



Changing Lives Through Literature

Final Proposal Portfolio



Table of Contents

UNGRADED MEMO	GRANT Writing PROJECT	3
MEMO 1	STRATEGIC PLAN	5
EXERCISE 1.1	STRATEGIC PLANNING EXERCISE	8
MEMO 2	PROBLEM STATEMENT DRAFT	12
MEMO 3	SOURCE	14
MEMO 4	INITIAL CONTACT & REMAINING PROCESS	18
MEMO 5	PROGRESS REPORT	20
GRANT SOURCE	JUSTICE AWARD	22
INITIAL CONTACT	PHONE CONTACT	27
LETTER OF SUPPORT	WAYNE ST. PIERRE, PO	29
JUSTICE AWARD	LETTER OF INTRO	32
JUSTICE AWARD	ANONYMOUS LETTER	35
GRANT PROPOSAL	LARGE PROPOSAL	37
PROJECT SUMMARY		38
BACKGROUND		40
OBJECTIVES		41
RESEARCH PLAN		43
SIGNIFICANCE/IMPACT		43
BUDGET		44
TOTAL BUDGET JUSTIFICATION		45
BOOK BUDGET JUSTIFICATION		46



Memo

To: Professor Chris Eisenhart

From: JoAnne Breault

CC: Professor Robert Waxler

Date: 12/4/2013

Re: *Changing Lives Through Literature* Chosen as Grant Writing Project

Grant Writing Project

My grant writing efforts for this course will concentrate on securing a grant for the *Changing Lives Through Literature Program (CLTL)*. This successful program was co-founded by Professor Robert Waxler and Judge Robert Kane. CLTL serves as an alternative sentencing program for low-level criminals. Criminal offenders are given the opportunity to read books and interact in an open discussion with judges, lawyers, and educators. Statistics show that participants in the program are less likely to re-offend. Many criminal offenders have been inspired to continue their education and pursue meaningful careers.

The success of the program is two-fold. The program provides a social benefit to society and gives the participant a sense of self-worth and accomplishment. The other benefit is that a blog was created to foster support for the program but to also to create an opportunity for the general public to voice their opinions. The blog is entitled *Changing Lives, Changing Minds*. The URL is located at <https://cltlblog.wordpress.com>. The blog not only supports the idea that literature can be an alternative to crime but serves as a forum to engage readers and inspire writers to contribute articles. Previous posts range from personal essays about literature and reading to more informative pieces submitted by professionals in criminal justice or the legal arena.

The positive aspect about choosing this organization is that I am working as a student intern this semester and it will be an opportunity to learn more about the program. Studies demonstrate that the program has been a success. There are many newspaper articles which place the program in a positive light.

The program in Massachusetts serves as a model for other programs in eight states and England. CLTL garnished several grants and awards in the past. They won the 2004 Higher Education Excellence Award for Program Achievement They have received funding from the Massachusetts Endowment for the Humanities and the Coolidge Family Foundation.

CLTL does not have their own non-profit status but go through the UMass Endowment Program .I will have to rely on the administration to provide me with the necessary information to successfully fill out the grant information. They also operate at a grassroots level and do not have an actual budget.

Memo

To: Professor Chris Eisenhart
From: JoAnne Breault
CC: Professor Robert Waxler
Date: 12/4/2013
Re: Memo 1 - Strategic Plan

Strategic Plan

I will be working with Dr. Robert Waxler, co-founder of *Changing Lives Through Literature*. **The mission of CLTL is to provide criminal offenders with an alternative sentencing program based on the premise that the power of literature transforms lives through reading and group discussion.**

The goal of the program is to reduce the rate of recidivism. As taxpayers, we all bear the burden of paying to incarcerate criminals. The rate of recidivism is 45%. Without literacy programs like CLTL, we are constantly paying to incarcerate the same criminal offenders. Statistics show that participants in the program are less likely to re-offend.

One of the objectives of the program is to expose criminal offenders to literature which contributes to their rehabilitation. The program inspires criminal offenders to transform themselves into contributory members of society by identifying with the characters in the books and taking responsibility for their own actions. Many participants have been inspired to continue their education and pursue meaningful careers.

Another objective is to offer the criminal offenders the opportunity to choose to participate in the program as part of his probation requirement. The criminal offenders are required to read a novel and participate in a study group. The reading assignment provides an educational benefit because the process promotes literacy. Statistics show that a major problem inherent in the prison system is that there is a high rate of illiteracy among the prison population.

The discussion group promotes positive social interaction by creating a forum of free expression .All opinions are valued. The lesson learned is that “powerful words” create more impact than the force of violence.

Once the criminal offenders pass the critical thinking phase, there is time for self reflection. The criminal offenders learn about the character flaws, weaknesses, and strengths of the protagonist and antagonists. He makes a comparison to his own life and evaluates the decisions that he has made. The person learns to take responsibility for his actions and come to the realization that he has choices.

The positive outcome of the program is that the criminal offenders learn how to set goals and follow them through. For many that graduate from the program, this is the first sense of accomplishment. For some, this opens up a new opportunity of furthering their education, sticking on a career path, and choosing to be a productive member of the community. There are measurable outcomes of the program. Independent studies indicate a 50 percent reduction in recidivism rates and a near-end to violent behavior.

There are several benefits to society. The program is cost effective. It costs far less to pay for criminal offenders to participate in the program than to pay to incarcerate them. Studies show that those who complete the program are less than half as likely to re-offend.

Dr. Robert Waxler of UMass Dartmouth was the co-founder CLTL. He has oversight of the program. Dr. Waxler utilizes students at UMass to oversee the CLTL Blog. This semester Nancy Oliveira serves as the Editor of the Blog and I am the Director of Communication. These student internship positions change each semester. Our goal is to make the community aware of the program and to inspire people to read the blog and contribute an essay or article. The blog serves as an extension of the program and supports literacy and providing a voice in a democratic society.

One of the main problems I will be attacking is the problem of recidivism. According to the DOC, It costs taxpayer's \$43,000 per year to incarcerate a minimum security prisoner. CLTL provides a lower cost alternative sentencing program. Literacy programs like CLTL cost approximately \$500.00 per participant.

I would like to have a budget for stamps and marketing materials. Through community outreach, we could make the community aware of the problem of recidivism and recruit more volunteers to correct the problem.

The CLTL website contains a great deal of information about the history of the program and links to newspaper articles and compelling accounts of the journey undertaken by the criminal offenders. This will be a good foundation to start my research for the grant writing process.

The physical assets are that the program is supported by UMass Dartmouth. Meeting space and access to computers can always be found on campus. Much of the work that I have done so far has been research, and electronic media responsibilities. These responsibilities can be accomplished from any computer which is linked to the internet. I can schedule appointments with Dr. Waxler when needed.

The program originated in 1991 and now operates in 8 states and the United Kingdom. In 2003, CLTL received an Exemplary Education Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to create a new web site. In 2004, the New England Board of Higher Education awarded CLTL with the Higher Education Excellence Award for Program Achievement. There are numerous newspaper articles which demonstrate the success of the program.

