

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2011  
8:30 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Deb Schorr, Chair  
Larry Hudkins  
Jane Raybould

Commissioners Absent: Bernie Heier, Vice Chair  
Brent Smoyer

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Dan Nolte, County Clerk  
Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk  
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:33 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2011 STAFF MEETING**

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Raybould seconded approval of the minutes of the November 10, 2011 Staff Meeting and the Tri-County Meeting on November 3, 2011. Raybould, Hudkins and Schorr voted aye. Heier and Smoyer were absent from voting. Motion carried 3-0.

**2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

- A. Visitors Improvement Grant for National Museum of Roller Skating (Exhibit A)
- B. Approval of the Minutes of the Tri-County Meeting on November 3, 2011
- C. Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) Planning Committee's Town Hall Meeting (November 21<sup>st</sup> at the Auld Recreation Center)
- D. Report on Board of Health Meeting

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Raybould seconded approval of the additions to the agenda. Hudkins, Raybould and Schorr voted aye. Heier and Smoyer were absent from voting. Motion carried 3-0.

**3 ADULT PROBATION OVERVIEW AND PRE-SENTENCE INVESTIGATION UPDATE** - Gene Cotter, Chief Probation Officer, Adult Probation

Gene Cotter, Chief Probation Officer, Adult Probation, presented information regarding the Probation Department and a Jail Pre-Sentence Investigation (PSI) Report for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 (Exhibits B & C), noting the following:

- There are approximately 2,000 individuals under the supervision of Adult Probation on any given day. Approximately 650 of them are considered high-risk individuals.
- Approximately 80% of individuals sentenced to Adult Probation this year completed their terms and were released.
- Adult Probation averages approximately 135 PSI's for the County and District Courts in any given month.
- The average length of time it takes to complete a custodial PSI is 40 days (it was less than 40 days in August, September and October).
- The average length of time it takes to complete a non-custodial PSI is 65 days.
- Total estimated cost savings from having two additional probation officers provide PSI's for the first four months, through an interlocal agreement with State Probation, is \$239,904. **NOTE:** A daily rate of \$68 for incarceration was used in the calculation of savings.

Cotter explained that PSI's are not ordered until there is a finding of guilt.

Raybould asked how the Board can get the message across that this is an effective tool that can be utilized. Cotter said the District Court Judges are aware it is available and do everything they can to try to make that happen. He said most of the cases that exceed the 30 to 40 day PSI order involve private counsel and said he will continue efforts to make them aware this can speed up the sentencing process.

Hudkins asked when Adult Probation's fees were last reviewed. Cotter said legislation was introduced last year to increase supervision fees but said he is unsure whether the legislation went anywhere.

Cotter was asked to provide the Board with quarterly updates.

## ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- A. Visitors Improvement Grant for National Museum of Roller Skating (Exhibit A)

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, said the National Museum of Roller Skating has requested authorization to work with a sign company, rather than the Lincoln Arts Council, on a sign to attract visitors to the museum. **NOTE:** The museum was awarded a \$10,000 Visitors Improvement Grant in August for new signage and had indicated an intent to work with the Lincoln Arts Council on the design. There was no objection to the request.

- B. Approval of the Minutes of the Tri-County Meeting on November 3, 2011

See Item 1.

### **4 COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS STAFFING** - Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director

Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director, noted the Board gave her authorization in July to hold off on eliminating a Clerk II position for six months (see July 7, 2011 Staff Meeting minutes). She said the six-month period will be ending soon and a decision needs to be made on whether to eliminate or retain the position. Etherton estimated there will be a \$30,000 increase to the department's budget if the position is retained. She said elimination of the Clerk II position will leave the department with one clerk and caseworkers will have to assist with those duties, leaving them less time to perform their work. Etherton said 1,672 offenders were placed on house arrest and 993 individuals were signed up for community service last year. She said the clerks are responsible for completing that paperwork and pulling the necessary files at the Courthouse.

Raybould said she would rather see investments made on the Community Corrections side, which is less costly than incarceration.

Schorr asked Etherton where she sees growth in the program next year. Etherton said she is working with the County Attorney's Office on a Veterans Diversion Program. She said expansion of diversion programs would require more clerical support.

Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, appeared and said it comes down to what the Board deems priorities with regard to funding. He added these costs would have to be offset elsewhere in the budget.

Schorr suggested Etherton consider making the position part-time. Meyer indicated doing so would have to be negotiated with the union.

There was consensus to reschedule the item in two weeks when all commissioners will be present. Etherton was asked to bring back additional information regarding revenues and increases in the number of program participants for the past 6, 12 and 24 months.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

A. Official Election Certification for Current Board Members (Heier and Hudkins)

**MOTION:** Raybould moved and Hudkins seconded to authorize signature by the Chair. Raybould, Hudkins and Schorr voted aye. Heier and Smoyer were absent from voting. Motion carried 3-0.

### **5 VENDING MACHINE CONTRACT - Rick Hoppe, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor; Bob Walla, Assistant Purchasing Agent**

Bob Walla, Assistant Purchasing Agent, said a meeting was held earlier in the week with members of the committee that is looking at the vending machine issue. He said they discussed how the contract with Active Network (a marketing company hired by the City to try to increase the City's revenues from vending machine contracts and advertising on City properties) would work and how a Request for Proposal (RFP) would be developed.

Terry Wagner, County Sheriff, appeared and expressed concern regarding higher vending machine costs, noting some employees are unable to leave the building during their shift.

Don Thomas, County Engineer, appeared and said a member of his staff was told prices could double with a new contract.

Travis Parker, Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) Deputy Director, appeared and said there are two vending machines in the Crisis Center visiting area and said they have tried to keep the pricing flat for those that have been committed to the facility and their visitors.

Sheli Schindler, Youth Services Center (YSC) Director, appeared and said her facility has four vending machines available for staff and visitors and said she would like more product diversity.

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, said product offerings for inmates will move from vending machines to a commissary process when the new jail is opened. He added those revenues go into the Inmate Benefit Fund to help fund programs.

Don Killeen, County Property Manager, appeared and said there are a number of issues involved. He noted the agreement for vending machines in the County-City Building stipulated that other food operations would be allowed. Killeen expressed concerns that the vending machine company may be allowed to dictate the location of the machines and whether revenue from the machines would cover Active Network's commission.

Rick Hoppe, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor, said it may not be possible to combine all of the vending machine contracts into a single contract. He suggested that they all be offered for bid at the same time, noting a bidder could bid on all five and place itself in a better position by offering more revenue. The bidders could also propose machine locations.

Schorr said it appears the officials want some ability to control pricing.

Raybould said the County could bid the contracts on its own and make adjustments to commissions.

Hoppe said Active Network has recommended that the contracts be consolidated with a uni-source provider and a ten-year contract period. He said the County can go its own route but would likely be cut out of revenue generated from having a single source provider or any signing bonus.

Walla said Corrections' vending machine contract expires in February, 2012. He said the remaining contracts expire in May, 2012 and are not eligible for renewals. Walla said perhaps Corrections' contract could be extended to get it on the same schedule as the other contracts.

Hoppe said the contracts might be more attractive to vendors if they were all offered at the same time and could lead to better pricing, even if the County's contracts had different terms.

There was general consensus to delay a decision for two weeks when all commissioners will be present.

Hoppe agreed to keep the Board apprised of what is happening on the City side and discussions with Active Network.

**6 EXECUTIVE SESSION (PENDING LITIGATION AND LABOR NEGOTIATIONS)** - Tom Fox, Deputy County Attorney; Brittany Behrens, Deputy County Attorney

**MOTION:** Raybould moved and Hudkins seconded to enter Executive Session at 9:43 a.m. for the purpose of protecting the public interest with regards to pending litigation and labor negotiations.

The Chair restated the motion for the record.

**ROLL CALL:** Raybould, Hudkins and Schorr voted aye. Heier and Smoyer were absent from voting. Motion carried 3-0.

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Raybould seconded to exit Executive Session at 10:35 a.m. Raybould, Hudkins and Schorr voted aye. Heier and Smoyer were absent from voting. Motion carried 3-0.

