

Commission's Grant Application Form

Shelby County Board of Commissioners

GRANT APPLICATION

Legal Name of the Organization: Couture Cares

EIN: 47-3056608

Street Address of Organization 5315 Bears Paw Circle Memphis, TN 38120

Office Phone: 9013017296

E-mail info@couturecares.org

(Section Break)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

First Name Davina

Last Name Jones

(Section Break)

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

First Name Kim

Last Name Jones

Title: Treasurer

(Section Break)

DESCRIPTION OF GRANT REQUEST

Program/Project Area: Literacy Education, Inner City Outreach

Amount Requested 24,000.00

Total Organizational budget (for current year): 44,000.00

Total Project/Program Budget: 24,000.00

Dates covered by this budget: 12/2016 through 07/2017

Project/Program Name: Resource for Education, Her Prom Closet Give A Way

(Section Break)

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF ORGANIZATION

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.

The purpose of Couture Cares is to positively change our community and the lives of our youth regardless of race, color or religion. Couture Cares is requesting this grant so that we can properly provide the training, tools, teachers, and facility necessary to help with the structure of these year round activities. Couture Cares hope to grow the literacy knowledge of students pertaining to career-oriented roles that will better prepare them for life. A portion of the funds will be spent for the operations of the agency while the remaining will be alighted for a scholarship fund for a deserving student.

(Section Break)

Narrative - Organization

Current programs and accomplishments. Please emphasize the achievements of the recent past.

~Her Prom Closet Couture Cares provided over 100 formal dresses to inner city high school girls who parents couldn't afford to do so. During the event, the ladies participated in different forum sessions that assisted them in applying make-up, wearing proper undergarments, and hygiene awareness. All young ladies who were in attendance had the opportunity to present a vision board on the subject "What I want to be in life, and why" this activity allowed them to place their dreams in front of them and keep as a reminder. ~Back to School (Backpack Drive) Couture Cares provided backpacks and school supplies to over a 100 elementary and middle school students. The children in attendance got a chance to win other prizes by answering educational trivia questions. ~Curls for Girls Back to School Drive Couture Cares provided over 75 back-to-school hairstyles, backpacks, and school supplies to inner city girls. During the attendance the young girls were able to learn about personal hygiene, hair maintenance, the importance of making good grades, and having good lady-like

conduct. ~A Soul to Give Concert Couture Cares hosed a live art auction where all raised monies were donated to the Kidney Foundation. A total of ten benefit concerts highlighted and each shared a different light on non-profits and what a variety of ways that people could help in addition to/or donating proceeds. ~Read Around the Christmas' Tree During winter season, Couture Cares joined two local elementary schools (Alcy and Cherokee) to read to the students in support of literacy education. During this event the students were able to receive a book of their own as a Christmas gift to encourage more reading during free time.

Numbers of paid full-time staff: 1

Number of paid part-time staff: 3

Number of volunteers: 10

(Section Break)

Narrative - Funding Request

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.

The Literacy Education Platform will educate youth on the proper way to develop resumes and complete applications for schools and jobs. The Literacy Platform will also properly prepare students on the do's and don'ts of business attire and the correct way to answer interview questions. The "Her Prom Closet Drive" gives our underprivileged inner city young ladies the things they need for their special night. During the Prom Dress Drive, the young ladies learned the ways to properly wear undergarments, sit, stand, and walk.

General Operating Support

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

N/A

Project Support

Please explain the specific project including a statement of its primary

The specific projects are Resource for Education and Her Prom Closet Drive for which we are seeking funds. The primary purpose for Resource for Education is to prepare and further

purpose and the need or problem that you are seeking to address.

educate our future leaders for workforce and society. Today, research has shown that more and more graduating students are not prepared for next steps in life. This results to the increase of unemployment and choosing not to further education in obtaining a degree and/or trade. Couture Cares is seeking to address these issues with five workshops a year that will prepare, work, and coach participants towards set goals. The Her Prom Closet Drive will give underprivileged young ladies the formal attire needed for their high school prom, formals, and court game appearances. We have found that many young ladies miss or are not properly prepared for their formal high school functions. Although these events may appear to be minor to some they however, build on the foundation of self-esteem for most. Providing young girls with everything that is needed free of cost, builds confidence while giving a new light of showing that people care, and that everyone deserves acts of kindness.

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

These two projects contribute to the Couture Cares organization's overall mission, because it allows us to give back to the community through our time and full efforts to anyone regardless of age, color, race, or religion.

(Section Break)

Narrative - Evaluation

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.

We plan to measure the effectiveness of the activities of these projects by the number of successful quality resumes attained, the participants' hiring rate, and number of acquired college acceptance letters after the Resource for Education project. The Her Prom Closet Drive, will be measured by the effectiveness in number of attendees and actual number of participants who were able to be fitted this year compared to previous years. By the end of the funding period, we plan to achieve a 25% increase in status of changed lives by readiness and empowerment from the Her Prom Closet Drive activities. Couture Cares desires to have a positive impact on the amount of young adults in our community that are able to receive a job, trade, or degree while increasing in maturity and self-esteem.

Attachments:

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

If your request is \$25,000 or more 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. Copy of an annual audit as of a date within 18 months of the start of the current fiscal year.

3. Complete Budget for grant request

File 1 [Untitled.pdf](#)

File 2 [IRS 2015 990 report for Couture Cares.doc](#)

File 3 [Couture Cares Budget.rtf](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

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

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

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.

Signature: Davina Jones

Printed Name: Davina Jones

Date 9/28/2016
