make music fun by emphasizing social and family interaction.

Cadenza serves children in grades 1 – 3, as well as some Kindergarteners with appropriate attention spans. Cadenza students are provided a wide variety of opportunities to explore the wonders of singing by introducing folk songs, spirituals, game songs, ethnic music, tongue twisters and beautiful melodies. Games that interject information on rhythm and note values, musical charts and solfege (do, re, mi, etc. and accompanying hand signals) all encourage music reading. Special emphasis is given to learning pitch-matching and singing in unison. An informal performance joins the generations when the children sing at a local retirement home twice each season.

Choristers serves children in grades 3 – 6 and is considered our preparatory experience for our Tour Choir. Students continue to learn solfege, articulation, vowel unification, vocal registers, ear-training, musical reading, pitch-matching and tonal memory. Formal performance is introduced through a combined concert with the Tour Choir.

Tour Choir, for students in grades 5 – 9, is our only choir requiring an audition. Students work on advanced techniques of choral singing and music reading. They are provided with the opportunity to learn from the artistic director Carolyn Welch as well as guest clinicians and artists. Through participating in its annual tour, The Tour Choir students learn responsible behavior and appreciation for cultures of the world while serving as Kansas ambassadors.

Ambassador Choir, for students in grades 9 and 10 with one year of Tour Choir experience, is new this season. Eighteen of our most experienced singers travel out into the community to provide performances for the public.

Crescendo Choir, serves senior citizens with decreased ability to travel. It is currently housed at Lawrence Presbyterian Manor and serves residents in that community as well as other interested senior citizens. It is a service choir, encouraging lifelong participation in the arts, brain health, and activity in older age. The choir meets weekly, performs holiday concerts, and joins with Capo and Cadenza at their semester-end, free-will donation concerts.

Please let me know if I can provide further information or if I should once again come to a Lawrence City Commission meeting in order to present this request.

Thank you,

Jane Roesner Graves
Jane Roesner Graves
Executive Director
Lawrence Children's Choir
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www.lawrencechildrenschoir.org