

ABCUSA MATTHEW 25 GRANT APPLICATION

A generous donor has given a sum of money through American Baptist Churches USA to be used for programs that address "housing, feeding, education and health with regard to the less fortunate." The donor's primary concern is to help ameliorate poverty. ABCUSA will distribute grants of up to \$5,000 semi-annually as long as the generosity of this donor continues. A panel will select recipients largely based on the degree to which the funds will be used to directly assist persons in poverty. Ministries must be in relationship with American Baptist Churches USA to be eligible to apply.

1. General Information:

Organization Name **Maine Youth Alliance dab the Game Loft**

Affiliation with ABCUSA **Pastor Alan Shumway of The First Baptist Church of Belfast, ABC sits on the board of directors of The Game Loft. Please see our other connections to ABCUSA below.**

Address **78A Main Street**

Belfast, ME 04915

Phone **207-338-6447** Federal Tax ID# **90-0857900**

Contact person **Patricia Estabrook** email **estabrook72@gmail.com**

Contact Information for ABCUSA affiliation: **Rev. Alan L. Shumway, Pastor, First Baptist Church, 95 High St, Belfast, Maine 04915, (207)930-2075; a.shumway@myfairpoint.net**

2. Please submit with your application a copy of:

- Your mission statement

Mission statement: To promote Positive Youth Development through non-electronic games and community involvement. Positive Youth Development includes: physical and emotional safety, belonging and ownership, feeling self-worth, discovering self, establishing quality relationships with peers and adults, finding values, achieving mastery, enjoying life and knowing that success is possible.

- Your most recent annual report or audited financial statement:

The Game Loft was founded in February 1998, however from July 2009-September 2012 The Loft was a community based program of Spurwink Services. On October 1, 2012 the Game Loft returned to local control as a community based organization of the Maine Youth Alliance, a community owned non-profit corporation formed specifically to assume control and ownership of the Game Loft. Since Maine Youth Alliance has not completed its first fiscal year an interim annual report is attached.

3. How do you plan to use the requested funds? How will the funds specifically assist individuals battling poverty and its effects? (Please submit on separate sheet. Maximum of one page.)
See page 3

4. Total cost of the project. **The total cost of the transportation program is: \$15,000; The total cost of The Game Loft is: \$106,000**

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant **\$5,000**

6. Your other funding source(s):

First Baptist Church of Belfast, ABC, provides cash donations from their Out Reach committee and women's group). Pastor Alan Shumway sits on the board of directors for The Game Loft and on the governance committee. Women from the church volunteer to cook meals for youth at our Friday evening "celebrity chefs" program. The First Baptist Church was able to connect The Game Loft to

Hammers and Halos a carpentry program for youth that helped with severely needed renovations at The Game Loft.

Other donations come from: City of Belfast, St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, First Church UCC of Belfast, fundraising, individual donations including donations from members of the First Baptist Church, donations from surrounding towns,

I certify that all the information submitted with this application is true and correct, and that we will use any granted funds as described. We will supply a 1-page report on the use of the funds and a photo within six months of receipt of the grant.

(Signed) _____ Date **February 23, 2013**

Printed Name/Title **Patricia Estabrook, Founding Co-Director**

Please note:

- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Recipients agree to share their stories via the ABCUSA website.
- Application deadline is March 1 for grants distributed on April 15; Sept. 1 for grants distributed on Oct. 15
- Completed applications should be sent to:
Mission Resource Development
American Baptist Churches USA
P.O. Box 851
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851
Or emailed to: Beth.Fogg@abc-usa.org



Narrative:

Belfast, a picturesque town on the coast of Maine, is the county seat of Waldo County. Twenty years ago Waldo County was the third poorest county in the nation. The chicken processing industry had collapsed and there was no work and no hope for the former employees and the industries supported by chicken processing. When the plants were cleaned up tourism moved into the coastal region of the county pushing the poor to the rural areas where there are fewer services and less access to help. Maine is a poor state but in rural areas, away from the coast, poverty is endemic. In Belfast 75% of youth receive free or reduced lunch at school, in rural Waldo County the number approaches 90%. Low income youth suffer disproportionately in this area because there is no public transportation available to them. All services including: the soup kitchen, Goodwill thrift store, mental health services, medical services, legal, recreation and socialization services, educational enrichment, jobs, training, and even most churches, are located in Belfast. For many low income youth there is no way to access these services because Belfast is too far away by bicycle or on foot. There is public transportation for the elderly but those buses only run during school hours. As a result low income youth become invisible even to those people who would like to serve them. Community needs surveys always cite transportation as a crucial unmet need for young people but at this time there is no solution.

