



Micah's House

924 W 13th Street Lexington, NE 68850
402.980.9010 | turtles.are.slow@gmail.com

May 10, 2017

Dear District Grants Committee;

As the Executive Directors of Micah's House, it is a pleasure to provide this letter of participation for the Community Project Grant being submitted by the Rotary Club of Lexington. Micah's House is a public benefit corporation that engages in advocacy, education and training for homeless youth and families. Our community of just over 10,000 people is comprised of individuals from more than 40 nationalities speaking more than 29 languages. We have a housing crisis, and many people living at or below the poverty level. Seventy-six percent of our student population in the district qualify for free or reduced meals. Sixteen percent of our student population in the district is white, making us one of the most diverse communities in Nebraska! Micah's House brings a unique set of resources and assistance to the community, not available in existing social service agencies or religious organizations. Our goal is to provide transitional housing, life skill development, family mentoring, and are working toward local partnerships to assist with health care needs. The mission and strategy of Micah's House to address poverty and homelessness in our community provides avenues of service essential to the Rotary's motto of "service above self."

The Rotary Club of Lexington has graciously agreed to partner with Micah's House in this community project. Rotarians and the local Interact group will join with us as we build, paint, and stock a series of Blessing Box Pantries around the community. Each is stocked with a variety of food and personal care items, with the encouragement to "take what you need, leave what you can". We believe in the concept of neighbors taking care of neighbors. This leads to the next part of our project that connects to the Rotary area of focus committed to addressing the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, inequality, and ethnic tensions. We know that our work with clients and volunteers is dependent upon excellent cultural competency in our context. With a portion of the grant money we plan to acquire training materials to train our board members and volunteers. To extend this information into the wider community, we will invite other organizations and individuals to complete the training as well.

I am more than happy to share any financial or other information associated with the project covered by the application upon request by the committee. I understand that grant funds awarded will be directed to the Rotary Club of Lexington. We will work with our Rotary contact to advise the club of needed supplies, making sure any purchases are in accordance with the grant for reporting purposes.

Rotary is dedicated to six areas of focus, and we are in sync with the focus of promoting peace. We believe this partnership between the Lexington Rotary Club and Micah's House has the potential to better relationships between cultures in our community, improve the quality of life of children and families through the Blessings Boxes and the commitment of people to building cultural competency skills. Neighbors caring for neighbors is building a culture of care for one another which creates a greater possibility of peace in this place where neighbors from all around the globe call home.

We look forward to working in partnership with the Rotary Club of Lexington. Please contact me if I can be of assistance in this grant application process in any way (402.980.9010).

Sincerely,

Daniel & Kayli Sauer
Micah's House, Executive Directors

