

Bruce Snow
417 Brentwood Blvd.
Lafayette, LA 70503
337-984-8653
Saturday, May 3, 2008

M. Sabina Taj
6470 Freetown Road
Suite 20087
Columbia, MD 21044

Dear M. Sabina Taj,

The Shining Light Foundation (SLF) seeks funding for a unique program to provide musical instruments to K-6 school children of low-income homes. We feel that our program fits well within the Braitmayer Foundation mission, because our initiative is a curricular enhancement to a young student's development, which promotes positive values.

We are asking for \$5,000.00 that is estimated to cover project costs for the academic year 2008/2009. SLF School Band Project assists children in the school-sponsored music programs, by renting instruments and associated materials. Our students are from low-income homes, and would be otherwise left out of a very worthwhile endeavor. School band promotes self-discipline, broadening of interests, association with enthusiastic peers, and a healthy outlook. We are unaware of any other organization that provides this same service to these very young students. Counselors and band directors have informed us that encouraging these very young students to participate in band helps them in reading, math and in all of their classes and boosts their self-esteem.

By providing a grant to SLF, virtually all funds are spent directly on student needs. Because SLF is an all-volunteer organization, our overhead is about 2%. Additional information about SLF can be obtained at our web site: www.shininglightfoundation.org. For further transparency on operation and finances, we can provide a login to the Board Member page. An additional contact person for proposal is Dr. Carolyn French, President. (337) 267-2506.

Sincerely,

Bruce Snow

Who Is The Shining Light Foundation

The Shining Light Foundation (SLF) is a Lafayette, Louisiana based philanthropic organization that provides financial assistance to individual children for academic, cultural and personal enrichment.

The Shining Lights mission is "to provide assistance to individual children for academic, cultural and personal enrichment so that every child's light will shine." The goal of the program is to provide Musical instruments, equipment and supplies, field trips and tutoring services to Lafayette Parish public school students in kindergarten through sixth grade whose families cannot afford to provide them.

Children who participate in music have improved academic success, socialization and community participation. Applicants are children who would not have musical instruments, supplies, field trip or tutoring without our help.

The Shining Light Foundation began in 1996 with mission of providing students from low-income families with the resources they need to let their light shine. The Shining Light Foundation is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization governed by a board of directors. Further information may be obtained at its web site: www.shininglightfoundation.org.

The Shining Light Foundation is administered by a board of directors of eleven volunteers who meet monthly to approve scholarships. SLF has awarded more than \$25,000 to over 500 students. SLF works closely with teachers, counselors and music directors who recommend children of need to the board.

Community Needs Statement

Lafayette Parish suffers from a significant number of low-income families. The mission of Shining Light Foundation is to serve the children of these families by providing grants to allow students in K-6 to participate special activities, such as school band, that would be otherwise affordable for them.

The Shining Light Foundation project is an ongoing one but is segmented for each school year. The project's principal focus is in two areas: 1) contributing to the rental of musical instruments to allow involvement in school band, and 2) providing the fee for school sponsored field trips. In addition, SLF offers support to these students for other developmental activities and materials such as summer tutoring classes and classroom supply kits.

SLF is proud of its very low operating overhead (under 1% for current fiscal year). The efficiency of its operation is made possible by the dedication of community volunteers who oversee the running of the foundation -- SLF has no paid staff.

SLF fills a niche that would be otherwise overlooked, save for the generosity of some teachers who often pay fees out of their own pocket to benefit some disadvantaged students. Through the donations to SLF, the children can be helped without burdening the hearts of their teachers.

The Musical Instrument Project

The current musical instrument project is an ongoing, segmented project to provide musical instruments, equipment and essential supplies to students enrolled in Lafayette Parish public schools who are in grades K-6. The funds being requested are for the 2008/2009 segment in the amount of \$5000.

