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**Walmart Facility# 531 Community Grant Request Received: Request ID 31176381**

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do-not-reply@cybergrants.com <do-not-reply@cybergrants.com>

Mon, Dec 12, 2016 at 3:36 PM

Reply-To: do-not-reply@cybergrants.com

To: theshininglightfoundation@gmail.com

Dear Joseph Cilano,

Thank you for your interest in the Walmart Community Grant Program. It's a highly competitive program, receiving more than 150,000 applications each year, but Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are committed to providing opportunities for organizations to improve the communities we serve. Please reference your unique grant identification number in all correspondence concerning this grant request: 31176381.

Your grant request will now be reviewed by your local facility manager who is looking for specific criteria. If your request is selected for funding, it will be sent to the Walmart Community Grants Team for final review. Due to the amount of requests received, the review and processing timelines for each facility may vary. We kindly ask that you allow at least 60 days for your application to be reviewed before contacting your local facility manager for a status update.

Thank you again for your interest in the Walmart Community Grant Program. To learn more about our giving programs, please visit [foundation.walmart.com](http://foundation.walmart.com). We wish you much success as you respond to the needs of your local community.

Sincerely,

The Walmart Community Grants Team

CG/JMAIL/91704569

## Confirmation of Application Receipt:

Your proposal was successfully submitted to Walmart. No further action on your part is required. A confirmation email will be sent to the email address provided during registration.

Please note: Applications are generally reviewed within 90 days of the submission date. Once funding decisions have been made, you will receive a follow up status email.

To print a copy of this completed application go to 'File', then 'Print' on your browser toolbar. Click here to [return to the homepage](#) when you are finished.

## Contact Information

\* **First Name** Joseph  
\* **Last Name** Cilano  
\* **Contact Title** Executive Director  
\* **Address** PO BOX 60602  
\* **City** LAFAYETTE  
\* **State** Louisiana  
\* **Zip** 70596  
\* **Telephone** (337) 945-3745  
\* **E-mail Address** theshininglightfoundation@gmail.com  
\* **Contact Type** Executive Director

## Organization Information

**Legal Name** Shining Light Foundation  
**AKA Name** The Shining Light Foundation  
\* **Organization Address** PO BOX 60602  
\* **Organization City** LAFAYETTE  
\* **Organization State** Louisiana  
\* **Organization Zip** 70596-0602  
\* **Telephone** (337) 945-3745  
**Fax** (337) 446-2880  
**Organization's Website Address** www.shininglightfoundation.org  
\* **Organization Mission** Our Mission: To provide assistance to under-served children from low-to-moderate income families for academic, cultural, and personal enrichment so that every child's light will shine.

Founded in 1996, the Shining Light Foundation's Student Cultural Enrichment Program provides the financial means for school children to participate in extra-curricular activities, class field trips, tutoring services, school bands and orchestras. We help secure needed equipment and supplies that enhance the learning experience for children. Our partnership with the Lafayette Parish School System has been and continues to demonstrate that there are true needs for school children in our community.

The Shining Light Foundation is a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) organization with a relatively small budget compared to other organizations and agencies in south Louisiana. Our organization has been recognized for its transparency and astute fiscal management. We are an agency of last resort that offers financial assistance to students in need allowing them to participate in cultural enrichment programs. This builds self-esteem and has positive results on learning, inspires positive change in self-confidence, influences positive teacher

perception and encourages school completion. These promising educational experiences spark enthusiasm and plant the seeds for a rewarding life of continuous learning.

\* **Current Activity** The Shining Light Foundation's Student Cultural Enrichment Program ensures that children, pre-K through eighth grade, have the ability to participate in cultural enrichment opportunities. The program also provides access to other services that otherwise would not be available (e.g., tutoring services, education, music and art supplies, etc.).

Over the years, our organization has served twenty-two (22) of the twenty-three (23) Lafayette Parish Elementary Schools, ten (10) of which are in geographic areas that serve low-income students. We continue to serve the same number of schools today. The demographics of the ten schools, which have 5,938 students, consist of an average minority composition of 73%. Many of these students would not have had the opportunity to experience playing a musical instrument or participating with their classmates on field trips.

