

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

**2010 – CDBG PROGRAM -----APPLICATION FORM**

**Community Contact Information:**

Lead Applicant Community \_\_\_\_\_ Town of Scarborough \_\_\_\_\_

Phone 730-4042 \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail jchace@ci.scarborough.me.us \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Jay Chace \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ *Tom Hall* 1/22/10

Name of Authorized Official \_\_\_\_\_ Tom Hall (Town Manager) \_\_\_\_\_

**Applying on Behalf of Sub-Grantee:**

Sub-grantee \_\_\_\_\_ Little Dolphin Schools \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (207) 883-9990 \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail steve.brier@littledolphinschool.org \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ 183 US Route 1, Scarborough, 04074 \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Steve Brier, Founder/Executive Director \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Type:**

Housing \_\_\_\_\_ Public Facility \_\_\_\_\_ Public Infrastructure \_\_\_\_\_

Public Service X \_\_\_\_\_ Economic Development \_\_\_\_\_

**CDBG "National Objective":**

Low/moderate income: Limited Clientele X \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of CDBG funds requested \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$30,000 \_\_\_\_\_

Total estimated project cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ ~~30,000~~ 60,000 \_\_\_\_\_

## LDSF TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CDBG 2010

- 1. Brief Summary** – The Little Dolphin Schools (LDS), with campuses in Westbrook and Scarborough, seek to utilize CDBG funds to increase accessibility to high quality early childhood education (ECE) programs for low income children ages 0 to 6.

### **Source of matching funds? Is it new money?**

LDS is requesting \$ 30,000 in funding which will be matched by the Brier Family (new funds), to meet the burgeoning needs of struggling families throughout Cumberland County.

### **Basis for funds requested?**

We have been overwhelmed by requests for assistance. It has always been our goal to provide the best in early childhood education, including enrichment classes in the arts, nutrition and physical education, to all young children regardless of social or economic background.

Our request of 30K with the 30K match will allow our school to reach more at-risk children who are being shut out from other programs due to cost (charging over CAP rate) or lack of voucher acceptance (DHHS now reimbursing at 2006 rates).

*We anticipate providing assistance to 17 more families in the 2010-2011 school year with these new funds.*

Our tuition assistance program currently reaches 36 families with 47 children over both campuses, projected to be \$ 177,470 for the 2009 – 2010 academic year. These include the following categories of assistance:

- Sliding scale – tuition reimbursement based on income/need
- Scholarships for children on the state voucher wait list
- Absorption of cost of tuition over the CAP rate for state of Maine subsidies
- Temporary assistance due to illness or job loss

**What is the level of need for tuition assistance? How do we know this?**

Income levels and need are determined by in-depth interview with the Executive Director. This encompasses application, tax returns for the past two (2) years, proof of housing/child care subsidy or DHHS wait list for subsidy, TANF and/or Section 8 housing documentation, family size/siblings, plus proof of unemployment benefits through Maine Department of Labor and/or medical legal bills if applicable for families applying for temporary assistance.

LDS also takes into consideration the 'percentage of gross household income' formula put forth by Work & Family Institute, NYC, Ellen Galinsky, PhD

**What are the income levels of the families that we assist?**

All families meet current HUD guidelines for assistance per household income and size.

- 2. Management of the Proposed Activity** – The project is actively managed by Dr. Steven R. Brier, Executive Director of LDSF and Associate Clinical Professor – College of Nursing & Allied Health Professions, University of Southern Maine. Fiscal oversight via Finance committee of the Board of Trustees, currently led by Daniel Koloski, MBA, and LDS board chairman; and Jill Ward, Esquire, board trustee. Internal financial audits take place quarterly, with cross-review per accounting firm, bookkeeper, treasurer and Executive Director.

LDS has distributed over \$ 2 million in tuition assistance since 1977. This commitment has not wavered. Our schools serve over 300 children each year and our reputation for excellence in ECE is well known.

