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## MISSION

To ensure safe, adequate access to shelter, nutrition, healthcare, education, economic opportunity and a sustainable environment for all God's children.

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## GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

Global, with a specific U.S. focus on Central and rural North Carolina.

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## GUIDELINES

- I. Grant applicants must be organizations qualified as 501 (c) 3 tax exempt by the Internal Revenue Service of the U.S. Treasury Department or an educational or governmental entity with tax-exempt status.
- II. The Foundation strongly considers funding efforts that are executed by nonprofits that have a **relationship** with us. The term **relationship** is more than just being a Redwoods Group customer or The Foundation having provided previous grants. It means finding collaborative ways to expand our mutually shared mission and, for example, encouraging Redwoods Group employees and others to become volunteers or partners with the organization. At the same time, we are interested in developing new relationships, so do not look at this as a roadblock; it is an opportunity. (*See the Short/Long Grant Application section for more information.*)
- III. The Foundation is primarily interested in funding efforts ensuring safe, adequate access to the following areas:

### **Shelter**

Providing shelter for all is a basic necessity for a stable society to thrive and is vital to helping to rebuild lives, livelihoods, families and communities.

### **Nutrition**

It is important to support ways to prevent deficiencies, excesses and imbalances in diet that harm health, reduce the quality of life and lead to disease or death.

### **Healthcare**

The prevention, treatment, and management of illness and the preservation of mental and physical well being should be available to everyone.

### **Education**

Sound basic education creates economic opportunity and enhances self-worth. Programs that give low-income/at-risk students educational opportunities to develop academically, to learn employer-valued skills and to build strong character are

essential to community sustainability. In the context of community sustainability, the Foundation also is interested in programs and services that focus on tolerance, diversity and improving race relations.

**Economic Opportunity**

We are interested in ways to narrow the income gap by creating opportunities for the poor, especially the working poor, to develop skills to move out of poverty.

**Sustainable Environment**

We seek to support programs or services that will protect and conserve natural resources, wildlife, wildlife habitat; other efforts related to biodiversity and a sustainable world; and the development of new sources of clean energy.

**Public Policy**

We support public policy initiatives to encourage the public and private sectors to work together to support the types of programs and services described above.

- IV. The Foundation is more likely to support initiatives that lead to meaningful, positive behavioral and societal change.
- V. The Foundation will consider *nontraditional, innovative, entrepreneurial efforts* whose missions are sustainable and consistent with the Foundation's, as long as the organization seeking funding will work collaboratively with similar or complementary organizations.
- VI. The Foundation's focus is on general operating support and annual support for specific programming. The Foundation will infrequently consider long-term relationships with nonprofit partners in the form of multi-year conditional commitments, typically lasting three to five years. As a rule, the Foundation will not fund US capital campaigns outside Central and rural North Carolina.
- VII. The Foundation tends not to support events or celebratory activities, but occasionally will consider funding them. If an event benefits a cause, applicants should seek funding for the cause, not the event.
- VIII. The Foundation prefers not to be the lead funder on any grant request.

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**FUNDING EXCLUSIONS**

The Foundation typically does not provide funding to:

- Arts for the general public
- Aid for domestic animals
- Religious organizations requesting funds for religious purposes
- Labor organizations
- Fraternal or social organizations
- Partisan political causes or candidates
- Individuals or organizations that benefit one individual or an individual's family

## **SHORT/LONG GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Organizations that have a relationship with The Redwoods Group or The Foundation should complete the short grant application, unless they seek grants over \$1,000. Then they should complete the long application. Organizations that haven't worked with Redwoods or The Foundation before are encouraged to complete the short application and submit it along with a letter of introduction. Tell us about your statement of purpose and why we should work together. If the letter is accepted, we will ask you to complete the long grant application.

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## **GRANT RANGES**

Most grants awarded are under \$1,000. If your grant request is over \$1,000, please complete and submit our long application, even if you have a relationship with us. For grants \$1,000 and less, please complete the short grants application. Please note that grants over \$5,000 are rare, but The Foundation will occasionally consider them.

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## **TIMELINE**

Grants are awarded quarterly. The 2012 grant request deadlines are: Feb. 21, May 15, Aug. 23 and Nov. 28.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF PROPOSAL**

The Foundation will send the contact for the grant request an email acknowledging receipt.

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## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

- Assessment of organization making grant request and the extent and quality of The Foundation's relationship with the organization
  - Relevance to The Foundation's mission
  - Evaluation of the program or service to be funded and relevance of its budget
  - The effort's expected outcome and its direct benefit to the target population
  - Potential for project to achieve its goals and outcomes and to be sustainable
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## **EVALUATION MECHANISM**

Organizations receiving substantial grants must develop an evaluation plan to report back on results of programs or services funded. The plan should include information about program objectives, target audience, budget and other funding sources, actual expenses, actual audience reached, significant outcomes and/or measurements of success and opportunities for improvement.