



To complete the Application for Funding Cover Page type into the provided fields. Use your preferred word processing program to answer all other questions. **A complete application consists of the Application for Funding Cover Page; a narrative of five pages maximum (exclusive of attachments) answering the questions below; and the required attachments.** Completed applications may be emailed to grants@tfe.org or mailed to The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, PO Box 678, Harrisburg, PA 17108-0678. Emailed applications must be submitted by 4pm on the deadline date. Mailed applications must be postmarked by the deadline date. Contact Jennifer Strechay, Program Offer for Community Investment, at jstrechay@tfec.org or 717-236-5040 with questions.

Name of Organization The Nativity School of Harrisburg

Name, Title, Email, Phone of Executive Leader Lavelle Muhammad, Executive Director/Principal,
principal@nativityharrisburg.org, 717-236-5602

Organization Mailing Address 2101 N. 5th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110

Website www.nativityschoolofharrisburg.org

Name, Title, Email Phone of Application Contact Denise Hirn, Director of External Relations,
er@nativityschoolofharrisburg.org, 717-802-1064

Amount of Funding Requested \$5,000

Purpose of Funding Request Breaking the Cycle of Poverty Through Education

Briefly describe your organization

- A. Mission, purpose, and history.
- B. Service population and geographic area served, including demographics.
- C. Current programs, activities, and accomplishments.

Briefly describe the project for which you are requesting funding

- A. Project goals, objectives, and planned activities/events.
- B. Project timetable and budget. *The project budget is separate from the organization budget.*
- C. Constituency served or targeted population.
- D. Other funding sources and amounts.
- E. Project benefits and anticipated results.
- F. Description of how project differs from similar projects in geographic area served.

Required Attachments

- A. Board of Directors List.
- B. Applicant organization's current budget.
- C. First page of the applicant organization's most recent 990. If 990 is not available, provide the most recent audit or financial statement to meet this need.
- D. 501(c) (3) Letter or proof of application.
- E. Copy of your registration with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations.

Please Note: Letters of support are not required, but are accepted. If your project represents a partnership or is 100% dependent upon participation by an organization presented in your application, provide a letter from each

organization that confirms their agreement to participate. If your project utilizes a Fiscal Sponsor, follow the Fiscal Sponsor instructions at <https://www.tfec.org/grants/the-childrens-home-foundation-fund-grant-guidelines/>.

Briefly describe your organization:

A. Mission, purpose, and history

The Nativity School of Harrisburg is a private, independent, faith-based, non-denominational preparatory middle school that exists to break the cycle of poverty for low income, inner city boys by providing a comprehensive middle school education free of charge and by continuing to provide educational and support services throughout high school, including full scholarship assistance if needed to attend a private high school. Finally, counseling and support is provided for the college application process.

By raising funds in lieu of charging tuition, Nativity ensures that the student's only "job" is to learn and grow as a young man, so he will be equipped to overcome cultural and economic barriers to achievement.

Since inception in 2001, Nativity has successfully transformed students whom many consider forgotten into successful learners through a long-term comprehensive approach effecting permanent, positive change. Focusing on middle school age students when they are at a developmental stage where a change in behavior or approach is most likely achievable, Nativity enrolls students in the 6th grade who initially perform on average two to three levels below grade level. These boys have developed poor learning and study habits and have no interest in doing more than just "getting by." At Nativity, they are academically propelled, setting the stage for a successful high school career. However, academics are only part of Nativity's impact.

B. Service population and geographic area served, including demographics

The Nativity School of Harrisburg serves the Harrisburg community. Our typical student lives in an impoverished, single-parent home, lacks effective role models, is surrounded by the temptations and violence of gangs and, until he reaches Nativity, faces a future with little hope of a way out. In a school district where the graduation rate is less than 50%, Nativity helps its boys chart a new path for their futures. It provides an avenue for these young men to break the cycle of poverty and to build a strong future for themselves and their families.

Our student population is 93% African American and 7% Hispanic.