- 3. Implementation of project** – LDS maintains a database of tuition assistance programs which include all agency & third-party records. LDS fiscal year is September-August. Project schedule begins with Q4FY10 July – Sept 2010:

Activity	Q4FY10	Q1FY11	Q2FY11	Q3FY11	Q4FY11	FY12, 13...
Apps Due	X				X	<b>Repeated ongoing</b>
Review	X				X	
Emergency & short term	X	X	X	X	X	
State subsidy Differential	X	X	X	X	X	
Reports & Review	X	X	X	X	X	

**4. Demonstrate that the project is ready to proceed** – In order for our organization to continue our tuition assistance program, we have completed the following steps:

- Secured matching funds from the Brier family
- Updated software
- Made budget adjustments for changes in state fee schedule
- Posted monthly openings with CCC & Aspire
- Reserved slots for LMI families

**5. The need for the activity** – Economic changes have had far-reaching effects across many sectors. Upper and middle income families continue to drop into the LMI range due to job loss. Accordingly, the difference between what many families can afford for high quality childcare and the true cost of delivering these critical services (*the gap*) to children under 6 grows larger each year.

Compounding these challenges are the recent state reductions of childcare rates to 2006 levels for subsidized children. As a result, many centers have already stopped accepting these children into their programs.

Last year's stimulus package has successfully taken many children off the voucher wait list. Although well-intended, it has stretched our fiscal capabilities as a greater percentage of our students are not having the true cost of their comprehensive ECE services met.

**Children who experience high quality early education & care are more likely to:**

- **Have good physical, emotional and mental health**
- **Possess higher self-esteem**
- **Have more advanced speech & language skills**
- **More likely to succeed academically & attend college**
- **Have higher earnings as an adult, own their own homes, and contribute to the tax base**

**Children who experience lower quality or absent early education & care are more likely to exhibit the following:**

- **Require remedial educational services or drop out of school**
- **Become teen parents**
- **Engage in criminal behavior**
- **Emotional and mental health problems**
- **Abuse drugs**
- **Become dependent on welfare**

Source: Zero to Three/Center on Law & Social Policy, October 2008

- 6. The need for CDBG program funds** – As with most nonprofits, we struggle tremendously in our search for unearned income to meet the growing needs of our constituents. \$ 30,000 in funding will go a long way in stretching our precious dollars over as many families as possible.

Without help, we simply will not be able to continue to assist all of the children and families in need. Partial funding of our project goals would be appreciated but would reduce our match and consequently reduce the number of families we can assist in their child care needs.

As funding becomes more difficult, we will continue to see erosion in vital ECE programs with direct social and economic benefits to our communities. Thank you for this opportunity to partner with you as we invest in our next generation of leaders.

**Budget – Public Service Programs**

<b>Cost Category</b>	<b>CDBG Funds</b>	<b>Municipal Funds</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Equipment</b>				
<b>Materials/Supplies</b>				
<b>Operations</b>				
<b>Salaries</b>				
<b>Fringe</b>				
<b>Transportation</b>				
<b>Consultants</b>				
<b>Space/Rent</b>				
<b>Project Management</b>				
<b>Other – 1) Tuition Assistance</b>	30,000		30,000	60,000
<b>Other – 2)</b>				
<b>Total Costs</b>	30,000		30,000	60,000

# Feeling the love

FAMILIES IN NEED FIND SUPPORT IN SURPRISING PLACES.

By JOANNE MYLES  
Raising Maine Contributor

Now don't be mad at me," Teresa Canty remembers hearing. "I just need to make sure. Do you have a Christmas tree?"

It was December of 2008, and the Cantys were still reeling from the loss of their family business and livelihood. As "Santa" rounded the corner with an early delivery for her daughters, Makenna and Addison, then 7 and 2, Canty choked back tears. Now it made sense why he'd asked about the tree.

Steve Brier, executive director of the Little Dolphin School, pried about the tree and orchestrated Santa's appearance that day. Canty met Brier for the first time when she walked onto Little Dolphin's Scarborough campus in August of 2008. The daycare her children had attended for nearly seven years prior had declined her request for a temporary tuition reduction. And now, while husband John worked hard to transition the business and find employment, she found herself working full-time and out of affordable childcare options for her girls.

"He must have thought I was some crazy woman," Canty recalls. "He asked me if he could help me or answer questions about the school. I think I said something about not even knowing why I was there because I couldn't afford it. I was on the verge of tears."

After Brier invited Canty into his office and offered to help

her find a solution, the tears began to flow. She shared her story, embarrassed to admit to a total stranger that she needed help, yet encouraged by the possibility of its arrival in the form of a short-term scholarship.