One of the organizational strengths is that the program was co-founded by Judge Robert Kane and Dr. Robert Waxler, a Professor of English from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. Waxler is also a published author. The educational and professional background of the founders adds to the credibility to the program. The program is also recognized by the university.

One of the other strengths is that CLTL is internationally recognized and has been used as a model for programs in other states and the UK.

The organizational problems are as follows. There is no formal budget for the program, not even for basic things such as stamps and marketing materials.

A website was created in 2004 through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The information on the web site is relevant and very informative but there has not been any new information updated.

EXERCISE 1.1 STRATEGIC PLANNING EXERCISE

Name JoAnne Breault

Date September 29, 2012

Personal/Professional Goals and Objectives

Complete the following strategic planning exercise for the nonprofit organization with which you plan to work. We will begin this exercise with having you articulate your own goals within the organization. What do you want to do and how do you see yourself fitting into the organization? Are your objectives and expectations in line with the organization's?

Your position in the organization: I am a student intern with the *Changing Lives Through Literature Blog* (<http://cltl.umassd.edu>) which compliments the *Changing Lives Through Literature Program*. During the second meeting with Dr. Waxler, I asked for the job title of Director of Communications. I felt that responsibility would give me the creative license to utilize social media, local newspapers, and electronic media to promote the program.

Your personal/professional goals in regard to the organization: The information that I have researched about CLTL shows that this program is innovative with benefits for the newly released prisoner and benefits to society. The program including the blog promotes literacy. I am currently seeking a Master's Degree in Professional Writing. My undergraduate degree was in Communication. My goal is to utilize publicity to make the public more aware of the educational and social benefits of this program and to encourage people to visit the blog and to write personal essays and articles for the blog. My goal after graduation is to work in Public Relations Writing.

Since I am taking this grant writing class during the same semester that I am doing my internship, I thought it would be a wonderful opportunity to write a grant proposal for this worthy organization.

Your objectives in regard to the organization: My objective would be to write a grant proposal for sustainability for the program. The books required for the course are very expensive. The criminal offenders have been recently released from prison and they bear the financial burden of supplying their own books for the course. I would like to appropriate a sum of money to purchase the books.

I would also like to receive funding to pay for stamps and print materials to promote the program.

The Organization's Strategic Plan

What are your organization's goals and objectives to fulfill its mission? State the mission and overall goals for your organization. Then consider the objectives required by your organization to meet each of the goals. Remember, the mission is usually only one sentence long. The goals are usually limited to one to three one-sentence goal statements. Each goal usually has two to five objectives. Objectives should be measurable. Your organization's objectives may be still pretty general, but when you write your proposal, you will have to make sure that your objectives meet a number of criteria that we will specify later in Chapter 8. Therefore, it is good to start thinking about the differences between goals and objectives.

Name of the organization: *Changing Lives Through Literature*

Mission of the organization: *Changing Lives Through Literature's* mission is to provide an alternative sentencing program based on the premise that the power of literature transforms lives through reading and group discussion.

Goals of the organization:

The goal of the program is to reduce the rate of recidivism. One of the objectives of the program is to expose criminal offenders to literature which contributes to their rehabilitation. Another objective is to offer the criminal offenders the opportunity to choose to participate in the program as part of his probation requirement.

The program exposes criminal offenders to literature which contributes to their rehabilitation. The program inspires criminal offenders to transform themselves into a contributory members of society by identifying with the characters in the books and taking responsibility for their own actions.

Objectives of the organization:

Organizational Characteristics

What are the characteristics that demonstrate your organization's ability to fulfill its mission? Reflect on those characteristics, such as leadership, staff, expertise, assets, and financial resources that your organization possesses. List these characteristics in order of importance and discuss their relevance to achieving the organization's mission.

Leadership and management: Dr. Robert Waxler of UMass Dartmouth was the co-founder of this program. He would have oversight.

Staff, volunteers, technical experts: Dr. Waxler utilizes students at UMass to oversee the CLTL Blog. This semester Nancy Oliveira serves as the Editor of the Blog and I am the Director of Communications. These student internship positions change each semester.

Physical assets: The courses are taught in the English Department conference room. CLTL Participants, judges, probation officers and instructors choose selected works of literature to help rehabilitate the criminal offender.

Nancy and I can work from anywhere because most of our work so far has been online. We can have access to Professor Waxler's office when needed.

Financial resources: Dr. Waxler informed me that there is no budget for the program. The program has received grants in the past. They received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The program is supported by UMass Dartmouth. Contributions and grants can be given through the UMass Dartmouth Foundation.

Recognition: (the reputation of your organization) Are you known in your region? Nationally? What noteworthy achievements has your organization accomplished?

The program originated in 1991 and now operates in 8 states and the United Kingdom. In 2003, CLTL received an Exemplary Education Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to create a new web site. In 2004, the New England Board of Higher Education awarded CLTL with the Higher Education Excellence Award for Program Achievement.

There are numerous newspaper articles which demonstrate the success of the program.

The program was co-founded by Judge Robert Kane and Dr. Robert Waxler, a Professor of English from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. He is also a published author.

The measureable outcomes are the following.

Independent studies indicate a 50 percent reduction in recidivism rates and a near-end to violent behavior. The criminal offenders are tracked by their social security numbers.

Organizational Strengths or Advantages

What are the greatest strengths of your organization? List them in descending order of importance.

1. The organization is internationally recognized and has been used as a model for programs in other states and the UK.
2. The program was co-founded by Dr. Robert Waxler, an English Professor from UMass Dartmouth. He is also a published author.
3. The program is recognized by UMASS Dartmouth and the school seems proud to be affiliated with a program held in such high esteem.
4. Independent studies show that the measurable outcomes of the program are that Independent studies indicate a 50 percent reduction in recidivism rates and a near-end to violent behavior.

Organizational Problems or Weaknesses

What are the major problems, difficulties, or obstacles that your organization faces? List them in descending order of importance. Every organization has difficulties or problems. To solve these you have to identify them and view them as opportunities to make the organization better by overcoming them. (It is often from this list that ideas for proposals emerge.)

1. There is no person to implement the program on a regular basis.
2. There is no budget for capacity and sustainability of the program. (not even for stamps)
3. The information on the web site is relevant but there has not been any new information updated.

Proposed Organizational Activities

What activities or projects could your organization undertake to capitalize on its strengths and/or overcome some of its weaknesses? (In many cases one of these activities will become your project idea that you will be seeking funding for and writing a proposal about.) Note that proposal topics often emerge from a desire to overcome some organizational weakness which will better enable the organization to meet its goals and mission and serve its target population. Often project ideas come from looking at the problems the organization's stakeholders or constituents have. Designing a project can help to solve these problems. You will want to design a project that is within the scope of the organization's mission and objectives.

PROJECT IDEA 1:

Find funding for capacity and sustainability of the program.

PROJECT IDEA 2:

Find funding for advertising.

PROJECT IDEA 3:

Find funding to sponsor a community event that would bring attention to the program.