C. Current programs, activities and accomplishments

- **Middle School Program**

The program of Nativity School of Harrisburg is more than simply instructional. Nativity is a support community consisting of three separate divisions; middle school, high school and college. Our 6th grade students enter our middle school program and receive student centered instruction based on their academic levels. Over 90% of our incoming 6th grade class function well below grade level expectations in English and/or Math. Upon completing our middle school program through 8th grade, students enhance their

academic ability and test on grade level or slightly below. Our highly structured, discipline-oriented methodology is embraced by our students. In addition to improving and empowering our students for academic growth, we provide three balanced meals daily; basic necessities; leadership, social and athletic opportunities; and a sense of belonging. We offer daily, among other things:

- Middle school education serving students in 6, 7, and 8th grade with 1,700 hours of instruction (state minimum is 990 hours).
- Rigorous curriculum – student-centered instruction
- A Reading Specialist who provides individual & small group instruction
- One-on-one counseling sessions (after school) by a certified Social Worker
- An extended school day of 9.5 hours (state minimum is 6.5 hours).
- Daily breakfast, lunch, and dinner.
- All school supplies and field trip costs.
- School uniforms for students.
- Sports: Soccer and Flag Football in the Fall; Basketball in the Winter
- After school study hall and tutoring: at the end of the traditional school day, the Nativity students are still safely at school, working in small groups or one-on-one with volunteer tutors.
- Middle School Drill Team which instills discipline, character, leadership, unity and self-confidence.
- Chess Club, Character Building (Boys to Men Group), Swimming instruction, Rotary Club, Audio/Visual classes are offered each Tuesday and Thursday with an additional Conflict Resolution class and Performing Arts class (theatrical).
- Summer Leadership Camp: The camp is provided as a part of the school's extended year. Students attend up to three (3) weeks of sleepover academic and leadership camp each year, continuing and reinforcing skills learned during the regular school year.

- **Graduate Support Program (High School)**

Nativity also offers a Graduate Support Program that is unique to central Pennsylvania and certainly atypical in the public-school system. Upon successfully completing the middle school program, students attend a carefully selected high school based on their academic achievement and needs. Nativity is a feeder program for Bishop McDevitt High School and also enrolls students in other private high schools including Trinity High School, Milton Hershey High School, Harrisburg Academy, Dauphin County Vo-Tech, Harrisburg Sci-Tech, and Harrisburg Christian. This second phase of our program is monitored by our Graduate Support Directors who facilitate tutoring and mentoring to each student on a daily basis. They also serve as counselors and school liaisons who provide positive reinforcement and

direction. Our school facilitates fully funded tuition for all of its graduates attending these private high schools, helping them to secure scholarships from existing scholarship organizations and high school resources, and “making up the difference” when those resources have been exhausted. Nativity offers, among other things:

- A tuition-free quality high school education.
- Academic, social, and financial support to graduates of the middle school throughout their high school career.
- Support through the application and enrollment process.
- Guidance on scholarship choice and completion of scholarship applications and other financial aid forms.
- Social assistance to help them to be successful in an environment that is much larger, more complex, and socially diverse than their middle school.
- Standardized testing preparation courses and tutoring.
- Home visits with family.
- Community resources based on students' individual needs.

Consistent communication with our high school students is a must. Many graduate students rely on relationships they built with staff and often return to the middle school unannounced, often seeking guidance and direction. Unfortunately, our current location does not offer adequate space to provide group sessions and/or regular after school meetings. Our Graduate support directors have to facilitate any mentoring and/or counseling sessions at restaurants or libraries because of limited space. The proposed acquisition of a new building will provide a safe and secure space for the graduate students to meet with staff and discuss any problems, issues or concerns.

- **Graduate Support Program (College)**

Nativity encourages all of our students to attend college or trade schools. We believe it is an integral part to breaking the cycle of poverty, and we support each student to pursue higher education. Our college enrollment rate continues to increase yearly. A little over 50% of our high school graduates enrolled in a college last year (2017/18). We provide financial support for books, transportation, and college application fees. We also aid with college scholarships, visits, and counsel students on college choices. Our graduate support directors continue to keep in touch with our college students and offer tutoring, mentoring and support for their families.