**7 MINI-GRANT FUEL EXPENSES** - Terry Wagner, Lancaster County Sheriff; Bill Jarrett, Chief Deputy Sheriff

Bill Jarrett, Chief Deputy Sheriff, said the Sheriff's Office has expended 48% of its fuel budget in the first four and a half months of the fiscal year. The Sheriff's Office also has two upcoming mini-grant programs ("Click It or Ticket" and "You Drink & Drive. You Lose") that will further expend the motor fuel budget. Jarrett said there will be salary savings from three vacancies that should help offset fuel costs for those programs, which he estimated at \$400 to \$500 each. He said the other option would be to not participate in those programs.

Schorr asked whether the department could institute other fuel saving measures. Jarrett said they have, citing virtual line-ups as an example.

Raybould suggested they limit the practice of taking Sheriff's vehicles home at night to save fuel and save "wear and tear" on the vehicles. Hudkins felt there is value in having the vehicles visible on the streets. Terry Wagner, Lancaster County Sheriff, said there are other intangibles besides the deterrent effect. He cited the ability of deputies living outside of Lincoln to provide backup on calls in their area and allowing the specialty units (K-9, Tactical Response and Accident Reconstruction) to have their equipment with them should they need to respond from their homes to a call as examples.

There was general consensus to allow the Sheriff's Office to expend the additional funds for fuel for the two mini-grant programs.

**8 TRABERT HALL SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS** - Joe Kelly, County Attorney; Terry Wagner, Lancaster County Sheriff

Joe Kelly, County Attorney, said a recent incident at Trabert Hall has highlighted the need for security improvements. He informed the Board that a new wall in the Child Support Division's reception area, a security camera and a metal door will be installed (cost to be covered by the Building Fund). Staff will also take part in anger de-escalation training.

**9 CLAIM FOR REVIEW FROM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (\$4,632 PAYMENT TO TELVENT DTN, INC.)** - Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director

Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director, gave an explanation of the claim which is related to weather radar services. He noted that County Attorney's Office is working to develop a subscription agreement with Telvent.

**MOTION:** Raybould moved and Hudkins seconded to handle the claim through the regular claims process with the understanding that a contract is being developed. Raybould, Hudkins and Schorr voted aye. Heier and Smoyer were absent from voting. Motion carried 3-0.

**10 ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Official Election Certification for Current Board Members (Heier and Hudkins)

Item was moved forward on the agenda.

**11 CONSENT ITEMS**

There were no consent items.

**12 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

- A. Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) Director Salary

Item was dropped from the agenda.

B. Constituent Input Recognition (Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) Planning Committee)

Eagan suggested recognition of Lori Seibel, President/Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Community Health Endowment (CHE) and Leadership Lincoln for their services related to the Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) community input process.

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Raybould seconded to authorize the Chair to send letters of appreciation to Lori Seibel, President/Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Community Health Endowment (CHE) and Leadership Lincoln.

There was also consensus to recognize Seibel and Leadership Lincoln at a regular County Board of Commissioners Meeting.

**ROLL CALL:** Hudkins, Raybould and Schorr voted aye. Heier and Smoyer were absent from voting. Motion carried 3-0.

C. Photograph of County Board of Office Lobby Area

Item was held.

D. AmeriCorps Volunteer for Youth Services Center (YSC)

Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, noted YSC has been approved for one AmeriCorps volunteer this year (see October 27, 2011 Staff Meeting minutes) and said Sheli Schindler, YSC Director, would like to request two additional volunteers next year. The cost, which is estimated at \$8,200, will be included in the YSC budget. Thorpe said the County is required to submit a letter stating it is willing to meet the financial obligations as part of its request.

**MOTION:** Raybould moved and Hudkins seconded to authorize the Chair to sign the necessary paperwork to request additional AmeriCorps volunteers for the Youth Services Center (YSC). Hudkins, Schorr and Raybould voted aye. Heier and Smoyer were absent from voting. Motion carried 3-0.

E. Personnel Director Appointment

It was noted the Mayor would like to appoint Doug McDaniel, Human Resources Director at BryanLGH Medical Center and a member of the County's Personnel Policy Board, as the new City-County Personnel Director.

The Board scheduled action on the appointment on the November 22<sup>nd</sup> County Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda.