PROJECT IDEA 4:

Find funding to pay for the books for the courses.

For which of these ideas do you want to find funding? Make this decision in consultation with people from your organization. This is the idea that you will use as the basis for your need statement in Chapter 2 and for your proposal for the course.

I believe funding for capacity and sustainability would best serve the mission of the program.

Memo

To: Professor Chris Eisenhart
From: JoAnne Breault
CC: Professor Robert Waxler
Date: 12/4/2013
Re: Memo 2 - Problem Statement

Problem Statement

Recidivism negatively affects both the individual criminal offender and society as a whole. When a person re-offends, he is likely to lead an unproductive life and become a burden to society. The taxpayer in many cases is targeted as the victim, but also bears the financial burden of separating the criminal offender from society. In response, *Changing Lives Through Literature* (CLTL) provides low-level criminal offenders with an alternative sentencing program based on the premise that the power of literature transforms lives through reading and group discussion.

Independent studies show that participation in literacy programs reduces the rate of recidivism. Specifically, the Jarjoura and Krumholz's statistical study shows a reconviction rate of 18.75% in a CLTL student study group. The rate of recidivism for the comparison group was 45%. (Journal of Offender Rehabilitation, Vol. 28 (1/2), 1998)

According to the Massachusetts Department of Corrections, it costs taxpayers \$43,000 per year to incarcerate a low-level criminal offender. Literacy programs like CLTL cost approximately \$500.00 to graduate a participant. *Changing Lives Through Literature* lowers the cost of incarceration because participants in CLTL are less likely to re-offend and cost the taxpayers money.

The objective of the CLTL program is to offer the criminal offenders the opportunity to participate in the program as part of their probation requirement. The criminal offenders are required to read a novel and participate in a study group. The reading assignment provides an educational benefit because the process promotes literacy.

Although low literacy may not cause crime directly, it fosters desperation and economic instability which may lead to poor decisions in life. The literacy quotient certainly has a lot to do with how the newly released criminal offender will survive on the outside. Literacy serves as a direct link for the criminal offender to be employable and to be able to fill out applications for necessary social services.

A problem in the prison system is that there is a high rate of illiteracy among the prison population. Only 47% of inmates starting their sentence possess a high school diploma or a GED. A startling 14% have not made it past the 8th grade.

One objective is to expose criminal offenders to literature which contributes to their rehabilitation. The program inspires criminal offenders to transform themselves into contributory members of society by identifying with the characters in the books and taking responsibility for their own actions.

The positive outcome of *Changing Lives Through Literature* is that the criminal offenders learn how to set goals and follow them through. For many that graduate from the program, this is the first sense of accomplishment and an improved sense of self-worth. For some, this opens up a new opportunity of furthering their education, sticking on a career path, and choosing to be a productive member of the community.

There are several benefits to society. The program is cost effective. It costs far less to pay for criminal offenders to participate in the program than to pay to incarcerate them. There are measurable outcomes of the program. **Independent studies indicate a 50 percent reduction in recidivism rates.**

The program's mission and goals could be best executed through a grant to build capacity and fund books and marketing materials.

The program originated in 1991 and now operates in 8 states and the United Kingdom. In 2003, CLTL received an Exemplary Education Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to create a new web site. In 2004, the New England Board of Higher Education awarded CLTL with the Higher Education Excellence Award for Program Achievement. There are numerous newspaper articles which demonstrate the success of the program.

One of the organizational strengths is that the program was co-founded by Judge Robert Kane and Dr. Robert Waxler, a Professor of English from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. Waxler is also a published author. The educational and professional background of the founders adds to the credibility to the program. The program is also conceptually supported by the university but not financially. CLTL is internationally recognized and has been used as a model for programs.



Memo

To: Professor Chris Eisenhart
From: JoAnne Breault
CC: Professor Robert Waxler
Date: 12/4/2013
Re: Memo 3 – Potential Sources of Funding

Potential Source of Funding

I found a potential funding source that appears to be a good fit for *Changing Lives Through Literature*. The **Foundation for Improvement of Justice, Inc.** is located in Lawrenceville, Georgia but they give on a national basis. That was a big selling point. I was having a problem locating available funding because many grants had geographical limitations.

The organization is a private, not-for-profit organization that is concerned with the systems of justice on the local, state and federal level.

The foundation provided endowments and they have been incorporated since 1984. The market value of their assets is \$1,350,838. Their annual total giving is \$60,000.

Although the funding does not appear to be a large distribution, the foundations purpose and activities and fields of interest resonates with the same mission and objectives that fuels the theory behind CLTL.

Purpose and Activities

The **Foundation for Improvement of Justice, Inc.** states that “Giving is limited to achievement awards to organizations and individuals for innovative and proven successful efforts to improve justice, including simplification o the law, crime prevention, child protection, speeding the process, effecting restitution, crime victims’ rights, **alternative sentencing, reducing recidivism, and lowering the cost.**”

According to their website, the “mission is to recognize innovative and effective works and/or programs whose efforts have made positive influential differences in the United States

criminal and civil judicial arenas.” This mantra resonated with the same message that co-founders Professor Robert Waxler and Judge Robert Kane.

Besides a monetary award of \$10,000, the foundation recognizes the nominee with an invitation to an awards banquet, a commendation bar pin, and a certification of appreciation. This type of national recognition would be instrumental in helping CLTL attain other funding sources in the future.

The mission of CLTL is to provide criminal offenders with an alternative sentencing program. According to the MA Department of Correction (DOC), the average cost of incarcerating offenders in Massachusetts is \$43,000 per year. The average cost of a program like CLTL is approximately \$500.00 per criminal offender. Statistics show that participants in the program are less likely to offend. Three of the key words: alternative sentencing, reducing recidivism, and lowering costs were a great match for CLTL.

Fields of Interest

The **Foundation for Improvement of Justice, Inc.** lists their subjects for fields of interest as:

1. Legal reform
2. Crime prevention
3. Child protection
4. Speeding the process
5. Effecting restitution
6. Crime victims' rights
7. Alternative sentencing
8. Reducing recidivism
9. Lowering the cost
10. Other significant efforts

These interests also correlate with CLTL. By reducing recidivism, CLTL proves to provide social benefits to society. The CLTL program reduces costs in the court system because graduates of CLTL are less likely to reoffend and end up back in court. This also reduces the cost in crime and the financial burden to law enforcement. The program also assists with the rehabilitation process and fosters the reform of the criminal offender.

The criminal offender now sets goals and makes more intelligent choices which reduce the risk of victimizing other members of the community which results in lower costs for human services and aid to victims.

The foundation is also interested in successful accomplishments which have “proven effective and can serve as models for others.” CLTL has a presence in eight states and the

United Kingdom. Documentation exists where CLTL has served as a model for other programs.

Website Content

The website located at <http://justiceawards.com> provided rich content. The website states that the recipients of the grant are “not required to provide any further services as a condition of receiving an award.” Since I have one semester to write the grant and there is not a staff person to implement it, CLTL would not have to provide any type of measurement system to evaluate the impact of receiving the grant.

