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Walmart NICE Grant:

Organization Information:

Legal Name

Nashville International Center for Empowerment

Payee Name

Nashville International Center for Empowerment

Organization Address

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Organization City

NASHVILLE

Organization State

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Organization Zip

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Organization's Website Address

<http://www.empowernashville.org/>

Organization Mission

Our mission at the Nashville International Center for Empowerment is to ensure that refugees and immigrants achieve their full potential now, and for generations to come. We strive to promote a strong, prosperous, and peaceful community enriched by diversity, and do so by honoring our core values of love, unity, and community empowerment. Our goals consist of empowering refugees and immigrants, providing vibrant leadership, and developing robust networking partnerships in Middle Tennessee and across the country, in order to provide refugees with the resources needed to thrive in American culture.

Current Activity

NICE offers a wide variety of programs that aid in the education, employment, health, and resettlement of refugees and immigrants. NICE has experienced immense success through various avenues in 2014, some of these milestones including:

- Immigration:
 - Assistance of 426 clients with immigration services and 105 in citizenship classes. 85% of our citizenship students who took the test passed. In

addition, 90% of green card holders who applied for citizenship through NICE and completed their interviews became citizens.

- Employment:
 - Placement of 244 out of 277 applicants in the work force.
- Resettlement:
 - Resettlement of 201 refugees within Middle Tennessee.
- Adult Education:
 - Service of 720 refugees and immigrants in 26 adult education classes including an English language course in which 85% of students met or exceeded the national standard of growth in English proficiency upon completion.
- Youth Programs/Education:
 - NICE's Youth Education Program provides academic support to Nashville's refugee and immigrant children, ultimately leading to graduation from high school. Our program also increases students' confidence and social skills.
 - In 2014, NICE served a total of 111 young students, providing two main youth programs, an afterschool program, and a cultural exchange program.
 - NICE provided 9 Cultural Exchange presentations, explaining the refugee experience and refugee schooling to 115 teachers and public school employees. 96% of participants had their understanding of refugee culture increased.
 - NICE also provides an Afterschool/Summer Program that targets elementary, middle, and high school students in Davidson County and provides programming to help these students improve their academic performance.

Organization's Facebook Site

<https://www.facebook.com/EmpowerNashville/>

Organization's Twitter Handle

@NICENashville

Community Served

Area Served (Counties)

Davidson County

People Served (Number)

111

Gender (Number)

M:

F:

Unknown/Unreported:

Age Group (Number)

Unknown/Unreported:

Children (0-12):

Youth (13-18):

Ethnic Background (Number)

African or Black:
American Indian or Alaskan Native:
Asian or Pacific American Islander:
Hispanic or Latino:
Multi-Ethnic:
White:
Unknown/Unreported:

Briefly describe your proposed program: (1873/2000)

The program that the Nashville International Center for Empowerment (NICE) proposes is an after-school program aiding children of refugees or immigrants who need support in learning English. Because there are over 100 different languages spoken in the Metro Nashville school district, this program will increase the likelihood of high school graduation, while bringing the community of refugees closer together and helping them further assimilate into American culture. We hope that our program will complement the ELL program currently used within Metro Nashville schools, allowing students to gain a more comprehensive understanding of English.

The program will follow the outline of our Adult ELL classes and teach 6 levels of English to our students, becoming more challenging with the succession of each level. These classes begin by teaching students the basic foundations of literacy, and work all the way up to advanced vocabulary and even instruction on filling out forms with personal information, such as medical forms and job applications.

The after-school program will meet for three hours every week, with classes consisting of about 10 -15 students. The the program will use are the Cambridge Press' "Ventures" curriculum, which focuses on experiential language acquisition and provides students with reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills necessary to interact in a variety of everyday circumstances. Classes will also feature word-related games, like *Apples to Apples* or *Mad Libs*, to increase English retention in a more entertaining manner. There will be time allotted in each class to help students 1-on-1. Overall, this after-school program will offer more focused attention to the refugee and immigrant students who need help learning English, giving them the confidence to overcome the barriers they may face adjusting to American society.

Brief summary of how funds are to be used: (247/250)

If selected, the grant funds will go towards purchasing the Cambridge Press's "Ventures" series. At \$32.25 apiece, the total would come to \$483.75 for 15 units. Extra funds would used to purchase additional materials for the class, like *Apples to Apples* (\$15).