

## Project Proposal

### LEADERSHIP MONTGOMERY CLASS XXIX TERM PROJECT REPORT FORM

PROJECT TITLE: *FOODforKIDS-MONTGOMERY*

TEAM CAPTAIN: Robert B. Lane

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TEAM MEMBERS (Education Team): Allen Newton, Charlesetta Robinson, Brett Hall, Mike Rowell, Kenley Obas, Ken Scott

THEMATIC AREA; Education

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The primary objective of *FOODforKIDS-MONTGOMERY* is to address the issue of weekend food for homeless children when the meals they receive on schooldays are not available. This is a pilot project that will involve up to two hundred homeless children in Montgomery schools. OUR VISION: that this pilot will demonstrate that children who do not come to school hungry on Monday mornings will improve their test scores and realize multiple benefits in self-esteem and behavior. Furthermore, we intend that success this year will lead to implementation in subsequent years of a similar program throughout the school system.

We estimate that \$10,000 will be required to fund this project for six months. It will work like this: the team will acquire appropriate foodstuffs for a kid-friendly weekend menu that will consist of non-perishable breakfast, lunch, and dinner items as well as snacks. Foodstuffs will be stored in a secure room at participating schools. On Thursdays, school parent volunteers will place food items, three to five pounds per child, in a backpack (or one-gallon Ziploc bag, depending on the availability of funds.) Teachers will distribute the packets of food discreetly on Friday afternoons.

In addition to the backpacking segment, this program will offer a website sponsored jointly by Alabama State University (Kenley Obas), and Trenholm State (Ken Scott.) This website will be designed for workers in the homeless/at risk children and families field, and for others involved in services to this demographic. A third initiative that has been put on hold for the moment due to staffing cuts at Trenholm, is a series of workshops that was to be offered under the auspices of the college's Division of Continuing Education (Ms. Arlinda Knight.) These workshops were to have consisted of basic information for parents or guardians that addressed the needs of homeless and at-risk families. If, before the year is out, we are able to find a substitute teaching source, this part of the program will go forward.

### **GOALS:**

1. Improve academic performance.
2. Reduce hunger.
3. Disseminate useful information.
4. Improve hygiene, job skills, nutrition, and general health.
5. Develop a model pilot program for possible replication throughout the school system.

### **COMMUNITY AGENCIES INVOLVMENT**

We have visited with Montgomery Public Schools administrators and principals. We will raise money for backpacks and food from a variety of sources including, but not limited to: Walmart, Publix, Servis Bank, Hampstead Foundation, Alfa, Hyundai, CC Calhoun Charitable Foundation, Frazer Methodist Church, St. James Methodist Church, and True Divine Church.

#### **POTENTIAL PROBLEMS**

1. Sufficient funds not realized
2. Kids who do not receive food feel bad
3. Kids receiving food feel stigmatized

#### **SOLUTIONS**

- Scale back program. Results still valuable
- Improve discretion of distribution
- Improve distribution method

(Schools/agencies involved are receptive to working on these and other issues that arise. )

### **DETERMINATION OF RESOURCES AND DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

<b>TASK</b>	<b>COMMITTEE MEMBER(S)</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Contact MPS & individual schools	Lane, Robinson, Scott, Newton	Sept-Oct
Raise funds	Team	Oct-Nov-Dec
Establish base of operations	Lane, Robinson	Oct-Nov
Begin Backpack distribution	Robinson, Lane, Scott, Newton	Thanksgiving week
Launch Website, video, book	Obas, Scott	December
Plan Workshops	Scott, Robinson, Newton, Lane	February
Present Workshops	Scott, Newton, Robinson, Hall, Lane	March
Evaluate	Team	April

### **PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

Permission to execute will be obtained from MPS. Principals will be given forms to obtain parents' consent for child participation. The project will use school parent volunteers whenever possible for food packet preparation. Teachers will distribute on Friday afternoons. Team members will maintain close contact with each school for problem-solving. The website will undergo continuing improvement and expansion throughout the school year. Workshops will be presented if resources can be established in time.

*Submitted, 22 October 2012*