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APPLICATION FORM COVER SHEET

DATE: January 15, 2008

NAME OF APPLICANT ORGANIZATION: Boston Area Gleaners, Inc.

CONTACT PERSON: Oakes Plimpton

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WEBSITE: www.bostonareagleaners.org

AMOUNT OF THIS REQUEST: \$2,500

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET: \$14,500

TOTAL AMOUNT YOUR ORGANIZATION SPENT LAST YEAR: \$ 411 on transportation, 140 on stipends, 500 on office rental and consultant help, 335 on incorporation and IRS application, 280 for B.A.G. website, \$500 for computer, printer and for technical help to set it up, grand total: \$2166 .

INCOME: Fund Raiser: \$145. Additional Contributions: \$225. Founder contributions.

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, FULL AND/OR PART-TIME: none presently .

PROJECT PROPOSAL SUMMARY: To start up Boston Area Gleaners, Inc. as a functioning non-profit with a part time coordinator / director with the potential to probably quadruple the current gleaning operation which last season, 2007, gleaned—harvested for shelters and food pantries 233 boxes of produce amounting to approximately 7,000 pounds. Funds would be used to pay a consultant (who subleases to B.A.G. an office at \$100 a month) to multiply the Grass Roots grant by finding other support out there for the project, both foundation and individual, especially individual support, so as to create a sustainable non-profit program to glean/harvest nutritious and fresh produce for food pantries and shelters. In addition to finding funding support, the B.A.G. consultant /administrator would locate and coordinate volunteers for the gleaning.

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT NEGEF? From a friend.

CHECK ANY OF THE FOLLOWING THAT APPLY TO YOUR ORGANIZATION:

- 🍏 Checking or Savings account in group's name: Citizens Bank, Wainwright Bank
- 🍏 Incorporated as a nonprofit in the state — Mass.
- 🍏 501(c)(3) status with the IRS EIN 30-0434755

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Essentially the Boston Area Farm Gleaning Project would involve:

1. Contacting Boston area farmers to see if they have any produce left out in the fields for the gleaning.
2. Organizing volunteers and transport to go out to the farms to harvest the produce. Possibility of finding volunteers from food pantries and shelters to spend a half-day in the country to harvest their own fruit and vegetables.
3. Arranging for the transport of the gleaned produce to the food pantries, food banks, shelters and meal programs that could use the produce.
4. Also arranging for the donation of produce already picked by the farmers which either is extra or is not perfect enough for the market (peach seconds for example).
5. Arranging for the donation of unsold produce by farmers after local farmers markets, and transporting said produce to food pantries and shelters, or to Seconds Markets at public housing developments for resale at very low prices (\$2 a large grocery bag).

To give some examples, last season a second crop of strawberries became ripe while there were still good strawberries on the old patch. Our gleaning crew picked 45 quarts, which we transported to Rosie's Place woman's shelter in Boston. Later at another farm a second field of corn became ripe while the old field was still bearing. Gleaning crews picked over a 1,000 ears over a couple of weeks, which we took to a shelter and a food pantry, much appreciated! Later in the fall several orchards approached us about gleaning apple drops, perfectly good apples formerly used for the making of cider, but now not so much due to stringent public health regulations. Under just about 25 trees in one orchard, and about 20 in another, we harvested some 57 boxes of apples—Macs, Macouns, Spencers. The food pantries and shelters we took the fruit to did not seem to have alternative sources. Considering the fact that the one orchard had 2,500 trees, and the other about 4,000, and all the orchards in the apple country of Mass., there's quite a gleaning opportunity to be grasped! Similarly there are lot of other farms we could start up a relationship with for the gleaning of other produce.

As stated in the short summary of the project, our goal would be to quadruple the produce gleaned for food pantries and shelters, from 233 boxes of produce to a 1,000, from 7,000 pounds to 30,000 pounds!

If your project is successful, what changes will occur in your community and its environment?

Please include a timeline/steps for its completion.

There is something about the conservation of resources which is satisfying. Here you are harvesting produce which would otherwise be plowed under. The farmers appreciate it (their good labor not going to waste), and even more the recipients will appreciate receiving fresh produce! Volunteers will enjoy being out of doors and accomplishing something useful. Good to introduce students and young people to agriculture to where their food comes from. If we can attract people from the receiving shelters, that would be an additional benefit.

Time-line: in one year I think you will see a substantial increase in produce donated. In general supporting this project will also mean that it won't die out, that it will sustain itself over time.