F. Grant Request from Youth Services Center (YSC) (Annie's Grants for Gardens)

Thorpe said the grant will be used to support and enhance YSC's Horticulture Program. The amount requested is \$2,000 and the grant match will consist of in-kind services (Exhibit D).

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Raybould seconded to authorize submission of the grant application. Hudkins, Schorr and Raybould voted aye. Heier and Smoyer were absent from voting. Motion carried 3-0.

G. CBM Food Services Contract Amendment

Eagan said CBM has agreed to an increase of 12 cents per meal for delivery to the Youth Services Center (YSC) and the Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) once the new jail facility opens. CBM had originally requested an increase of 30 cents per meal (see November 10<sup>th</sup> Staff Meeting minutes). Board consensus was to proceed with the contract amendment.

**13 PENDING**

There were no pending items.

**14 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS**

A. Information Services Policy Committee - Smoyer

No report.

B. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board - Raybould

Raybould said they received the annual report and a presentation on the Smoke-Free Initiative, a proposal to ban smoking along trails and in public parks. The City's marketing contract with Active Network was also discussed.

C. Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) Budget Monitoring Committee - Smoyer

No report.

## ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

### D. Report on Board of Health Meeting

Schorr said they received reports on the Summer Food Service and Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Programs. She said a decision was made to eliminate licensing and permitting of small day care homes as a cost-saving measure. Schorr said they also discussed the vending machine issue and concerns were expressed about cost and having healthy options available.

### C. Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) Planning Committee's Town Hall Meeting (7:00-9:00 p.m. on November 21<sup>st</sup> at the Auld Recreation Center)

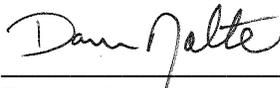
Informational only.

## 15 EMERGENCY ITEMS AND OTHER BUSINESS

Schorr indicated that she, Heier and Raybould plan to attend the Bennet Planning Commission Meeting (7:30 p.m. on November 30<sup>th</sup>). Schorr said she and Raybould also plan to attend the Bennet Village Board Meeting (8:00 p.m. on December 12<sup>th</sup>) and felt Heier should join them as he suggested the land use designation in the area north of the Village of Bennet (between 148<sup>th</sup> Street and 162<sup>nd</sup> Street and between Hooper Road and Highway 2) be changed to commercial/industrial). Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk, asked whether there are quorum concerns. Schorr said they are public meetings and those bodies will be responsible for taking minutes. Eagan said the Board will not be taking action or forming policy.

## 16 ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Hudkins moved and Raybould seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:09 a.m. Schorr, Raybould and Hudkins voted aye. Heier and Smoyer were absent from voting. Motion carried 3-0.

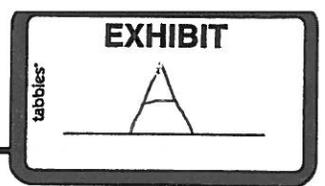


Dan Nolte  
Lancaster County Clerk



**Kerry P. Eagan**

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**From:** Director Curator [directorcurator@rollerskatingmuseum.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 07, 2011 11:04 AM  
**To:** Kerry P. Eagan; Jeff Maul  
**Subject:** Museum Grant

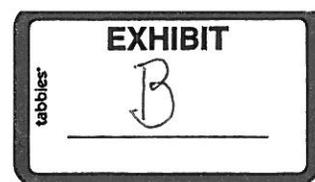
Kerry and Jeff:

A museum board member and I had a meeting on Friday with Deb Webber of the Lincoln Arts Council and Ed Zimmer to discuss the museum sign project. All parties agreed that the museum sign would best be designed and constructed by a local, professional signing company with no affiliation with the arts council. This, however, is not how the grant is worded. Do either of you see a problem with our museum working with a sign company and not the arts council? I do not want our grant to be in jeopardy because of this latest development. Both Deb and Ed agreed that the museum needs a prominent sign to attract attention, not necessarily a sculpture. They also volunteered to answer any questions regarding this latest development with the Improvement Fund.

Please advise me on how to properly proceed with these new developments. I know everyone's goal is to better identify the museum for potential tourists. Thank you.

