Grant Writing for Music Teachers (or ... Why to ask for the MOON!!!)

Idaho Music Educators Association
In-service Conference
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2:30pm
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SHOT ACROSS THE BOW...

- Budgeting
- Benefits of Grants vs. Traditional Fundraising
- Where to Begin
- Successful Grants
- Guidelines – Yes and No
- Wishlists – A must have
- Resources
- Questions?
BENEFITS OF GRANTS VS. TRADITIONAL FUNDRAISING

• Students don’t have to SELL STUFF
• You can get exactly what you NEED
• There are a LOT of generous people out there who sincerely want to help – money from grants is for KIDS!!!
• You can spend more time making music and not dealing with tracking who sold how many...
BUDGETING

• This is the main reason to write grants
• You will **NEVER** have enough money to do all the things you *think* are necessary
• I get approximately $1600 a year from my building to run SIX ensembles
• **CDA HS Instrumental Music Budget**
• Stop asking your principals for money — They do not have any to give you...find another way... *(using The Force does not count)*
WHERE BEGIN, DO I?

- Find out who your supporters are
  - Alumni
  - Former donors
  - Local service clubs (Kiwanis, Rotary, Eagles, etc.)
- Search online for grant opportunities
  – Local, Regional, National
- ASK OTHERS for ideas
- DON’T SELL ANYTHING: nobody needs more STUFF
GRANTS I APPLIED FOR (and got!) 2015-2018

- DonorsChoose.org ($722 Euphonium Case, Reeds, Rosin, Shoulder Rests)
- DonorsChoose.org ($703 Drum Heads, Bass Stools, Drum Thrones)
- DonorsChoose.org ($832 Black Dress Shirts)
- DonorsChoose.org ($175 Office Supplies)
- DonorsChoose.org ($575 Brass Extension Resistance Piece B.E.R.P.)
- DonorsChoose.org ($175 Violin Shoulder Rests, Violin/Viola Mutes)
- Coeur d’Alene Tribe ($5,600 Bari Sax, Zildjan K Cymbals for Jazz Band)
- DonorsChoose.org ($536 Brass Mutes, Marching Band Snare Drum Hi-Hat Cymbals)
- Idaho Humanities Council ($650 Jazz Band Music)
- DonorsChoose.org ($1,300 Alto Sax)
- Panhandle Kiwanis ($333 Sousaphone Bell Covers)
- Idaho Commission on the Arts ($500 Jazz Band Music)
- Farmers Insurance ($2,500 – Solo/Ensemble Sheet Music, Instrument Supplies)
- DonorsChoose.org ($3,100 Cello/Bass Bows, Cases, Drum Sticks)
- DonorsChoose.org ($2,000 Cello/Bass Soft Cases)
- Plus the 40 or so I applied for and did NOT get...
GENERAL GUIDELINES – YES!!!

• **DO** have a SPECIFIC goal in mind when applying
• **DO** your homework – fill in EVERY space on the form or application – be thorough
• **DO** share what you are doing with your administration
• **DO** keep backups of everything you submit – you may need to refer to something if/when you do receive a grant
GENERAL GUIDELINES – NO!!!

• **DO NOT** lie anywhere on the application *(fabricating numbers or needs)*

• **DO NOT** submit the exact same grant proposal to more than one company at the same time *(variety is good and it helps you keep from getting confused)*

• **DO NOT** blindside your administrator by submitting a grant without their knowledge
WISHLISTS

• Be prepared to spend money when you get it
  – Have a CURRENT WISHLIST
• Know what you have (INVENTORY EVERYTHING)
• Know what you NEED
• Know what you WANT
• Keep an updated and prioritized WISHLIST
  – WWBW.com (has a nice wishlist feature for teachers)
  – Amazon.com (set up a separate school account)
  – JWPepper.com (great wishlist feature)
  – Musician’s Friend (or any of your favorite music sites)
A FEW RESOURCES

- DonorsChoose.org
- Farmer’s Insurance
- Local Service Groups (Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary, Eagles, etc)
- School Booster Clubs
- Local Banks/Credit Unions
- Idaho Humanities Council
- Idaho Commission on the Arts
- National Endowment for the Arts (think BIG)
- Local businesses
- Local Native American tribes
  - (CDA Tribe gives $1.4M a year)
QUESTIONS?

• I’m sure I’ve only scratched the surface...
• I drove all this way...
• Somebody please ask a question...
• I have a bad feeling about this...

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MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU