

# Commission's Grant Application Form

Shelby County Board of Commissioners

## **GRANT APPLICATION**

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Legal Name of the Organization: Greater Life Network

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EIN: 26-4427551

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Street Address of Organization 3325 Keystone Avenue

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Office Phone: 901-315-4195

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E-mail [ms\\_vkelly@aol.com](mailto:ms_vkelly@aol.com)

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### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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First Name Verlean

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Last Name Kelly

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### GENERAL CONTACT FOR THIS REQUEST(if other than Executive Director)

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First Name *Field not completed.*

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Last Name *Field not completed.*

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Title: *Field not completed.*

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### DESCRIPTION OF GRANT REQUEST

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Program/Project Area: Shelby County - North Memphis

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Amount Requested 13,000.00

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Total Organizational budget (for current year): 15,000.00

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Total Project/Program Budget: 11,000.00

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Dates covered by this budget: July 2016 - June 30, 2017

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Project/Program Name: Diamonds in the Rough...Reclaiming our Communities

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## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF ORGANIZATION

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Please summarize in a short paragraph the purpose of your agency. Briefly explain why your agency is requesting this grant, what outcomes you hope to achieve, and how you will spend the funds if a grant is made.

For the last eight years, Greater Life Network (an IRS 501c3 charitable organization), has successfully motivated, redirected and transformed the lives of adults and youth by elevating their level of thinking, obtaining gainful employment and exposure to social and spiritual environments/events they would have not experienced if not engaged with Greater Life Network. Greater Life Network is designed to prepare youth and young adults, women, and those with special needs with life skills, worship, motivational teaching, job & interview skills, and much more! The main objective and goal is "Redirecting and Transforming Lives One Step and One Day at a Time." We are designed to be a life changing, community changing, and inevitably a City/County changing experience for all participants, those directly and indirectly involved. Greater Life Network is requesting this grant to start Diamonds in the Rough...Reclaiming our Communities One Step One Day at a Time Project. Many areas in the City of Memphis are struggling to find new uses for vacated, blighted and neglected properties. These properties have unfortunately fallen into disrepair causing a threat to public health, water quality and the economic vitality of communities. Reusing these sites provide an opportunity to improve neighborhoods, extend the quality of life and benefit the general welfare of residents in Shelby County, TN. They can become Diamonds in the Rough.

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## Narrative - Organization

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Current programs and accomplishments. Please emphasize the achievements of the

Current programs and accomplishments. 1. Quarterly Newsletters 2. Celebrity Basketball Game 3. Unsung Heroine Awards 4. Crime Prevention/Life Skill Boot Camp 5. Annual Youth Educational Trip 6. Back to School Skate Night 7. Fall

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recent past.

Coat/Clothes Drive 8. Teen Summit – Shelby, NC – youth conference 9. Fashion Gala – benefiting a Cause of choice 10. Thanksgiving Food Baskets Giveaway 11. Christmas Food Baskets Giveaway Greater Life Network’s Unsung Heroine Awards recognizing women who has faced hardships but yet worked diligently to sustain and implement a life of faith that embodies their love for God, Family and Community. The ladies selected have also impacted the Memphis area in a positive way by giving back and changing the lives of those whom they meet. They are the women who use their time, talent and enthusiasm to enrich the lives of others. They are mentors, spiritual leaders, educators, attorneys, healthcare providers, financial advisors, financial institutions, counselors, cooks, volunteers and innovators who do what needs to be done without expectations of recognition or gratitude. Each year, we invite nationally well-known individuals/actresses to help us recognize these ladies. In 2014 our Keynote Speaker was Mrs. Patricia Houston (sister-in-law, to the late Whitney Houston); 2015 our Keynote Speaker was Ms. Angela Robinson (aka Veronica Harrington from Tyler Perry’s, “The Haves and the Have Nots”) and in 2016 our Keynote Speaker was Ms. Renee Lawless (aka Katheryn Cryer from Tyler Perry’s, “The Haves and the Have Nots”). “It’s an opportunity to pour into the lives of those whom are often times forgotten or their sacrifices taken for granted. Most importantly, for young women and teen girls to see how “stretching beyond your reach” can build strong, safe and healthy families, churches and communities. As we continue to celebrate these ladies, we want to do it on a BIG SCALE each time so young girls can see, no matter where, what or how you were reared, do your best because someone is watching you, being influenced by you and their lives will be better because of you.”

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Numbers of paid full-time staff:      None

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Number of paid part-time staff:      None

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Number of volunteers:      10+

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**Narrative - Funding Request**

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Please describe the program/project for which you seek funding and include how it will benefit the general welfare of residents in Shelby County, TN.

We would like to start with a vacant parcel/property we purchased from MLB located in the North Memphis area (921 Jehl Place). We proposed to rehab the site in a way that enhances the site, adjacent properties as well as make the neighborhood safer and stimulate sustainable growth. Redeveloping this site with new construction of Outdoor Pavilions-like structures, or “open-air gazebos” and creating a park-like setting will provide an opportunity to improve the neighborhood, extend the quality of life and benefit the general welfare of residents in Shelby County, TN.

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### General Operating Support

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If applying for general operating support, briefly describe how this grant will be used.

Not applicable.

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### Project Support

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Please explain the specific project including a statement of its primary purpose and the need or problem that you are seeking to address.

Reclaiming our Communities One Step One Day at a Time. The major problem we are addressing with our site is that of abandoned or underutilized eyesores and blighted MLB/private owned properties that have fallen into disrepair causes a threat to public health, water quality and the economic vitality of communities. We have evaluated how redevelopment affected communities from three perspectives: 1. Environmental – including the benefits of clean-up and the impact of new development; 2. Economic – including the impact on taxes, property values and jobs; and 3. Social – including improvements for residents and neighborhoods.

How does the project contribute to your organization's overall mission?

Diamonds in the Rough...Reclaiming our Communities One Step One Day at a Time Project is very inclusive of our overall mission which is to “Redirect and Transform Lives One Step One Day at a Time.” As with this lot, our first step in redefining just one parcel that will provide a catalyst for many others and hopefully transform lives and Shelby County MLB properties throughout the City/County. Residents will feel and embrace a sense of pride for their properties and neighborhoods as this project spreads and is implemented throughout the City/County.

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## Narrative - Evaluation

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Please explain how you will measure the effectiveness of your activities. Describe your criteria for a successful program and the results you expect to have achieved by the end of the funding period.

Evaluating the effectiveness of the program is proposed to be highly successful at stimulating entrepreneurs to remediate and redevelop sites and, sometimes, surrounding neighborhoods. Our criteria for a successful program and the results we expect falls under three categories: (1) Re-Energizing Local Economies, (2) Improving Neighborhoods, and (3) Protecting Environmental Health. MLB sites can be cleaned up and reused for office space, new industry, retail centers, public parks, park-like settings, residential developments and government buildings. RE-ENERGIZING LOCAL ECONOMIES Redevelopment provides many economic benefits because it: Catalyzes private and public investment Re-energizing urban areas Increases property values Restores tax revenue to the community Increases the supply of land available for development IMPROVING NEIGHBORHOODS Redeveloping promotes "smart growth" because it: Sparks the revitalization of existing neighborhoods Reduces pressure for outward growth, thereby preserving green space Reuses existing infrastructure for transportation and utilities Eliminates unsafe, blighted buildings Can meet current community needs through new development Can provide valuable public areas and recreational opportunities PROTECTING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH Redevelopment improves the public health and environmental quality of Shelby Co. communities, because it: Promotes reuse of already developed areas, thus protecting undeveloped land and habitats Removes or contains dangerous contaminants such as heavy metals, organic and inorganic chemicals and petroleum products Minimizes the potential for leaching of contaminants into the water supply Reduces health risks for residents and neighbors Can provide new parks, trees and green spaces

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Attachments:

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If your request is under \$25,000 please attach the following:

1. Copy of the entity's 501 (c) 3 certificate for charitable organizations or 501 (c) 4 certificate for civic organizations
  2. Most recent IRS Form 990 or Financial Statements (balance sheet and income statement) as of the most recent fiscal year end certified by Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer of the entity.
  3. Complete Budget for grant request
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If your request is \$25,000 or more please attach the following:

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1. Copy of the entity's 501 (c) 3 certificate for charitable organizations or 501 (c) 4 certificate for civic organizations

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2. Copy of an annual audit as of a date within 18 months of the start of the current fiscal year.

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3. Complete Budget for grant request

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File 1 [Greater Life Network IRS 501c3 Letter.pdf](#)

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File 2 [GREATER LIFE NETWORK 18 Month Financials.pdf](#)

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File 3 [BUDGET FOR CO. GRANT.pdf](#)

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

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Read, and if you agree to the provisions, sign the following:

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The information provided has been submitted in good faith and as completely as our records and recollections permit.

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I understand that the information provided in this application shall be open to inspection upon filing with the office of the Shelby County Board of Commissioners.

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Signature: Verlean Kelly

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Printed Name: Verlean Kelly

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Date 6/16/2016

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