James Vannurden  
Director & Curator  
National Museum of Roller Skating  
4730 South Street  
Lincoln, NE 68506  
Office 402-483-7551  
Fax 402-4831465  
[directorcurator@rollerskatingmuseum.com](mailto:directorcurator@rollerskatingmuseum.com)

Visit our website at [www.rollerskatingmuseum.com](http://www.rollerskatingmuseum.com)



**Lancaster County Adult Probation  
Probation District #3A  
Fact Sheet**

On any given day there are approximately 2000 individuals under the supervision of the Lancaster County Adult Probation Office. Approximately 63% of these individuals are on probation of Driving While Intoxicated. ✖

Demographically, our population is 80% white, 73% male, 83% single with an average age of just over 31 years. 87% of everyone on probation in District #3A has, at minimum, a high school education. Presently, approximately 90% of all persons eligible for employment and on probation are either employed, in school, or a combination of the two.

The Lancaster County Adult Probation Office completes, on average, approximately 135 Presentence Investigations for County and District Courts in any given month.

So far in 2011 approximately 79% of ALL individuals sentenced to probation completed their term and were not revoked.

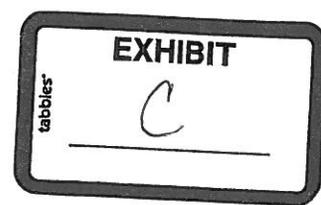
In any given month there are approximately 3,500 drug tests collected on probationers by District #3A staff.

In any given month there are approximately 1,000 site visits for programming at the Lancaster County Reporting Center in Trabert Hall. This figure does not include individual meetings between officers and probationers.

There are presently approximately 20 different programs operational at the Lancaster County Reporting Center including cognitive groups, parenting classes, anger management, women's trauma groups, Crime's Impact on the Community Classes, Employment groups, GED, and life skills, among others.

Between January 1 and October 31, 2011 the Probation Office has paid \$41,649.30 to have Lancaster County offenders evaluated for substance abuse, mental health or sex offender issues. An additional \$536,905.65 has been invested in the treatment of identified substance abuse disorders on people under our supervision.

Lancaster County Adult Probation  
Probation District #3A  
Jail PSI Report for fiscal year 2011-2012



July, 2011

59 – Non-custodial PSI's completed	64 day average between PSI Order and Sentencing
28 – Custodial PSI's completed	47 day average between PSI Order and Sentencing

17—fewer days between completion time for custodial and non-custodial PSI's

28 custodial PSI's completed in 17 fewer days saved 476 jail days. At \$68.00 per day there is an estimated savings of \$32,368.00.

August, 2011

63 – Non-custodial PSI's completed	63 day average between PSI Order and Sentencing
36 – Custodial PSI's completed	38 day average between PSI Order and Sentencing

25—fewer days between completion time for custodial and non-custodial PSI's

36 custodial PSI's completed in 25 fewer days saved 900 jail days. At \$68.00 per day there is an estimated savings of \$61,200.00.

September, 2011

76 – Non-custodial PSI's completed	64 day average between PSI Order and Sentencing
42 – Custodial PSI's completed	39 day average between PSI Order and Sentencing

25—fewer days between completion time for custodial and non-custodial PSI's

42 custodial PSI's completed in 25 fewer days saved 1050 jail days. At \$68.00 per day there is an estimated savings of \$71,400.00.

October, 2011

36 – Non-custodial PSI's completed	68 day average between PSI Order and Sentencing
38 – Custodial PSI's completed	39 day average between PSI Order and Sentencing

29—fewer days between completion time for custodial and non-custodial PSI's

38 custodial PSI's completed in 29 fewer days saved 1,102 jail days. At \$68.00 per day there is an estimated savings of \$74,936.00.

Totals for 2011-2012

Non-custodial PSI's completed – 234 averaging 65 days per PSI  
Custodial PSI's Completed – 144 averaging 40 days per PSI  
Average fewer days to complete a custodial PSI – 25

Total estimated costs savings -- \$239,904.00

**OF NOTE:**

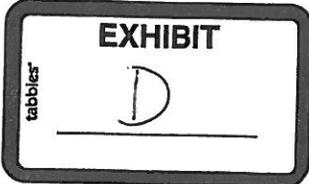
The \$68.00 per day total was used at the direction of the County Board Chair Person.