What does this mean in the lives of young people? T--- is an example. T--- is 16 years old. His step-father is marginally employed and his mother is needed at home to care for several younger siblings, one of whom has a severe physical disability. T--- is failing in school due to frequent absences and suspensions caused by fighting. T--- is often hungry at the end of the month because the food stamps the family receives are not enough to pay for their groceries. He has sufficient used clothing at the beginning of the school year but by March his clothes are faded and ragged from over-use and much washing. T---'s step-father has spent time in jail and as a result the family is discriminated against in their small town. At 14 T--- became discouraged with his life and began associating with the wrong crowd. He started smoking and drinking, stealing the money he needed to support his habits. In the past year life has improved for T--- somewhat. He became involved with The Game Loft, an afterschool program in Belfast.

For the past 15 years The Game Loft has helped young people like T---. We call it The Game Loft but we are do far more than just play games. Every day after school when he can get there T--- is given a full, hot meal at the Loft along with a snack. He is also given food to take home several times in the month. When he needed a sports jacket to attend a meeting the staff at the Loft got him one at Goodwill. We have connected him with the Restorative Justice Program to help him with his anger issues and to make restitution for his acts. Recently he has come to accept that he need not go to jail just because his step-father was incarcerated. T--- participates in an educational enrichment program through The Game Loft that will give him credit toward high school graduation. These are some of the services that The Game Loft provides to 200 (mostly low income) youth ages 6-18 five days a week. The problem that we face is that youth like T--- cannot get to Belfast to receive services. Recently we were able to buy two used 7-passenger vans but gas and upkeep make it a challenge to keep them on the road. This grant would allow us to run van service twice per week to rural Waldo County to help youth like T--- access services at The Game Loft and in the community. Without access to food, clothing, health and social support, quality relationships with peers and adults, and the examples of middle class life T--- will fail and another generation will continue in poverty. Please help The Game Loft help youth.

TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS



INTERIM REPORT: FEBRUARY 2013

FY 2013

Maine Youth Alliance dba The Game Loft: promoting Positive Youth Development through games and community involvement

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TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

To Our Stakeholders

STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

On October 1, 2012 The Game Loft was acquired from Spurwink Services by Maine Youth Alliance, a locally controlled community based organization, formed for the purpose of acquiring and managing the Game Loft. As of this date the organization's application for tax exemption 501c3 status is still pending due to a backlog at the IRS but the Belfast Soup Kitchen still serves as our fiscal sponsor.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Since going local the Game Loft has trimmed its budget to \$106,000.00/year (prorated for this fiscal year). Four staff were hired: the co-founding directors, a program manager and a food service manager. Three Americorps education award only staff were added, a community outreach manager, youth development manager and a program aide specialist (a high school senior) serving as an academic support specialist. Remaining staff and administrative functions are covered by a corps of over 50 dedicated volunteers, both youth and adult.

OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

The Game Loft is working with the REACH Collaborative for assistance in program evaluation. Ray and Patricia Estabrook, co-founding directors received the After School Champions Award for 2012 from the Maine After School Network. The Game Loft continues its outreach efforts in rural Waldo County by running a Wednesday Game Loft program in Mount View Middle School for up to 50 kids. The Mount View school district (RSU#3) has also accepted the Game Loft's signature academic programs, *Live Action Combat* and *Coming of Age in America*, as Expanded Learning Opportunities for its students for elective credit. The Game Loft also has a contract with some of the churches of the Greater Belfast Area Ministerium to provide programming for their consolidated youth groups; this program, called ENCOUNTERS, has grown to 15-20 kids per session within a year of its introduction. Game Loft youth board doubles as a 4-H leadership club and its members speak in public about the importance of prevention programs based on a Positive Youth Development model. In the last quarter youth speakers presented at the Belfast Rotary Club, Belfast City Council and the University of New England.

