



Dear Officers of the Frost Foundation:

A bilingual education prepares students with unique efficacy. Students who learn a second language before 11 or 12 may get better grades, block out misleading information better, and incorporate the primary and secondary languages in the same part of the brain. For twenty-two years, the French-American School of Rhode Island (FASRI) has provided preschool through 8th grade students with French immersion and English instruction. Currently, annual tuition is \$14,997 for preschool and elementary, plus \$350 for supplies; and \$17,258 for middle school, plus \$800 for supplies. We recognize that this is expensive and already give financial aid every year. However, we want to do more. The French-American School of Rhode Island is applying for a \$10,000 grant to go towards our Financial Aid Fund. This will be the Frost Foundation's first opportunity to fund our institution. This year, our dedicated Board of Trustees includes Celine Leger-Wesson, Michael Ferri, and Patricia M. Lawlor, among others. We hope to gather \$100,000 in order to supplement our annual financial aid for the future.

Description of Need or Problem with statistics

A rule of thumb for discretionary spending is thirty percent of income. Therefore, FASRI would like to give assistance to families with net incomes of less than about \$58,000. In Rhode Island, median family income is \$73, 217 (RI Department of Labor and Training). Therefore,

somewhere between one third and one half of all families in Rhode Island cannot afford to send their children to FASRI. However, FASRI strives to bring dual-language curricula to all in our area. Additionally, one of our core values is diversity, and we cannot achieve that without representing the entire population of Rhode Island.

Description of Project and its Goals and Objectives

FASRI's ultimate goal is to have a sustainable investment portfolio from which we can supplement our Financial Aid Fund with stable annual returns. This seed fund's investments will supplement our generous annual . . . Ultimately, we hope to cover free and reduced tuition so that our student population's socio-economic demographics match our state's socio-economic demographics.

Procedures used for Planning and Implementing the Program

We have amazing financial managers. Our treasurer, Michael Ferri, a partner in BlumShapiro's Accounting and Auditing and Tax Departments. Lynne Malone, our Director of Finance and Administration, has extensive experience at the YMCA and Meeting Street including overseeing complex bond financing. We currently have 200 students, so we would like to cover \$ or more in tuition through our Financial Aide Fund. With conservative investments, CNN Money estimates a ten-year return of 200%. However, as the economy continues to recover from the Great Recession, we can expect even faster growth on financial returns over time.

Qualified Personnel

Our innovative, patient, expert teachers already understand how to bring a shy, tentative child into bloom in both English and French. We train them in linkages among the brain, mind and education, and follow guidelines developed by the French Ministry, which lists FASRI as an accredited institution.

Other Proposed Sources of Funds

We are reaching out to parents and community members who have been generous in the past. Our campaign to improve our campus engendered significant generosity. Additionally, we are reaching out to the Ford Foundation, American Honda Foundation, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Students who are French citizens receive financial aid through the Bourses Scolaires (French Government Scholarships) via the French Consulate in Boston.

With your help, FASRI can achieve these goals to make a superior education truly available to students of all socio-economic backgrounds.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Tomasik

Jennifer Tomasik, Chair