The Shining Light Foundation recently added the Lafayette Parish School System's pre-K and middle schools to include five (5) schools, reaching even more children in need of our program and services. During the academic years from 2001 to 2015 resulted in our organization serving 1,144 disadvantaged students with \$65,467.50 in financial assistance to support their cultural enrichment activities. With the recent downturn in the energy sector (greater Lafayette economy base) and the flood event of August 2016, we are now serving more children. Three months into this fiscal year (August 2016 - July 2017), we have seen a dramatic increase in applications, and have already reached 75% of our annual projected number of students.

\* **Organization's Facebook Site** <https://www.facebook.com/Shining-Light-Foundation-881457638566900/>

\* **Organization's Twitter Handle** N/A

## Request History

\* **Previous Funding Requests - All Locations** N/A

\* **Previous Funding - All Locations** N/A

\* **Previous Funding - This Location** Yes

**Previous Funding Date - This Location** 09/11/2009

## Area of Focus

\* **Primary Focus Category** Strengthening Local Communities

\* **Primary Subcategory** —Education

**Sam's Club Additional Category**

## Community Served

\* **Area Served** Lafayette Parish

\* **People Served** 185

\* **Gender (number)** 90.00 Male  
95.00 Female  
**185.00 Total**

\* **Age Group (number)** 170.00 Children (0-12)  
15.00 Youth (13-18)  
**185.00 Total**

\* **Ethnic Background (number)** 105.00 African American or Black  
2.00 American Indian or Alaskan Native  
2.00 Asian and Pacific American Islander  
6.00 Hispanic or Latino  
70.00 White  
**185.00 Total**

# Program Information

\* Grant Type Local Community Contribution

\* Requested Grant Amount \$2,500.00

\* Project Title WMT 531 Application

\* Program Description There are schools in the Lafayette Parish School System that do not have enough instruments for students to participate in bands and school orchestras. Also, many students are left behind while their classmates go on education-based field trips. Some student's parents simply do not have the financial means to allow their children to participate in these extra-curricular activities. The Shining Light Foundation's Student Cultural Enrichment Program creates a positive impact on children by providing the assistance needed for all students to participate in music, attend cultural enrichment field trips with their classmates, or receive tutoring.

Applications for financial assistance are submitted to the Shining Light Foundation by school principals, counselors and teachers. Applicant's parents are asked to pay a small portion of the cost (up to 25%). To help us determine eligibility, applicants are also asked if the student receives free lunches and assistance is provided by our organization, via the school system, to individual children based on their specific need(s). By providing opportunities for children to participate in extra-curricular activities, students are exposed to new ideas and are encouraged to explore different avenues of learning. This ultimately leads to improved learning and skills that build upon and instill confidence in other subject areas.

The Shining Light Foundation was built on a grassroots effort by community leaders who truly care about all children having an opportunity to be successful in life. There is no doubt that our programs and services help children build character, learn discipline, respect, and integrity while persevering through challenges that benefit them academically.

\* Program Relevancy The Shining Light Foundation's Student Cultural Enrichment Program coordinates with school principals, counselors and teachers to provide financial assistance to students through an agreed upon partnership with the Lafayette Parish School System. Shining Light Foundation volunteers attend workshops and orientations to inform the school system faculty and administrators of our programs and services. The volunteers advise school administrators how to access our website ([www.shininglightfoundation.org](http://www.shininglightfoundation.org)), online application forms, and how to submit these to our organization. A volunteer School Liaison works closely with principals, teachers and guidance counselors to ensure that the application process is effective for the parent/guardian, their child and the school system. The Shining Light Foundation Program and Services Committee conducts a monthly review of applicants for consideration. Once approved, the volunteer Executive Director advises school administrators of the awarded assistance and sends funding to support the applicant.

The program goal is to make it possible for Lafayette Parish school students, pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, to participate in cultural enrichment programs through education-based field trips, obtain musical instruments, participate in musical appreciation programs, attend summer programs that inspire and motivate children, secure supplies and equipment, and make it possible for children to access tutoring services.

\* Fund Use selection Other

**Fund Use Details (Other)** Our financial assistance enables Lafayette Parish school students to participate in educational field trips, obtain musical instruments, attend summer programs that inspire children, secure supplies and equipment, and access tutoring services.

\* International Funding No

## Agreement

\* MOU Applicant's Name Joseph Cilano

\* MOU Applicant's Title Executive Director

\* Acknowledgement of Terms and Conditions AGREE

Need Support?