The website states that nominations must include evidence of my nominee’s accomplishments. Published newspaper articles narrate the accomplishments of CLTL and Professor Waxler. CLTL has been the recipient of a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Coolidge Family Fund of the Boston Foundation. They were honored with the Excellence Award for Program Achievement by the New England Board of Higher Education. These previous grants and awards build upon the credibility of the program.

They recently awarded two organizations awards based on “reducing recidivism” and “alternative sentencing.” Hope House in Washington D.C. was awarded a grant based on “reducing recidivism” in 2012. They created a program where fathers in prison participated in programs with their children. The Madison County Veterans Center received an award for implementing programs to keep Veterans out of jail.

Synopsis

The mission and goals of the **Foundation for Improvement of Justice, Inc.** are analogous to those of Changing Lives Through Literature. That is why I think this grant would be worth pursuing.

The other perk is that the grant is treated as an endowment but there is recognition like an award. This could prove beneficial to CLTL in recognition, credibility, and the potential of securing other funding sources in the future.

Since there is no one physically on the CLTL payroll, it does not make sense to try and secure a large amount of money and later be required to provide countless hours of documentation to measure the impact of the money awarded.

The annual deadline is on or before June 1st. Nominations are accepted year-round. They also made it easy to send the nominations. They could be e-mailed at justiceawards@gmail.com or mailed to:

Foundation for Improvement of Justice, Inc.
1930 Federal Court
Lawrenceville, GA 30044.

The foundation lists the contact person as Pam Endiger and a phone number of

770-831-9411. They also provided a separate e-mail for inquiries at justiceawards@gmail.com.

Other Potential Sources

I also found several other potential sources for funding. **The Frances Lear Foundation** is an independent foundation based out of New York, NY. This foundation came up under a key search of alternative sentencing. The fields of interest include human services which broadly covers CLTL.

The foundation awards anywhere from \$10,000 to \$85,000 with an annual giving of \$678,000. There were two factors that were a concern for me. Under limitations it stated that applications are not selected and they gave primarily in NY. The application stated that the foundation contributes only to pre-selected organizations. Since I have deadlines, I was concerned with the time it would take me to make a contact within the organization and actually get a response.

Although the foundation states that they mainly fund organizations in New York County which includes NY, NJ, and PA, I found that they gave a grant to Partners in Health, Boston, MA. This organization was awarded \$40,000 in 2010 payable in for general support over one year. One of their interests is health organizations.

Memo

To: Professor Chris Eisenhart
From: JoAnne Breault
CC: Professor Robert Waxler
Date: 12/4/2013
Re: Memo 4 – Grant Proposal Update

Grant Proposal Update

I revised my letter of intent to fit the class critique. I met with Professor Waxler last week and he also requested that I personally call the contact person to confirm that Changing Lives Through Literature is a good fit for that grant award. He also stated that I could research other grant opportunities as part of my internship. Because he suggested this, I also wrote the phone interview portion of the exercise because I felt it would be good practice. (see attachments) He did request that I nominate the organization and not him.

I had difficulty developing my need/problem statement. Initially I interpreted the big problem as having no money and no staff to implement a valuable program. Now that I have read most of the book, examples in class, and other students need statement, I have gone through a metamorphosis.

Now I perceive the real problem as recidivism among criminal offenders and a high rate of illiteracy as the underlying problem. The result of recidivism costs the taxpayer and the government a large quantity of money. A smaller amount of money should be invested in a program like Changing Lives Through Literature which results in lowering the rate of recidivism and ultimately lowering the cost. I am trying to revise my need/problem statement to support this.

Although the Foundation of Improvement of Justice does not require all of the documentation that the book suggests, I will be presenting two versions. One will be for the complete requirement of the grant proposal for the class and the second for the specific requirements for the foundation. This will be good preparation to be able to apply for other grants for CLTL.

I still have to write the cover letter, executive summary, and the abstract. I am concerned about writing the budget because the program does not have a budget.

I have researched statistics about problems within the prison system such as the rate of illiteracy, the cost of incarceration. These statistics will also include the rate of success for CLTL. This will add logos to the project.

There are many positive newspaper articles that have been published about CLTL and Professor Waxler. I will be printing these for the appendices to show credibility and ethos. I would also like to weave a short story or narrative about a graduating criminal offender. This will add pathos to the proposal.

Memo

To: Professor Chris Eisenhart
From: JoAnne Breault
CC: Professor Robert Waxler
Date: 12/4/2013
Re: Memo 5 – Grant Proposal Update

Grant Proposal Update

A CLTL discussion group started up recently. As part of my research, I wanted to experience what the program was like from the perspective of the criminal offender. The reading assignment was Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*. I read the book just like all of the criminal offenders and I participated in the group discussion.

I personally found the discussion group to be very therapeutic. I was impressed that the participants appeared to be eager to read the book. They contributed some very profound statements to the discussion and made analogies to problems in their own life. Witnessing the program firsthand was inspiring and has given me some new insights that I can infuse into my proposal. I will be participating in this week's discussion group also.

I am rereading the grants that were passed out this semester to give me more clarity on how I should be revising my need/problem statement. My goal is narrate that recidivism is not just a problem among criminal offenders but a problem that plagues society as a whole. By presenting statistics, I will show that recidivism costs the taxpayer and the government an astronomical amount of money to incarcerate. Statistics show that *Changing Lives Through Literature* results in lowering the rate of recidivism and ultimately lowering the cost. My revised need/problem statement will support this.

I will write a short narrative piece with a testimonial from a former criminal offender into the need/problem statement. I found a few testimonials on the CLTL website and an essay from a former criminal offender on the CLTL blog. There is a chance that I may be able to get a testimonial from one of the students this semester.

My draft proposal includes my project summary which will be edited through the revisions. I also drafted the background using historical information that is presented on the web site. I rewrote the objectives of the program and the proposal. The major goals of CLTL are to motivate criminal offenders to become better citizens and ultimately resulting in lowering the rate of recidivism. Although my proposal does not have anything to do with science per say, there is scientific research involved and the statistics can be measured.

I also felt that a tracking system could be implemented in the form of a survey. The participants could be required to fill out a survey before and after the reading discussion group. Their attitudes and behaviors could be tracked to see if they re-offend after participating in the program. The participants are also tracked by their social security number.

The budget is a work in progress. Because my grant maker is a small foundation, an elaborate budget will not be necessary. Currently the criminal offenders are required to purchase their own books for the class. I would like a budget to include the reading materials and notebooks. I feel the criminal offender has enough responsibility finding adequate housing and a job while they are struggling to reintegrate into society. I believe the success rate will be higher if they are not burdened with financing their own books for the discussion group.

I would also like to find funding to pay for stamps and other stationary. There would also be a cost to print marketing materials.

<http://justiceawards.com/>

HOME

The Foundation for Improvement of Justice, Inc. is a private, not-for-profit organization that was founded for the purpose of improving local, state and federal systems of justice. Our mission is to recognize innovative and effective works and/or programs whose efforts have made positive influential differences in the United States criminal and civil judicial arenas.