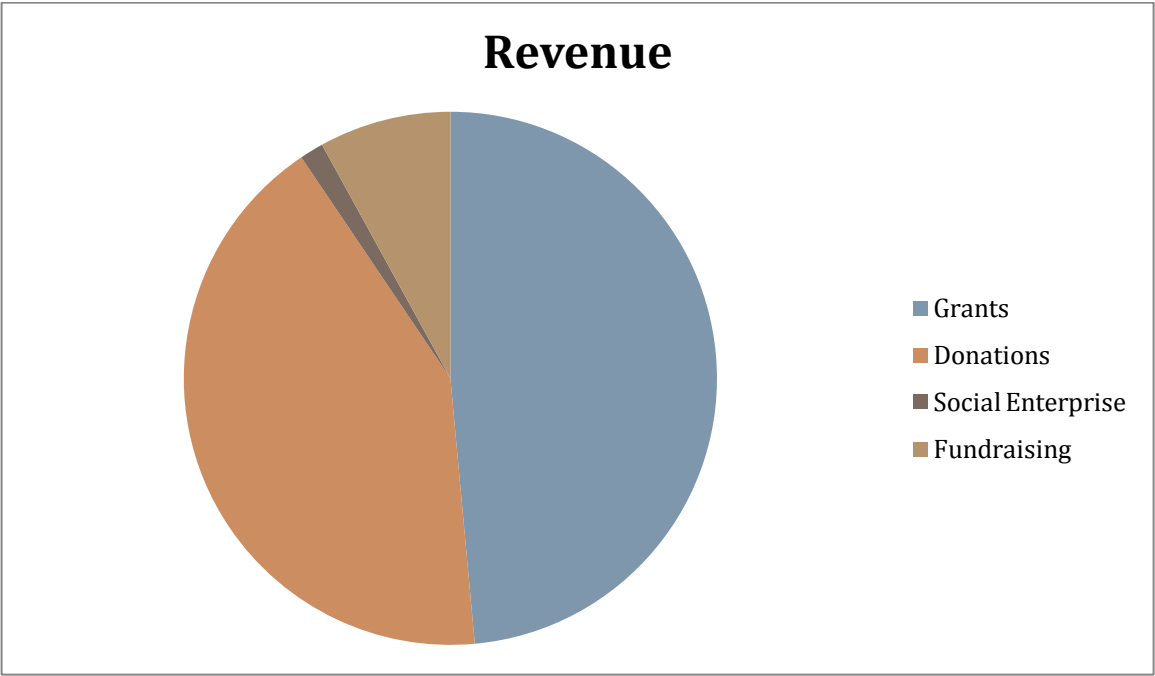
LOOKING AHEAD

Our Plan is simple. Complete our transition, increase awareness of our mission, expand our education and special programs and build a replication strategy so that other towns can have a Game Loft too.

Ray and Patricia Estabrook
co-Founding Directors
February 22, 2013

Financial Summary

For Fiscal Year 2013, ending June 30, 2013, the Game Loft has a revenue goal of \$106,000. Revenue as of February 2013 is \$61,685.00. A breakdown of revenue by category is shown.



Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

• Liabilities	
• Accounts Payable	\$2436
• Payroll Taxes Payable	\$1325
• Assets	
• Checking	\$9095
• Youth Savings	\$483
• Petty Cash	\$100
• Equipment/Furnishings	\$562
• Security deposits	\$242
• Net Income	\$6620
• Total Liabilities & Equity	\$10481

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (PROFITS AND LOSSES, 10/1/2012-2/20/2013)

• Income	\$61685
• Expenses	\$52590
• Surplus	\$9095

BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES

Payroll and benefits	\$32,196	staff, payroll taxes, workers comp, health
Program expenses	\$6,584	training, supplies, printing, food service, autos
Occupancy	\$10,302	rent, utilities, insurance, maintenance
Administration	\$3,492	accountant, legal, IRS application fee
Fundraising expense	\$16	fundraising costs
	\$52,590	

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

Maine Youth Alliance acquired The Game Loft on October 1, 2013 from Spurwink Services. There was no purchase involved but an acquisition of assets. The United Way of Eastern Maine requires an audit as a funding requirement upon completion of the current funding cycle.