Benefits enjoyed from this project are as follows:

1. Knowledge gained from the activity
2. Bonding with classmates through shared experiences
3. Increased peer group identification and acceptance
4. Increased access to positive role models
5. Enhanced self esteem
6. Potential for cultivation of interests and talents
7. Affirmation of community awareness and support
8. Integration of evacuees with current peer group and community

Recipient students are selected through the recommendations of their teachers, counselors, or band directors. The sponsor submits a grant questionnaire for the potential grantee that is reviewed by the SLF board for approval. The instruments are made available to the children as rentals from a local music store and payment is made directly to the store after the instrument is signed out for the child. SLF pays 75% of the rental cost, the parent or guardian pays 25%. SLF pays 100% of the maintenance kit.

The Shining Light Foundation's project goals are within the Braitmayer Foundation's focus area. The positive and healthy development of children can only be achieved when every child, regardless of family income, has access to programs that provide peer group acceptance, enhanced self esteem, affirmation from the community, and the potential for cultivation of interests and talents.

Estimated Budget for Academic Year 2008/9

Instrument Scholarships:	\$5000.00
Non-instrument Scholarships:	\$1000.00
Operating Expenses:	\$200.00
Total Expenses:	\$6200.00

Summary of Expenses for Academic Years 2003 through 2008

Year 2007/8:

Instrument Scholarships:	42	\$5306.38
Non-instrument Scholarships:	34	\$760.70
Operating Expenses:		\$140.00
Total Expenses:		\$6207.08

Year 2006/7:

Instrument Scholarships:	20	\$2939.88
Non-instrument Scholarships:	74	\$5285.50
Operating Expenses:		\$272.44
Total Expenses:		\$8497.82

Year 2005/6:

Instrument Scholarships:	19	\$2877.33
Non-instrument Scholarships:	61	\$931.50
Operating Expenses:		\$145.00
Total Expenses:		\$3953.83

Year 2004/5:

Instrument Scholarships:	38	\$3532.5
Non-instrument Scholarships:	71	\$1681.62
Operating Expenses:		\$240.00
Total Expenses:		\$5454.12

Year 2003/4:

Instrument Scholarships:	8	\$828.75
Non-instrument Scholarships:	90	\$1189.95
Operating Expenses:		\$284.45
Total Expenses:		\$2303.15

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **AUG 28 2000**

THE SHINING LIGHT SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM
C/O ROBERT M. HODGE
P.O. BOX 3263
LAFAYETTE, LA 70502-3263

Employer Identification Number:
72-1405319
DLN:
400179043
Contact Person:
YVONNE LIGGETT ID# 31296
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Accounting Period Ending:
December 31
Foundation Status Classification:
509(a)(1)
Advance Ruling Period Begins:
December 8, 1997
Advance Ruling Period Ends:
December 31, 2001
Addendum Applies:
No

Dear Applicant:

Based on information you supplied, and assuming your operations will be as stated in your application for recognition of exemption, we have determined you are exempt from federal income tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501(c)(3).

Because you are a newly created organization, we are not now making a final determination of your foundation status under section 509(a) of the Code. However, we have determined that you can reasonably expect to be a publicly supported organization described in sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Accordingly, during an advance ruling period you will be treated as a publicly supported organization, and not as a private foundation. This advance ruling period begins and ends on the dates shown above.

Within 90 days after the end of your advance ruling period, you must send us the information needed to determine whether you have met the requirements of the applicable support test during the advance ruling period. If you establish that you have been a publicly supported organization, we will classify you as a section 509(a)(1) or 509(a)(2) organization as long as you continue to meet the requirements of the applicable support test. If you do not meet the public support requirements during the advance ruling period, we will classify you as a private foundation for future periods. Also, if we classify you as a private foundation, we will treat you as a private foundation from your beginning date for purposes of section 507(d) and 4940.

Grantors and contributors may rely on our determination that you are not a private foundation until 90 days after the end of your advance ruling period. If you send us the required information within the 90 days, grantors and contributors may continue to rely on the advance determination until we make

Letter 1045 (DO/CG)