

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Dare To Care****Federal Tax ID:****Project Title:****Project Type: Equipment and Materials**

Dare To Care - Equipment Acquisition

State Funding Requested: \$15,000
One-Time Need**House District: 16 / H****Brief Project Description:**

Dare to Care is a non-profit that raises money to feed children-in-need in our community schools. Currently the program feeds 1,300 students who chronically come to school with no food or money. These are children who fall through the cracks and do not receive benefit of the federal free and reduced meal program.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$15,000***There is no other funding needed***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Dare to Care has two major fundraisers each year. All monies received to date have been from the community. Dare to Care has operated primarily with donated printing since our beginning, four years ago. To date, we have been blessed with an estimated \$65,000 in donated printing services. However, now need to obtain our own copier. The machine we have identified will serve the purpose of a fax, scanner, copier, and will e-mail. Needed: Xerox WC7655

Our annual fundraiser requires the use of a portable printer, lap top, and auction software. Again, in the past we have been blessed with donated equipment but are now at a point where we need to have our own supplies that are the possession of, and available to Dare to Care at all times. Supplies Needed: Portable printer; lap top computer

Dare to Care also holds school assemblies talking to the students about anti-bullying. Giving the message that if a fellow student comes to school with dirty clothes, greasy hair and smells dirty... it's not because they want to be made fun of – something is going on in their world that they can't control. It's stressed to the students that instead of judging and being mean to that student, smile and say 'hi'. At the end of the assembly, students are asked to share – maybe they have been made fun of would like to confront their peers, tell them how they feel, tell them what they don't know about you. Many do, it's amazing! We also ask students who have now would like to apologize to someone to step up – and they do as well. The kids are eager to share and talk and we always have to end the assembly before everyone is able to share. There is lots of laughter, and tears form students, staff members, and volunteers. Supplies Needed: Wire-less mic system; projector; lap top.

DESCRIPTION: Four years ago, a first grader at Chugiak Elementary had a friend in class who came to school every day, hungry and without a lunch. Lena started bringing food for her friend. It was soon learned that was not allowed due to district wide allergy concerns. In approaching the school to see how we could help this girl, it was learned there are many who fall through the cracks and do not receive benefit of the federal free and reduced program – and come to school hungry. Sadly, many are abused and neglect. Alaska is number one in the nation for child abuse and neglect. That year our family fed 35 children in two neighborhood schools. Currently, four years later, we are a 501(c)(3) and are feeding over

1,300 children from Anchorage to Wasilla/Palmer. Our goal is to be a state-wide program. There is no application process. School district employees identify the children who need benefit of this program. Money is given made payable to the school district, not the family. The money is applied to the child's account so they can go get hot lunch with their peers – no stigma or extra attention drawn to them in any way. The school representative keeps an eye on the account to identify Dare to Care should that child need additional funds. The program is completely anonymous. Another way Dare to Care helps these children is by holding school assemblies talking to the students about anti-bullying. Giving the message that if a fellow student comes to school with dirty clothes, greasy hair and smells dirty... it's not because they want to be made fun of – something is going on in their world that they can't control. It's stressed to the students that instead of judging and being mean to that student, smile and say 'hi'. At the end of the assembly, students are asked to share – maybe they have been made fun of would like to confront their peers, tell them how they feel, tell them what they don't know about you. Many do, it's amazing! We also ask students who have now would like to apologize to someone to step up – and they do as well. The kids are eager to share and talk and we always have to end the assembly before everyone is able to share. There is lots of laughter, and tears from students, staff members, and volunteers. The students always beg for us to return. This program is offered state-wide and we have traveled as far as Wrangle to put on these assemblies.

Project Timeline:

The time-line is currently flexible, but all items have been quoted for purchase.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Dare to Care - Federal Tax ID - 61-1514945

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Dare to Care, Inc.
 Address: P.O. Box 6771643
 Chugiak, AK 99567
 Phone Number: 264-6767
 Email: bettsiewild@gci.net

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No