OUR "REPORT CARD"

Just a few of the most recent achievements:

- Yearly Average Improvements Per Class in Reading – 1.3 to 1.8 Grade Levels
- Yearly Average Improvements Per Class in Math – 1.5 to 2.1 Grade Levels
- Yearly Average of 60% increase on test scores
- Yearly Average High School Graduation Rate - 98% [Harrisburg S.D. Rate <50%]
- Yearly Average College Enrollment - 62% [National Rate is 42%]

In addition, here are some of our recent extracurricular achievements:

- Flag Football Champions-Boys and Girls Club League
- Basketball Champions-Boys and Girls Club Citywide Program

Briefly describe the project for which you are requesting funding:

A. Project goals, objectives, and planned activities/events

Nativity exists to provide the academic, character and social education for boys living within the grip of poverty by empowering them to overcome the challenges presented by their homes, neighborhoods, and schools. We focus on education as a lifelong process. In addition to the core classes, our staff and faculty emphasize love of learning; study and organizational skills; respect for self, others, and property; decision-making; problem-solving; sportsmanship; and time management.

Long-range planning for educational needs is a vital part of a community's orderly growth and development. We have a successful, proven track record of helping improve the lives of inner-city boys, but our program needs to grow to reach more students. We make too big of a difference in their lives not to offer it to more students. In the summer of 2020, we will be moving to a new school building just blocks away from our current location. This move will allow us to add additional students to each class (while still keeping a low student to teacher ration). In addition, this move will allow us to add a 5th grade class so we can begin working with the students for their full four middle school years, instead of waiting until they are in 6th grade. In addition to starting the boys' middle school education from 5th grade, our strategic plan calls for us to add more classes in each grade. We would add 5th grade our first year, and then we would begin adding an additional class per year until we reach two classrooms per grade. That would increase the number of boys in middle school to 120 within six years. In addition, it would double the number of boys in high schools through our graduate support program as they graduate from 8th grade.

(COVID-19 Updates: While we had planned to add a 5th grade class this school, due to social distancing requirements, we will not be adding additional grade levels or classes until fall of 2021. Also, we commit to providing the same quality of education and additional opportunities to our students whether we meet in person or online.)

B. Project timetable and budget

The Nativity School of Harrisburg is projected to have 45 students enrolled for the 2020-2021 school year. On average, it costs us just over \$13,300 a year per student to provide them with superior educational programming and resources. Despite the significantly expanded services and time spent with the students, our cost is still well below the Harrisburg City School cost per student of just under \$17,000 and slightly below the Pennsylvania average of \$13,600. In addition, we provide 100% high school financial support so that students can attend private high schools after graduating to ensure they do not get put back into the troubling school system that they started in.

BUDGET- Fiscal Year 2021	
Payroll/Benefits Expenses	\$451,798
Administrative Expenses	\$53,375
Education Expenses	\$46,500
Transportation and Food Expenses	\$78,527
Marketing Expenses	\$4,600
Fundraising Expenses	\$6,000
Directed High School Aid	\$150,000
Reserve Fund Escrow	\$30,000
Restricted Expenses	\$17,200
Total Income	\$838,000

C. Constituency served or targeted population

The services we provide benefit the Harrisburg area as these disadvantaged men mature into productive responsible men of the community. Specifically, the students of the school are low-income inner-city middle school boys.

D. Other projected funding sources and amounts

INCOME- Fiscal Year 2021	
Total Individuals	\$160,000
EITC	\$150,000
EITC - Indirect	\$120,000
OSTC	\$30,000
Corporations	\$10,000
Total Corporations	\$310,000
Foundations	\$180,000
Fundraising Event Income	\$10,000
Lunch Income	\$5,000
High School Direct Pay Scholarships	\$150,000
Total Other Income	\$188,000
Total Income	\$838,000

E. Project benefits and anticipated results

The curriculum at The Nativity School of Harrisburg is life-changing for the students enrolled. Not only do the students improve their academic skills to the appropriate grade level, they also learn life skills that prepare them for being productive members of their community. In addition, they have the support and financial assistance to further their academic journeys and receive college educations.