Our intent is to encourage further improvement in the various systems of justice in the United States through both recognition and reward.

Board of Directors

- Paul H. Anderson
- Rosemary Armstrong
- Lt. General Charles P. Graham
- Michael T. Griffin
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ABOUT US

Paul Chapman was the sole visionary who developed the concept for the Foundation and its awards. He oversaw the actual formation of the foundation and guided its early development years. Mr. Chapman served as Chairman of the Board for fifteen years, only stepping down when his health required it. Paul's vision, dedication and leadership is why the Foundation came into existence and grew into the organization it is today. For these reasons, the awards presented by the Foundation are known as The Paul H. Chapman Awards.

An endowment by Zena H. Chapman, mother of Paul Chapman, from the estate funds of her late husband, Judson W. Chapman of Greenville, South Carolina, established the Foundation in 1984. His career in journalism had culminated in his becoming Executive Vice President of the Greenville News-Piedmont Company, a predecessor to Multimedia, Inc. His widow held on to the Multimedia stock during its major growth period. Later in life, as a continuance of their history of philanthropy, she contributed a major portion of the estate to founding the Foundation for Improvement of Justice, Inc.

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of Chapman family members and non-family individuals who have various careers in our justice systems. The Foundation does not seek financial funding support. Moreover, all of the endowment's earnings are paid out each year in awards. The Board members serve without financial remuneration. Their rewards are much the same as those the recipients have been receiving--the satisfaction of feeling that their efforts are contributing to the

improvement of justice.

AWARDS PROGRAM

The Foundation encourages improvement by recognizing and rewarding accomplishment in the following categories:

11. Legal reform
12. Crime prevention
13. Child protection
14. Speeding the process
15. Effecting restitution
16. Crime victims' rights
17. Alternative sentencing
18. Reducing recidivism
19. Lowering the cost
20. Other significant efforts

The Foundation recognizes and awards up to seven nominees on an annual basis with a an awards package which includes: the Paul H. Chapman medal, a check for \$10,000, a commendation bar pin, a certificate of appreciation, and an invitation to an awards banquet in Atlanta, Georgia.

Please note that these are awards for successful accomplishments inclusive of innovative programs which have proven effective and can serve as models for others. Recipients are not required to render any further services as a condition of receiving an award. The Foundation does NOT provide grants for future projects, anticipated works, nor scholarships for desired aspirations.

This awards program is open to all individuals, programs, and organizations within the United States. Members of neither the Foundation nor their relatives are eligible for recognition. In addition, previous award recipients are not eligible for consideration.

NOMINATIONS

1. In your cover letter provide your name as nominator, your position, address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address (if applicable). Include the same information for the person or group whom you are nominating. Nominators must sign the cover letter. Self-nominations will not be considered.
2. Enclose a two-page (8 1/2 X 11), double-spaced, typewritten (10 to 12 pitch standard font: 1" margins) summary of your nominee's accomplishment. Cite specific action and results with a time frame given. Do not

identify the nominee or the nominator in this summary. Information as to location, political affiliation, race, religion, etc., must be omitted in order that these may be judged without concern of prejudice. Refer to "nominee", "city", or "state". Do not use letterhead for this summary. The initial stage of judging is based on this summary alone.

3. All nominations MUST include evidence of your nominee's accomplishments such as commendations, endorsements, newspaper/magazine articles, TV clips, or other. These materials are necessary for verification and validation purposes. All submitted materials become the property of the Foundation. An elaborate presentation is not necessary. Substance counts. If nomination procedures are not followed exactly, the nomination will be rejected.

Annual Deadline

Received *at our office on or before* June 1st for consideration *among* that year's awards.
Nominations are accepted year-round.

WHERE TO SEND

NOMINATIONS MUST BE E-MAILED TO: JUSTICEAWARDS@GMAIL.COM

OR

mailed to:

Foundation for Improvement of Justice, Inc.
1930 Federal Court
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
PHONE: 770-831-9411

Contact Us

Address:

1930 Federal Court
Lawrenceville, GA 30044

Phone: (770) 831-9411

E-mail: justiceawards@gmail.com (for inquiries only)

HELPFUL NOMINATION SUBMISSION TIPS

What is considered a “self-nomination”?

The Foundation for Improvement of Justices does NOT accept self-nomination submissions. The definition of “self-nomination” is that JOHN DOE cannot nominate JOHN DOE. However, an individual affiliated with an organization and/or program is eligible to nominate his/her organization and/or program. This can be done with the understanding that the contact person for the nominated organization and/or program is not the nominee.

Is a cover letter necessary?

Yes and it MUST be signed by the nominator(s). It is imperative that a cover letter is included with the packet and is separate from the two-page summary. This cover letter MUST include complete contact information for both the nominator and nominee. Complete information includes names, positions, mailing addresses, telephone and fax numbers, as well as e-mail addresses (if applicable).

Can the nomination summary be longer than two pages?

No. All nominations MUST be restricted to two pages with the following guidelines:

- Double-spaced
- Typewritten (10” to 12” pitch: standard font)
- 1” margins
- NO reference to personal names or geographical location.
- Use references such as “nominee”, “city”, “state”

How does the Foundation select its annual award recipients?

All nominations that are received by June 1st and fall within the established guidelines are eligible for consideration. These two-page nomination summaries are submitted to each Board member for review and consideration for recognition. The Board of Directors will meet in June when discussions and voting is executed. The initial stage of judging is based on the two-page summary alone, and therefore it should include all pertinent information.

Is it necessary to include evidence and/or supporting documentation along with my submission?

Yes. This MUST be included along with the submission in order to be considered “in good standing”. This information is necessary for verification purposes.

What type of evidence and/or supporting documentation can I send?

Many forms of supporting documentation are acceptable. You are encouraged to include accomplishments of commendations, endorsements, newspaper/magazine articles, TV and/or Radio clips via CD, DVD, or VHS. Substance counts!

What would make my nomination stand-out to Board members?

The Foundation has been established for over 20 years. Hence, we have had an opportunity to recognize a variety of individuals, organizations and programs. The Board seeks nominations of new and innovative works. Moreover, it seeks accomplishments of high impact as well as broad based improvements. The Board holds a high level of interest in those works/achievements that have been developed and expanded in a variety of criminal/civil jurisdictions.

What type of information should I include in my nomination?

It is important to convey proven results and time frames of which the achievement(s) has taken place. Be specific when explaining the areas of achievements and the impact the nominee has made in the arena of recognition.

When can I expect to hear regarding the selection of this year's award recipients?

Each nominator will be informed by the end of July regarding the Board's decision on the year's award recipients.

If my nomination is not selected, can I resubmit for the following year?

Yes. All nominations and supporting documentation is retained by the Foundation for one year. However, if you elect to have your nomination considered for the coming year, it is IMPERATIVE that a new cover letter be submitted as well as any additional supporting documentation and/or revision to the original two-page nomination submission.

Will I get the materials sent back to me?

