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*Rabbi Moriah
SimonHazani*

8.30.2022

Re: Letter of Intent to Apply for Friends Foundation on Aging Grant

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Kindly accept this letter of intent to apply for a grant from the Friends Foundation on Aging for a unique program to be offered by GEMS to the aging population that it currently serves. GEMS is a tax-exempt organization that provides education opportunities to seniors, as well as emergency assistance to seniors who are in desperate need in the Philadelphia region. The emergency assistance is provided through the GEMS program called Human Needs and Services (HUNAS). Through HUNAS, Gems makes one-time monetary grants for specific purposes to impoverished individuals in the Philadelphia region, many of whom are seniors. These grants are for emergency funding of essential needs that these impoverished individuals could not otherwise afford.

- 1. Amount of Grant:** \$5000 to fund 10-15 one-time emergency grants to impoverished seniors.
- 2. Problem identified and who will be served:** Impoverished seniors in the greater Philadelphia region are sometimes faced with a one-time need for funding an essential expense such as hearing aids, dental work, heating repairs, roofing or a new bed, among many other items and services that they cannot afford. Without a grant from HUNAS these individuals will do without these essential items and services. HUNAS receives referrals of individuals recommended to receive a grant from social workers employed by public and nonprofit social service agencies serving the aging population. A committee of staff and volunteers meets monthly to consider funding requests referred to HUNAS. The grants are being paid directly to the third party provider, ensuring the funds are used correctly.
- 3. Proposed solution:** HUNAS is seeking additional funding in order to broaden its reach to 10-15 more individuals.
- 4.** HUNAS receives most of its funding through the Golden Slipper Foundation, but also receives sporadic and small donations.
- 5. Impact of services:** HUNAS funds concrete items that will have a noticeable impact of the life of the individual. HUNAS does not to fund expenses that are ongoing such as rent payments, grocery gift cards or utility bills. Items most frequently requested from HUNAS include beds, major appliances, air conditioners, car repair, hearing aids and dental work. Grants are provided to individuals who cannot receive these items from any other agency, sometimes because it is such a small item.



6. **Impact:** Increased capacity will allow us to serve more individuals. We will receive reports from the referring social worker on the item or services purchased, the amount of the purchase and its impact on the individual served.

7. **Statement of history and competence:** GEMS, its program HUNAS and everyone associated with GEMS and HUNAS regard the older adult community as one of society's most valuable and treasured assets. At the same time, older adults are a vulnerable population, at increased risk for poverty and isolation. Since 1997 GEMS has been successfully serving the aging community. We offer a range of necessary services to various groups. Prior to 2020, we offered activities at Federation Housing, Golden Slipper Center for Seniors and through the lifelong learning program in Bucks County and on the Main Line. Each program was geared to a different population's characteristics. In March 2020, when COVID-19 struck, we quickly pivoted our lifelong learning programs to Zoom, while continuing offer the HUNAS program.

With our quick adaptation to Zoom and evolving programs, we have proven that we can change with the demands of the time by adjusting our programming according to the needs of the community we have served over the years. Today, we see an increased need for the services of HUNAS and desire to increase our capacity to meet this expanding need.

I would appreciate your support in our program.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Moriah SimonHazani

Executive Director

Golden Slipper Gems

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