All totals include Presentence Investigations (PSIs) completed on PSIs Ordered by the Lancaster County District Court Bench

A PSI cannot be completed until an offender has either pleaded guilty or no contest or has been otherwise found guilty in a trial to the Court or by a Jury.

Dates used include the date on which the Court originally ordered the PSI through the originally scheduled sentencing date. Individual sentencing dates may have varied due to scheduling issues, continuances, or other factors.

Of the 50 custodial people sentenced during October and November, 2011, 31 (62%) received a prison sentence, 7 (14%) received a jail sentence from which they were released (time served situation) shortly after sentencing, 2 (4%) were sentenced to probation and 10 (20%) received a jail sentence for which they remain in jail for a significant period of time.



LANCASTER COUNTY GRANT FORM

Submitted by: Youth Services Center Today's date: 11/15/2011

(On behalf of: Horticulture Group)

- 1. Funding source: Annie's Grants for Gardens
- 2. Grant due date: 11/30/2011
- 3. Amount requested: \$2,000
- 4. Other sources of funding anticipated:

Funding Source	In-kind	Cash	Committed	Pending
a. Building, utilities, land	X			
b. Volunteers (Master gardeners)	X			
c. AmeriCorps w/CROPS	X			
d. Staff support/supervision	X			

5. Project Contact: Annette Thompson  
 Phone Number: 402-441-8657

6. Number of years grant will run if funded: One year

7. This grant is:  New  Continuation

8. General purpose for grant: (2-3 sentences)  
 Funding used for replacement tools, seeds, soil, pots, craft and cooking support supplies, soil and water tester, training materials.

Overall purpose: support and enhance the current Horticulture Program.

9. Attach a one page summary of grant

10. Attach a one page budget of grant.

**Annie's Grant:**

**Summary:**

Annie's offers a limited number of small grants to community gardens, school gardens and other educational programs that connect children directly to real food. These funds can be used to buy gardening tools, seeds or other needed supplies. The grants are for \$2,000.

We are asking for this grant to assist with the ongoing operation and to enhance the existing Horticulture Program which has been ongoing for the past nine years.

The money will help to accomplish this purpose by replacing some of the tools purchased through other grant funds nearly eight years ago. In addition to this we desire to expand the educational component through a soil and water tester. Working with the science teacher we will be able to assist the youth in understanding the balance that is needed to maintain the pond and get the most from the gardens. Funding will supplement the art and cooking activities so that more use will be made of the produce and plants. We utilize parts of the garden for youth to make gifts for their families, reinforcing bonds that may be strained from the circumstances of their lives. Educational training materials need to be purchased to provide staff and teachers tools to teach about organic gardening.

**Budget:**

Tools.....	\$ 300.00
Supplies.....	\$1,200.00
Educational material.....	\$ 500.00



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- FUN & ACTIVITIES

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## GRANTS FOR GARDENS

We offer a limited number of small grants to community gardens, school gardens and other educational programs that connect children directly to real food. These funds can be used to buy gardening tools, seeds or other needed supplies. If you would like to apply, please read our complete guidelines and fill out an online application.

### Guidelines

We'd love to help all of the groups that are working to make a positive impact on their local communities, but our bunny bucks are limited. We focus on giving to programs that meet the following guidelines:

1. We donate only to schools and non-profit organizations located within the United States.
2. While there are many worthy causes, our grants are only available to groups that focus on School and Community Gardens or Sustainable Agriculture.
3. We are not able to donate our "Free Loot."
4. Annie's does not make grants or donations to individuals, athletic teams or events, or health fairs.

The deadline to apply for a grant is **Wednesday, November 30th at 11:59 p.m PST.**

We receive lots and lots of donation requests each month. We're sorry, but we are just not able to respond to every one. You will be notified *only* if we are able to fulfill your request. No phone calls please.

