**Reasons for Hope MKE Fund**

Milwaukee neighborhoods are not immune to the unrest experienced in the Sherman Park neighborhood. The Greater Milwaukee Foundation heard directly from residents and community leaders on the need for some short term immediate support for residents, grassroots groups and community organizations proactively working to promote peace; address neighborhood issues and build and strengthen community. In August 2016, the Foundation created The Reasons for Hope MKE Fund.

*The Reasons for Hope MKE Fund* offers a prompt response grant opportunity designed to support community based actions and activities that will encourage new and stronger relationships between residents of the community, among grassroots group and between grassroots groups and more established organizations. Building relationships is key to strengthening neighborhoods. This new Fund has been created in direct response to many people and organizations who are seeking to take action and have the potential to build and strengthen positive relationships in neighborhoods right now, on the ground.

The Foundation has been investing in Sherman Park, as well as other neighborhoods through the [Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative](http://www.greatermilwaukeefoundation.org/community-leadership/healthy-neighborhoods/) since 2006. HNI strategies incorporate significant amounts of social capital development through projects that connect neighbors to each other, offer opportunities to engage in neighborhood beautification projects and work that strengthens real estate markets. While the Foundation is currently engaged in larger, long-term efforts to support neighborhoods, this particular Fund is purposely intended to provide highly targeted, immediate support to smaller local groups over the short term. This Fund is not meant to be a quick fix to the broad and complex problems of neighborhoods nor is it a substitute for the intensive and wide-ranging efforts already underway or planned to develop in response to the many root causes of the challenges our neighborhoods face.

**Who is eligible?**

The Fund will award grants ranging from $500 to $5,000 for projects, activities or programs within the city of Milwaukee neighborhoods. Grants are intended to support the work of informal and formal groups formed by everyday people out of their mutual self-interest. We are looking for ideas that originate with a group of people from a neighborhood and that are being moved into action through educational events, group or youth activities, recreations activities, festivals, performances, picnics, block level activities, and those which build resident leadership. Residents, community leaders, and grassroots groups are encourage to apply. Organizations partnered with the aforementioned group of stakeholders are invited to apply as well.

The fund will consider proposals from any grassroots groups, neighborhood base group both formal and informal, even if they are not an incorporated, or 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organizations. Groups without official nonprofit status will need to partner with a 501 (c) (3) group to serve as the fiscal sponsor.

**A FISCAL SPONSOR MUST:**

* Be a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization and in good stand with the IRS.
* Provide a letter indicating a willingness to function as a fiscal sponsor that includes recipient and manager of the grant
* Eligible nonprofits are required to have board membership that is at least 10 percent people of color. The term “people of color” refers to all persons who are not categorized as white by the U.S. Census.

Criteria for funding will include: the expected activities and events and the prospect for promoting peace; community building; supporting cohesion and building social connections among neighbors; social innovation and creativity , the track record of the applicant; the degree of the collaboration with others and willingness share information and plans; Reviewers will also consider whether the activities provide an opportunity for residents and community organizations to share power and create a more just, equitable and inclusive community.

**How it will work?**

Grants from the Fund will range from $500 to $5,000.

Proceeds may be used for activities that promote community building and cohesion, such as but not limited to: educational events, group or youth activities, support resident leadership, recreational activities, festival, performances, picnics, block-level activities, including rental of venue and supplies, and activities that promote relationships between youth, adults, seniors and other the community stakeholders.

The applicant will also agree to share its experiences with the funders and others so that lessons learned can benefit other participants and be used to inform decisions about the use of the Fund in the future.

**Reporting**

Each grantee will be asked to submit a report not to exceed one page due by January 15, 2017 on the following:

* What was achieved
* Who was impacted
* Lessons learned
* What, if anything, did not work and why
* How the money was spent against the budget

\*\* If written reports are an obstacle the Foundation will accept video recorded answers to the questions.

**Funding decisions**

Grant decisions will be made twice per month on a rolling basis, with the first awards anticipated for September 16. Applications must be submitted by November 1, 2016.

Decisions will be made by a Fund Advisory Committee comprised of community residents and other stakeholders.

All activities must be completed by December 30, 2016.

Successful applicants will be asked to meet at the conclusion of activities to discuss lessons learned.

**Reasons for Hope MKE Fund- Grant Application**

**TELL US ABOUT YOU AND YOUR GROUP**

**Name of Applicant Group/ Organization:**

**Name of 501 (c) 3 Fiscal Sponsor** (if applicable)

**Project Title (**140 characters or less)**:**

**Contact Person:**

**Contact phone:**

**Contact Email:**

**Website address**: (if applicable)

**Neighborhood (s) served**

**Population/ Group served:**

**Project start and end date:**

**Amount of Request ($500 to $5,000)**

**Do you have other funds to support the project?**

**Tell us about your group. Who is in your group? How long has it existed? Why did you come together? Share some of your past accomplishments (150 words or less)**

**Describe the project your group/organization wants to do? How will the grant funds be used? (150 words or less).** Be sure to address who will be served, what will happen, where the activities will take place

**List the community assets and resources this project will use and explain how they will be used to accomplish project goals. Assets include individuals, other community groups, associations, institutions, established nonprofits, public and private institutions, local business and physical space.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Groups/Organizations** | **Role in the Project** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**HOW WILL YOUR PROJECT SUPPORT COMMUNITY GOALS/NEEDS?**

**(150 words or less)**

**Describe how your project will address these goals**. Consider the questions in italics as helpful hints to guide your response to how your project might address the goal.

**Goal 1**- This project stimulates and supports initiatives designed and implemented by residents that address neighborhood issues, build community or promote peace.

*How is this project initiated and led by community members? How does your project mobile individuals based on what they care about? Does this project invite people to participate and share their strengths to widen the circle of participants? How?*

**Goal 2-** This project encourages new and stronger relationships between neighborhoods in the community, among grassroots groups, between grassroots groups and more establish organizations.

*How does this project build bridge and not barriers? In what ways is it building relationships and mobilizing assets-individuals, associations, institutions, local economy and the physical conditions? How are new people being invited to participate, how are you partnering with other grassroots groups or organizations?*

**WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT (150 words or less)**

How many people will be directly involved in making your project happen? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How many people in your neighborhood (s) do you expect this project to benefit? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What will be the positive impact of your project on the neighborhood or target population? How will your neighborhood be stronger and in what ways will it improve?

**Please include your estimated project budget (add additional lines if needed).**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Expense (short description)** | **Amount** | **GMF Funds** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Total Request** | $ |  |

**Please complete the Board Diversity Matrix with both percentages and numbers**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Asian American** | **Hispanic** | **African American** | **Caucasian** | **Indian** | **Other\*\*** | **Total** |
| **Percent** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | = 100% |
| **Number** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Total # of board members |

*\*\*please explain other*

**FISCAL SPONSOR INFORMATION** *(must submit the application)*

If you do not have your own 501 (c) (3) IRS tax exempt status, you must have a fiscal sponsor with a 501 (c) (3) and be in good standing

Fiscal sponsor organization:

Contact Person

Address:

Phone Number

Email address