Notes to Financial Statements

ACCOUNTS

The Game Loft receives general support from the following foundations and organizations as reflected in the revenue report above:

- United Way of Eastern Maine
- United Midcoast Charities
- City of Belfast and other municipalities
- Golden Rule Foundation
- Savage Family Foundation
- Healthy Waldo County

DEBT

The Game Loft does not have any debt obligations

GOING CONCERN

The Game Loft is committed to seeking out self-funding opportunities to reduce dependence on donors and grants. Social Enterprise is a revenue stream based on the sale of games made possible by a generous donor and game publisher. \$1 of every game sold is donated to The Game Loft.

CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The Game Loft does not have any contingent liabilities

TAKEAWAYS

The Game Loft's long term plan for sustainability is, in part, based on the idea of program replication. The Game Loft program is unique and innovative. We receive inquiries from around the world from interested parties who wish to start their own Game Loft program in their town. Our goal is to write, build and market the replication kit and provide training and workshops to support implementation.



What is the mission of the Game Loft

The mission of The Game Loft is, “to promote Positive Youth Development to youth ages 6-18 through non-electronic games and community involvement.” The Game Loft has been in operation for 15 years. We serve more than 200 young people per year who attend school in the Belfast, Searsport, and Mt. View school systems. The Game Loft model is unique in the world and it has received many honors including the national Jefferson Award for Community Service in 2000 and more recently the Agency of Distinction from the United Way of Eastern Maine in 2012 and the Afterschool Champions Award for 2012 from the Maine Afterschool Network. Our model of Positive Youth Development is based on the 4-H system and The Game Loft is proud to be a 4-H Leadership Club.

The success of The Game Loft is because we focus on friends, food, and safety. Our program is inclusive. The program meets in Mt. View Middle School every Wednesday during the school year and is open the rest of the week in Belfast. Mondays are for elementary school aged kids; Tuesday’s focus is on middle school aged kids and Thursdays and Fridays are reserved for high school aged youth. Hours in Belfast are 2-6 daily, till 8:30 on Fridays and extended hours during vacations and the summer. Youth who attend several times become members. Members are encouraged to participate regularly in recreational and leadership activities as well as in our community-building volunteer service. No one is excluded from participation.

Food is another important part of The Loft. In our Wednesday program we serve nourishing snacks and drinks every session. A full meal is served in Belfast with a snack at 4 PM. All of the Game Loft services are free.

Physical and emotional safety is also a crucial Game Loft attitude. There is no bullying, no intimidation, and we enforce the “no physical contact” rule. For some people The Loft is the one place in the community where they feel safe and able to be themselves.

Beyond food, friends and safety the thing that holds us together is games. All of our games are non-electronic because we believe that these games promote better social skills. We play trading card games (Pokémon, Magic, Yu-gi-Oh, and others), role play games like Dungeons and Dragons, abstract games like chess, and strategy games. These games teach people how to win graciously and lose gracefully. Understanding games gives people a sense of mastery and fulfillment, helps people attain friendships across generations, and can lead to a lifelong hobby.

A final component of The Game Loft program is community service. Our members learn leadership by serving others. In the past year our youth members have donated more than 2,000 hours of volunteer service to the community. Patrick Martel, a senior at Belfast Area High School and Game Loft volunteer says, “Through volunteering I have learned so much. I am now more out-going. I can now talk with my peers and adults and I lead several groups. I am more comfortable with myself and I know I am important to the community as a whole. I never would have gotten this kind of experience without The Game Loft.”

We are the Game Loft



Contact Information

To replace a photo with your own, right-click it and then choose Change Picture.

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Company Information

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KIDS IN COMMUNITY