After losing their livelihood in the midst of a sputtering economy and skyrocketing unemployment, it took more than nine months before her husband found steady work. Canty recalls, "It was such a difficult time for our family, but the fact that our girls had consistent care, teachers who loved them, a safe and happy place to be during a time of great stress and anxiety - it really made all the difference in helping us survive and get back on our feet."

Canty continues, "Steve's always saying 'we're a family at Little Dolphin, and we take care of each other.' And you can see he means every word." For proof, Canty had to look no further than under her Christmas tree at the gifts Brier purchased with money out of his own pocket.

But Brier insists he's no saint (or Santa). "It's just what we're about here at Little Dolphin. Many of our families have gone through difficult times, whether in finances or health or both. I figure we can either suffer without these families, or we can suffer with them. And we choose to suffer with them."

For Scott and Michelle Sturtevant, the unforeseen rocks in the road were not a matter of unemployment. In fact, Scott's job was

See SUPPORT, Page 34

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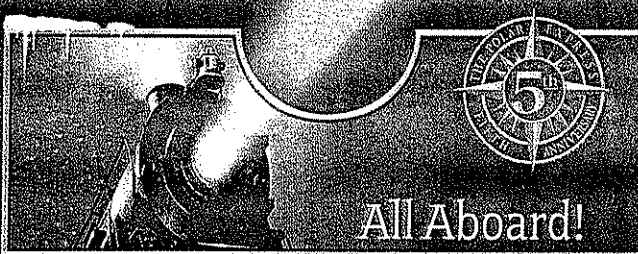
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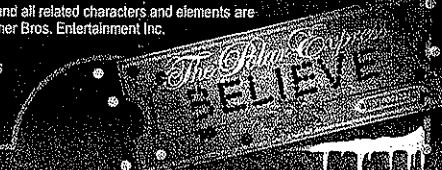
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## support

perhaps too secure, evidenced by the extension of his deployment to Afghanistan from 12 to 18 months. The real trial arose during his absence, when their 21-month old son became very sick, requiring a nine-day hospital stay and two surgeries.

Throughout the ordeal, Michelle Sturtevant found an unlikely shoulder to lean on in her son's pediatrician, Dr. Kimberly MacDonald, of Martin's Point Health Care. "I didn't expect her to go to such great lengths for us. I would never have even thought to ask. But the fact that she did made an incredible difference on our behalf," Sturtevant says.

"She called me at least once every day we were in the hospital," Sturtevant adds. "She was so patient, compassionate and helpful. I needed a lot of help to understand and to process what was happening, and she walked me through it every step of the way.

"What surprised me was how she always asked about me – how I was doing – wanting to make sure I was OK. In a time when health care is all over the news, and so much is said about the high cost of care and that people only do what they are paid for, I had a different experience.

"We were cared for because it was what was needed and right, not because someone was being paid to do it. Dr. MacDonald went the extra mile for me and my family, and it made all the difference."

When hard times come, a private school and doctor's office are perhaps the last places a struggling parent might look for help. But the Cantys and Sturtevants know firsthand that help and hope surface in surprising places. And when the outstretched hand or shoulder to lean upon are offered not in search of profit, but out of genuine compassion and concern, it gives the entire community reason to give thanks. ■



TERESA CANTY and her daughters, Makenna and Addison, were welcomed with open arms at Little Dolphin School.

PHOTO BY JOANNE MYLES

### READ JO'S BLOG

YOU CAN FIND Jo Myles's Mom in the Middle blog at [www.RaisingMaine.com/mominthemiddle](http://www.RaisingMaine.com/mominthemiddle)

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**RESOLUTION 10-01**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK  
GRANT APPLICATION**

**Town of Scarborough**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Town Council of the Town of Scarborough, in Town Council assembled that we support the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application which will be submitted to the Cumberland County Community Development Program. Through this grant, the Town of Scarborough is seeking funding on behalf of the Little Dolphin School for tuition assistance to low-moderate income families.

Signed and sealed this the 20th day of January, 2010, on behalf of the Scarborough Town Council and the Town Manager of Scarborough, Maine.

  
*Carol Rancourt*

Signed by:

Carol Rancourt  
Council Chair

*Yolande Justice*

Attested by:

Yolande P. Justice  
Town Clerk