\* indicates a required field

\* Organization name: Lancaster County Youth Services Center

\* Name of program: Horticulture Group

\* Funding deadline: May 2012  
\* City: Lincoln  
\* State: Nebraska  
Web site URL: www.lancaster.ne.gov  
\* How many people will this program reach? 200+  
\* What age group does the program target? 12-18 years, male and female  
\* IRS 501(c)3 number: 47-6006482  
\* Contact first name: Annette  
\* Contact last name: Thompson  
\* E-mail address: athompson@lancaster.ne.gov  
\* Daytime phone: 402-441-8657  
\* Mailing address: 1200 Radcliff Rd.  
\* City: Lincoln  
\* State: Nebraska  
\* ZIP code: 68512

\* Has Annie's donated to this organization in the past?

yes  no

\* If so, when?

\* Please tell us a little about your organization and program:

Lancaster County Youth Services Center is a detention center for youth from Lancaster County and 27 surrounding counties held under the jurisdiction of the courts and/or their delegated authorities. The primary objective is to keep the youth safe and secure and ensure the safety of the community. The mission is to accomplish that goal as well as to offer viable education and programming to develop strengths, empower positive decision making and to assist them in learning alternative ways to cope with stress. The youth in our facility have rarely had exposure in growing food and learning about nature prior to being detained.

Please keep it under 250 words

\* Please tell us in detail how you will use the Growing Organic grant:

There is a vegetable garden, a butterfly garden and a pond. We utilize an indoor grow lab to start seedlings and an outdoor cold frame to further prepare them for planting. The youth learn how to work the gardens and reap the produce utilizing the food in cooking groups and adding fresh ingredients to their meals. Gourds have been used for art projects. Flowers are cut and used to adorn the housing units.

Please keep it under 250 words

Grant needs:

- 1) Tools were purchased for the garden nine years ago. Several are broken. We intend to replace those and purchase a few more.
- 2) The grant will be used to purchase seeds.
- 3) We assist the youth in preparing potted plants for gifts to family members on special days. Items needed for this is potting soil,

- pots, saucers, and paint, ribbons and/or foils to decorate the pots.
- 4) We utilize the pruned grape vines to make and decorate wreaths at Christmas. We would use some monies for decorations for those wreaths to add to the seed pods and dried plants harvested.
  - 5) We would like to purchase a soil tester for the garden and water tester for the pond for our science teacher to use in the spring preparations.
  - 6) Additional media training materials would provide the staff and teachers tools to teach about organic gardening and equip the staff to assist the volunteers.

\* How will Annie's be promoted in association with the grant?

We intend to post this on our web site in connection with the Horticulture program. We would like to prepare a news release for our local newspaper regarding the awarding of this grant which will also let the community know more about the programming that we are doing to help our at-risk population. Last year we had two libraries display photographs taken by the youth of the garden activities. We can include the support of Annies in upcoming displays.

Please keep it under 250 words

\* How do you envision the garden growing over the next few years?

Only a portion of our facility enjoys Horticulture group. We would like to expand the groups into our secure housing units. If we are successful in doing this over 800 youth will be involved each year. We know the program is effective and provides skills, alternative vocational choices, needed therapy and reduces the stress of being away from family as well as the uncertainty of not knowing what will happen next. Approximately one third of our youth are diagnosed with mental illness and utilize psychotropic medications. We envision using the garden area more often as a place for the youth to relax and enjoy.

Please keep it under 250 words

\* What are the goals of the garden?

The goals:

- 1) Education: learning about various flowers, vegetables, fruit trees, insects, butterflies, birds, and the pond - how to care for them and what they are good for, photography, teamwork; working together to complete projects such as building the fish pond.
- 2) Recreation: art activities, cooking classes, decorating for holidays, giving to family, enjoying the work.
- 3) Therapy: digging in the soil and working with the plants, enjoying the sights - butterflies, birds, fish, flowers, and smells, growing things, and the satisfaction of growing and/or creating things.

Please keep it under 250 words

\* How can the garden be used as a model for other school gardens?

Our school is sub-contracted with Lincoln Public Schools. Many of the other school within their district also have gardens. Our garden is accessible by the other teachers/administrators to observe how we incorporate horticulture studies into our living units. Posting the garden activities on our web site can stimulate other detention centers/ group homes to do something similar. Since the horticulture project has been evolving over 9 years we welcome opportunities to serve as a model for other youth detention centers.

Please keep it under 250 words