No. The Foundation will retain the information for one year. At that time, all materials are properly discarded if the nomination is not updated for resubmission.



Memo

To: Professor Chris Eisenhart
From: JoAnne Breault
CC: Professor Robert Waxler
Date: 12/4/2013
Re: Initial Phone Contact for the Foundation for Improvement of Justice, Inc.

Contact:

Foundation for Improvement of Justice, Inc.
1930 Federal Court
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
Pam Endiger
1-770-831-9411

Introduction:

My name is _____ and I am calling on behalf of Changing Lives Through Literature. CLTL is an alternative sentencing program based on the premise that the power of literature transforms lives. I would like to nominate Changing Lives Through Literature for their impact in reducing the rate of recidivism by promoting an alternative sentencing program that lowers the cost. May I ask a few questions in reference to the grant award from the Foundation for the Improvement of Justice?

Project Idea:

I would like to nominate Changing Lives Through Literature at UMass/Dartmouth. The program was co-founded by Dr. Robert P. Waxler, English Professor at UMass Dartmouth and Judge Robert Kane. CLTL is an innovative program which has received international recognition.

CLTL provides low-level criminal offenders with an alternative sentencing program based on the premise that the power of literature transforms lives through reading and group discussion. Criminal offenders are given the opportunity to read books and interact in an open discussion with judges, lawyers, probation officers, and educators as a requirement for probation.

Independent studies show that participation in literacy programs reduces the rate of recidivism. The goal of CLTL is to expose criminal offenders to literature which contributes to their rehabilitation. The program inspires them to transform themselves into contributory members of society by identifying with the characters in the books and taking responsibility for their own actions. CLTL creates an opportunity to further their education, to seek fulfilling career paths, and ultimately becoming productive members of society.

CLTL attacks the social problem of illiteracy. A flagrant problem in the prison system is the high rate of illiteracy. According the MA Department of Corrections, only 47% of inmates starting their prison sentence possess a high school diploma or GED. A startling 14% have not made it past the eighth grade. CLTL assists with the reintegration into society. Their literacy skills will assist them in effectively communicating in the real world and filling out job applications.

According to DOC, the cost of incarcerating offenders in Massachusetts is \$43,000 per year. This imposes a financial burden on the state and the taxpayer. The average cost to graduate a criminal offender from CLTL is approximately \$500.00. This program also benefits society as a whole because it lowers the cost of financially supporting that criminal. Once the criminal offender graduates from the program, he/she will be less likely to re-offend. That means less money is spent in the judicial system and less money is spent to incarcerate him. It is a win situation for everyone.

An award from your organization could assist us in graduating more criminal offenders from the program and fund the reading materials.

Questions:

The past two years your organization has awarded organizations very similar to ours that deal with recidivism, alternative sentencing, and lowering the cost. Will that have any influence on this year's award?

Am I better off nominating the co-founder of the organization or the entire organization?

Request for Copies:

Is it possible to get a copy of a proposal from a previous winner?

Is there a rating sheet available?

I found information about the application online. Do you have something in writing that goes more in depth?



Wayne R. St. Pierre
Trial Court of the Commonwealth
75 North Sixth Street
New Bedford, MA
02740

December 8, 2012

Pam Edinger
Foundation for Improvement of Justice, Inc.
1930 Federal Court
Lawrenceville, GA 30044-6155

Dear Ms. Edinger and Board of Directors,

I am very proud to be one of the developers of a Program called “Changing Lives Through Literature”. Back in 1991, when I was approached by Judge Kane who wanted start a reading group for Probationers, I was skeptical. However, I was frustrated with what I called revolving door justice. I kept seeing the same people being sent to jail only to return to the same environment upon release and ultimately return to crime as a way of life.

Changing Lives Through Literature (CLTL) is a program that began in Massachusetts in response to a growing need within our criminal justice system to find alternatives to incarceration. Burdened by expense and repeat offenders, our prisons can rarely give adequate attention to the needs of inmates and, thus, do little else than warehouse our criminals. Disturbed by the lack of real success by prisons to reform offenders and affect their patterns of behavior, Professor Robert Waxler and Judge Robert Kane discussed using literature as a way of reaching hardened criminals.

In the fall of 1991, Robert Waxler, Robert Kane, and Wayne St. Pierre, a New Bedford District Court probation officer (PO), initiated the first program at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth where Waxler is a professor in the English Department. Eight men were sentenced to probation instead of prison, with an important stipulation: they had to complete a Modern American Literature seminar run by Professor Waxler. The seminar was held on the university campus and included Judge Kane and PO St. Pierre. For 12 weeks, the men, many of whom had not graduated from high school and who had among them 148 convictions for crimes such as armed robbery and theft, met in a seminar room at the university. By discussing books, such as James Dickey's *Deliverance* and Jack London's *Sea Wolf*, the men began to investigate and explore aspects of themselves, to listen to their peers, to increase their ability to communicate ideas and feelings to men of authority who they thought would never listen to them, and to engage in dialogue in a democratic classroom where all ideas were valid. Instead of seeing their world from one angle, they began

opening up to new perspectives and started realizing that they had choices in life. Thus, literature became a road to insight.

What do we mean when we use that phrase, "Changing Lives Through Literature?" Is it possible to change lives? How can we dare make such bold claims? So many people argue that literature makes no difference at all. I disagree with those who deny the transformative power of literature. I have seen it happen. Yes, I have witnessed this magic.

Of course, I have always believed in literature, in its healing power, its ability to change lives. Don't get me wrong, though. I am not talking just about the words on a page or the book sitting peacefully on a shelf. No, that is not what I mean by literature. I mean something else, something that makes me a part of the story that I am reading, or creating, or discussing with others. Literature is always alive for me. It keeps me free. When I sit around the table with criminal offenders, the probation officers and the judges, colleagues and friends, I watch as we are seduced by the plot, pulled in by the depth of the characters. It is as if the story calls to us, challenges us, and forces us to make choices. By reading and then talking to each other about any good story, we get to know our limitations; we meet ourselves coming and going. And it is at that moment of meeting that hope always arrives; we are struck by the magic of the encounter with ourselves, the moment of surprise, the opening for transformation.

The shaping power of human language, the ritual of discussion and human exchange, takes on its own life, has its own energy, and becomes its own healing balm. Through reading and discussing good stories, we are initiated into new dimensions of consciousness; judges, probation officers, criminal offenders, professors talking around that table - together we all shape our passion, our rage, our anger through a language that yields human understanding.

Most criminal offenders that I know have felt isolated for too long. They have been pushed to the margins, lost their voices, and become disconnected from others and themselves. They are stuck, locked in a perpetual present, a prison of an endless repetitive moment.

Literature gives them a renewed opportunity to see that there are many different views of an event, many dimensions to a human character, and many perspectives within each moment in time. They can break free. Literature gives all of us a rich and expansive place to live and to dream. Yes, I believe stories can save us from the chaos of our lives, perhaps from death itself. When we experience the sensuous delight of a good story, we experience the unfolding of ourselves...of our mortality. We journey through the complexity and ambiguity of language and discover our identity reflected there as if in a mirror. Through literature, we create a covenant with others, sealed with the human heart.