The Nativity School of Harrisburg administers the ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills), a national standardized test used by a significant number of private schools. The results let us compare our students' achievements nationally. These test scores continuously show that our students make an average annual progress of 1-1.5 grade levels for each year of enrollment. We will continue using this assessment to ensure our students are thriving and are set to succeed in the next chapter of their educational journey. Not only do we anticipate their standardized test scores to remain on a track of improvement, we anticipate seeing the student's commitment and enthusiasm around learning to grow substantially.

F. Description of how project differs from similar projects in geographic area served

The resources provided to the students in The Nativity School of Harrisburg are unmatched in the Harrisburg area. The education our students receive goes well beyond the traditional academic curriculum. Our students learn life lessons that equip them to be successful in high school, college, in the job market and in navigating the responsibility of being an adult. We focus on the long-term goals and the “big picture” so that the students learn to set goals and find strategic paths to achieve them.

Our Graduate Support Program is also unique to central Pennsylvania. Our students work with a Graduate Support Director prior to graduating. This mentor works with both the student and the family during the school year to research and apply for high school admission, scholarship admission and financial aid forms. The Nativity School of Harrisburg also “makes up the difference” when financial resources have been exhausted. Finally, our alumni continue to receive support in the form of academic and social assistance to help them be successful in their new environments.

2020-2021 Board of Directors

The Nativity School of Harrisburg

Officers:

President: Steve Wilds, Esquire, Wix, Wenger & Weidner

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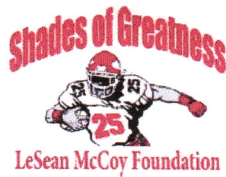
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July 16, 2020

RE: Letter of Recommendation for The Nativity School, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

To whom it may concern:

Shades of Greatness, Inc. ("SOGI"), the *LeSean McCoy Foundation*, remits this correspondence in enthusiastic support of The Nativity School's application for grant funds or assistance in continuing its comprehensive middle school education program for inner-city boys in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

The Nativity School provides exemplary education to middle school aged Harrisburg boys in an atmosphere that fosters academic success, perseverance, and character development. Small classroom sizes allow behavior, learning styles and attained social skills to be addressed for academic and personal success. Committed educators, comprehensive curriculum and support not only in the middle school setting but continuing through high school and college helps produce young men determined to break cyclical poverty that affects their families and communities and become academically, personally and professionally successful.

For years, SOGI has worked with and will continue to work with/support The Nativity School in endeavors where we can aid the education, training, and advancement of inner-city boys. The Nativity School fosters life-long learning and develops each student's uniqueness and individuality, so they thrive socially and academically. We support the passion, commitment and results generated by attendance at The Nativity School and feel that continued funding/support will facilitate more academic success stories for inner-city boys. It is with such conviction, that we ask every consideration to be given to their application.

Should you require further information or have questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully submitted,

Daphne McCoy, President
Email: leseanmccoyfoundation@gmail.com

The Nativity School of Harrisburg

2020-2021 Budget

INCOME- Fiscal Year 2021	
Total Individuals	\$163,000
EITC	\$225,000
EITC - Indirect	\$20,000
OSTC	\$60,000
Corporations	\$10,000
Total Corporations	\$315,000
Foundations	\$160,000
Fundraising Event Income	\$20,000
Lunch Income	\$5,000
High School Direct Pay Scholarships	\$100,000
Total Other Income	\$182,000
Total Building Income	\$80,000
Total Income	\$900,000

Expenses- Fiscal Year 2021	
Payroll/Benefits Expenses	\$515,716
Administrative Expenses	\$70,000
Education Expenses	\$61,300
Operating Expenses	\$48,549
Marketing Expenses	\$5,210
Fundraising Expenses	\$8,000
Restricted Expenses	\$168,555
Building Renovations	\$22,670
Total Expenses	\$900,000