Reading literature is a direct and immediate engagement with language. Discussion intensifies this engagement, increases our authority and self-confidence, our empathetic imagination, our moral center. We experience a good story and then reflect on that story, and that story is always our story as we explore it together, dig into it, shape our past nightmares as we go, and clear ground for our future. It is as if we are on an archaeological adventure into the deepest recesses of our consciousness. We are not alone. Others have been there before us.

Through reading and discussions, language skills become life skills as we create our own place in the world. Together around the table, we question, rethink our positions, and rediscover our voices, our values, ourselves. The ambiguity of language unsettles us, opens us to a larger world than we expected, demands that we listen and respect diverse perspectives, new interpretations, and unanticipated experiences filled with wonder and surprise.

Yes, reading and talking about good stories are the best opportunities we have to discover human identity and keep it alive. The experience creates democracy, good citizens, and a rich life. A

good story calls on us to exercise our minds and reach deep into the human heart. It evokes compassion and changes lives. I am not dreaming. I have seen it happen.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne St. Pierre
Probation Officer
Trial Court of the Commonwealth District Court Department



CHANGING LIVES THROUGH LITERATURE

Foundation for Improvement of Justice, Inc.

Justice Award

Short Proposal



JoAnne Breault
Changing Lives Through Literature
Director of Communication
189 Pleasant Street
Somerset, MA
02726

October 22, 2012

Pam Edinger
Foundation for Improvement of Justice, Inc.
1930 Federal Court
Lawrenceville, GA 30044-6155

Dear Ms. Edinger and Board of Directors,

I recognize that The Foundation for Improvement of Justice, Inc. recognizes innovative and successful programs that have impacted the justice system in the United States. *Changing Lives Through Literature* (CLTL) shares many of your goals and objectives in the categories of alternative sentencing, reducing recidivism, and lowering the cost.

Recidivism is a problem that has negative consequences not only for the criminal offender but for society as a whole. CLTL provides low-level criminal offenders with an alternative sentencing program to keep them out of jail and lessen the financial burden to the taxpayer.

Criminal offenders are given the opportunity to read books and interact in an open discussion with judges, lawyers, probation officers, and educators as a requirement for probation. The program operates under the premise that the power of literature transforms lives. As an educational participant, I have witnessed firsthand how this program has contributed to their rehabilitation. CLTL creates an opportunity to further their education, seek fulfilling career paths, and ultimately becoming productive members of society.

John Sylvia, a student of CLTL stated, “The program was a changing point in my life. There were books I couldn’t put down. They kept me interested in the positive aspects of life.” Independent studies show that participation in literacy programs can reduce the rate of recidivism.

I am nominating *Changing Lives Through Literature* for your prestigious Justice Award. CLTL was founded by Dr. Robert P. Waxler and Judge Robert Kane in 1991. This innovative program has received international recognition. CLTL serves as a model for similar programs in 8 states (Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Maine, Texas, Arkansas, and Kansas) and in the United Kingdom.

CLTL operates as a grassroots organization. Volunteers such as Dr. Waxler and Judge Kane give freely of their time and talents to conduct these reading courses and help pave a path of future success for the participants. The theory behind CLTL is that reading and discussion changes attitudes and therefore has the capacity to change behavior. Please help me recognize this very worthy organization which has been a model and inspiration for other programs. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

JoAnne Breault
Director of Communication
Changing Lives Through Literature
508-567-6618

University of Massachusetts/Dartmouth
Changing Lives Through Literature
English Department
North Dartmouth, MA 02747-300

JoAnne Breault
189 Pleasant Street
Somerset, MA
02726

December 8, 2012

Pam Edinger
Foundation for Improvement of Justice, Inc.
1930 Federal Court
Lawrenceville, GA 30044-6155

Dear Ms. Edinger and Board of Directors,

I am nominating the nominee located in Dartmouth Massachusetts for your prestigious Justice Award. The organization nominated was founded by Dr. Robert P. Waxler and Judge Robert Kane in 1991. The program was originally founded in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and now exists in more than twenty districts in the state. This innovative program has received international recognition and has been featured in numerous newspaper and magazine articles. The nominee serves as a model for similar programs in eight states (Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Maine, Texas, Arkansas, and Kansas) and in the United Kingdom.

Recidivism negatively affects both the individual criminal offender and society as a whole. When a person re-offends, he is likely to lead an unproductive life and become a burden to society. In response, the nominee provides low-level criminal offenders with an alternative sentencing program based on the premise that the power of literature transforms lives through reading and group discussion.

Independent studies show that participation in literacy programs can reduce the rate of recidivism. Specifically, the Jarjoura and Krumholz's statistical study shows a reconviction rate of 18.75% in a

nominee student study group. The rate of recidivism for the comparison group was 45%. (Journal of Offender Rehabilitation, Vol. 28 (1/2), 1998)

The nominee provides cost alternative sentencing. According to the Massachusetts Department of Corrections, it costs taxpayers \$43,000 per year to incarcerate a low-level criminal offender. Literacy programs like the nominee cost approximately \$500.00 to graduate a participant. The nominee further lowers the cost of incarceration because participants in program are less likely to re-offend and cost the taxpayers money.

In 2004, the nominee was honored with the Excellence Award for Program Achievement by the New England Board of Higher Education. That year a multimedia website was launched and supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. In 2007 the nominee received a grant from the Coolidge Family Fund of the Boston Foundation to support new and emerging programs throughout the country.

The nominee is worthy of your award because it operates as a grassroots organization and is sustained through volunteers. Volunteers like Professor Robert Waxler and Judge Robert Kane give generously of their time and have graduated over 6,000 participants from the program. Thank you for your consideration in accepting my nomination. I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

JoAnne Breault

Grant Proposal for Foundation of Improvement of Justice, Inc.



Changing Lives Through Literature

**Reducing Recidivism by Transforming Lives
Through Literature**

Larger Grant

PROJECT SUMMARY

Changing Lives Through Literature (CLTL) requests a \$10,000 grant award to continue holding reading discussion groups for criminal offenders. Recidivism is a problem which has negative consequences not only for the criminal offender but for society as a whole. The Merriam Webster dictionary defines recidivism as a tendency to relapse into a previous condition or mode of behavior, especially relapse into criminal behavior. CLTL reduces the rate of recidivism, tackles the problem of illiteracy, and lowers the cost to incarcerate. These three problems (recidivism, illiteracy, cost of incarceration) are directly related.

According to the MA Department of Correction (DOC), incarcerating criminals costs taxpayers approximately \$43,000 per offender per year. Massachusetts's annual operating cost per inmate is one of the highest in the nation. This is a financial burden to the state and the taxpayer.

A directly related problem is the high rate of illiteracy among the prison population. Only 47% of inmates starting their sentence possess a high school diploma or a GED. A startling 14% have not made it past the 8th grade.

The mission of CLTL is to provide low-level criminal offenders with an alternative sentencing program based on the premise that the power of literature transforms lives through reading and group discussion. The average cost to graduate a criminal offender from the program is approximately \$500.

The objectives of the program offer the criminal offenders the opportunity to choose to participate in the program as part of their probation requirement. The criminal offenders are required to read a novel and participate in a study group with judges, lawyers, probation

officers, and educators. The reading assignment provides an educational benefit because the process promotes literacy.

The positive outcome of CLTL is that the criminal offenders learn how to set goals and follow them through. For many that graduate from the program, this is the first sense of accomplishment. For some, this opens up a new opportunity of furthering their education, sticking on a career path, and choosing to be a productive member of the community.

John Silvia, a student of CLTL stated, “The program was a changing point in my life. There were books that I couldn’t put down. They kept me interested in the positive aspects of life.”

Wayne St, Pierre, a Probation Officer, has volunteered to participate in the reading and discussion groups and has witnessed the transformative power of literature firsthand. “Yes, reading and talking about good stories are the best opportunities we have to discover human identity and keep it alive. The experience creates democracy, good citizens, and a rich life”, stated St. Pierre.

CLTL aims to lower the rate of recidivism and there are measurable outcomes to the program. Independent studies show that participation in literacy programs can reduce the rate of recidivism. Specifically, the Jarjoura and Krumholz’s statistical study shows a reconviction rate of 18.75% in a nominee student study group. The rate of recidivism for the comparison group was 45%. (Journal of Offender Rehabilitation, Vol. 28 (1/2), 1998)

Too often we see a revolving door and our prisons serve as human warehouses. Literacy programs assist with the rehabilitation and assimilation back into society. Their literacy skills will assist them in effectively communicating in the real world and filling out job applications.

I propose that CLTL hold a reading discussion group each semester with the aim of graduating more criminal offenders.

BACKGROUND

Changing Lives Through Literature (CLTL) is an innovative program founded in 1991 by Superior Court Judge Robert J. Kane and University of Massachusetts/Dartmouth Professor Robert K. Waxler. CLTL serves as an alternative sentencing program that utilizes literature as a way of reaching criminal offenders on probation. Literature seminars give probationers an opportunity to build self-esteem, learn social skills and behaviors, and rehabilitate through attending class discussions as a condition of their probation.

One of the major premises of CLTL is that literature has the power to transform. Studying literature gives students (who are criminal offenders) a chance to reflect on their own lives, gain insight into their behavior and the effects of it and those around them. For many, this is the first step towards self-responsibility.

In reading and discussing literature, students look deeper at the characters and themes of literature and relate them to experiences and relationships in their own lives. CLTL assists probationers to integrate into society and provides them with an opportunity to change their lives for the better.

The program was founded in New Bedford, MA. CLTL now exists in more than twenty district courts in Massachusetts. It is based at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and serves as a model for eight states (Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Maine, Texas, Arkansas, and Kansas) and the United Kingdom.

The impact and scope of the program has been dramatic. Some participants have recovered from addiction and continue their education. Others have reunited with their families to foster healthy relationships.

CLTL is the proud recipient of numerous awards. In 2003, CLTL was awarded an Exemplary Education Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. In 2004, CLTL received the Excellence Award for Program Achievement by the New England Board of Higher Education. It was recognized as “an innovative alternative sentencing program.” In 2007 CLTL received a generous gift from the Coolidge Family Fund of the Boston Foundation to help support new and emerging programs. CLTL has been featured in numerous newspaper and magazine articles. To date, CLTL has graduated over 6,000 participants.

OBJECTIVES

1. The major goals of Changing Lives Through Literature is to reduce the rate of recidivism. The program motivates men and women offenders who have been sentenced to probation to become better citizens. Reading novels assists them in examining their own lives through a discussion of novels and short stories focusing on issues such as violence, gender, and race. By analyzing the obstacles of characters in literature, participants gain insights into their own obstacles in life and often become productive members of society instead of returning to a path of crime. Studies by independent researchers have shown that recidivism rates are lowered by as much as fifty percent as a result of successful participation in the program.

To meet this goal several objectives must be met to perpetuate the program.

- A. Volunteers such as judges, lawyers, probation officers and educators must be recruited to implement the discussion groups.

- B. Low-level criminal offenders must be recruited to participate in the program as an alternative to incarceration and a requirement of probation.

- C. A reading discussion group will be scheduled each semester.

- D. The criminal offender is currently tracked by his social security number and tracks if the program has resulted in the participant not re-offending. A monitoring system must be incorporated to track the progress of the CLTL graduates to see if they have continued with their education or chosen a career path.

- E. Funding should be appropriated to supply stamps and printable materials to promote the program.

RESEARCH PLAN

The research plan should consist of studying the group of participants in the Changing Lives Through Literature discussion group. A questionnaire should be written to track their attitudes and behavior prior to participating in the reading discussion group and after graduating from the program. Recording the participant's behavior and activities over a two year period can document the participants progress.

This tracking system can also serve as a type of metrics to record the number of participants that graduated and to track their progress since participating in the program. It could also keep better records as to whether the criminal offender has continued his education.

SIGNIFICANCE/IMPACT

The research plan will demonstrate that literacy programs such as *Changing Lives Through Literature* reduces the rate of recidivism by promoting an alternative sentencing program and ultimately lowering the cost to incarcerate.

This has dramatic significance to society. The criminal offender is now inspired to become a productive member of society which reduces the cost to the taxpayer and the state for funneling someone through the legal system and then paying to incarcerate them.

The program also promotes literacy which will assist the criminal offender in integrating back into society.

BUDGET

A.	Personnel	\$0
B.	Books and Supplies	\$2,580
C.	Postage	\$44
D.	Print Costs	\$250.00
E.	Graduation Party	\$200
Total:		\$3,074

Total Budget Justification

A. Educators, Judges, Lawyers, and Probation Officers volunteer to participate in the reading and discussion group.

B. Criminal Offenders are required to read books as part of the rehabilitation. Since the criminal offender is struggling to integrate back into society, and find housing and employment, the required reading should be granted gratis.

C. I budgeted for 100 stamps for correspondence.

D. Print Costs – Postcards, Flyers, and Posters will be designed to promote the program. Student interns can design the print materials. The Library at UMass/Dartmouth has Photoshop and InDesign software. The cost will be the actual printing.

E. A graduation ceremony takes place each semester. Friends and family are invited to attend. Refreshments should be served.

BOOK BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

Title of Book	Cost Per Book	Number of Books	Total
Greasy Lake	\$13	30	\$390.00
Sonny Blues	\$6	30	\$180.00
Tell The Women We're Going	\$10	30	\$ 300.00
What Do We Talk About When We Talk About Love	\$10	30	\$300.00
Old Man and The Sea	\$14	30	\$420.00
The Short and Happy Life of Francis Macomber	\$20	30	\$300.00
Always Outnumbered, Always Outgunned	\$6	30	\$180.00
To Kill a Mockingbird	\$7	30	\$300.00
Notebooks	\$3	30	\$90.00
	TOTAL:	240	\$2,070.00