PROJECT BUDGET

1) Itemize anticipated expenses and income for this Project Proposal. Also note in-kind services (donated materials and/or labor) you may receive for this proposal. Please specify what expenses will be covered with NEGEF's funds.

EXPENSES

Office rental -----	\$1,200
Office expenses -----	120
Communication expenses (Internet, Website, Telephone) -----	480
Part time Administrator's salary -----	5,200
Volunteer Coordinator's salary (could be same person as Administrator) --	4,800
Stipends for half-way house workers (\$20 a trip) -----	200
Transportation expenses (gas, maint., possible van rental) -----	<u>2,500</u>
TOTAL	14,500

Present Coordinator and Founder, also principal Worker, Oakes Plimpton, is a volunteer; also he volunteers his mini-van. Hard to quantify, but to purchase and insure a decent van, and to pay a Director's salary, would probably more than double the budget here proposed!

INCOME

GRASS ROOTS GRANT -----	\$2,500
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Projected 50 members at \$10, 25 at \$20, 10 at \$50, 5 at \$100 -----	2,000
Payments to be negotiated with food pantries and shelters for \$2 a box of produce ----	1,000
Fund raising event(s) -----	5,000
Foundation grants -----	<u>5,000</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	\$14,500

Note: For 2007 financial report, see page one. Prior years had similar expenses, all paid for by the Coordinator.

ATTACHMENTS

A list of key volunteers, board of directors and current staff with affiliations, brief biosketches, and email addresses.

Annual Reports for 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Articles about B.A.G. in Edible Boston, a periodical, and the NOFA Newsletter.

APPLICANT PROFILE

1. What is the mission or the goals of your group? Farmers often plow under produce left in the fields either because they planted too much, or the produce is a little too ripe or damaged by insects, animal bites or frost so as to be aesthetically displeasing, but still edible and nutritious. The Farm Gleaning Project proposes to contact Boston area farmers to ask if they would donate such produce, and to organize “gleaning crews” to harvest the produce for charity, and then to donate it to food banks and pantries, meal programs and homeless shelters. The crews could include people from receiving food pantries and shelters. In addition the Project will ask farmers to donate produce seconds after farmers’ markets for the same purposes. Another planned activity will be to educate low income people on the health and nutrition of local and organic produce, and to offer information on how to prepare and cook the greens and roots in a healthy and simple way.

2. How long has your group been in existence? The Project has been under way for four years, since 2004, gleaning and donating 878 boxes of produce to charity.

3. What issue/issues got your group going? Knowledge that perfectly good produce which could have been harvested for the hungry was being plowed under.

4. How many people started the group? Essentially just the founder and an enthusiastic immigrant volunteer from Greece, who unfortunately had to return to Greece.

5. Is this the first time that the group's "founders" had been "activated"? Essentially. The issue is how to graduate from a one person operation to a sustainable non-profit organization.

6. How many people are currently involved as the core group of leaders/workers? There are eight directors plus a group of volunteers and donors and other interested persons who receive e-mail updates numbering about 20 people.

7. Is this a membership organization? If so, how many members do you have? We are just starting, and as of yet have no formal membership structure. But we do plan to have members, and hope the interested people mentioned above will become members and supporters.

8. Do you have any paid staff? If yes, how many full-time equivalents? No. We have paid some money to consultants, and the founder/coordinator works gratis part time.

9. Approximately how many people in your community can be "activated" to support your issue – i.e., go to a meeting, sign a petition, call a selectperson, etc.? Well, we are not political — see above.

10. Has the focus of your group broadened or changed at all since it first started? If so, in what ways? B.A.G. has broadened from a one person operation to a group effort with a small Board and interested group of volunteers and supporters.

11. Have any members of your group run for or been appointed to public office since they started working on your issue/issues? If so, for what office? Elected or appointed? N/A. None.

12. Describe the size and make-up of your community. As mentioned above about 20 to 25 interested persons and volunteers, most of whom came to B.A.G.'s first fund raising event (the showing of the French documentary *The Gleaners and I*). Most are motivated by interest in sustainable agriculture, as well as the non-profit goals of B.A.G.

13. Have you networked or shared information/resources with other groups? If so, with whom and how did you find out about them? Initially the Coordinator tried to persuade already established groups to take on the project, in particular Food For Free, which already "gleans" from the Produce Market and supermarkets and delivers to some 60 meal programs, food pantries and shelters. Also approached were the Food Project, Community Farms Outreach, and Gaining Ground. Negative. The Coordinator has also communicated with the Federation of Farmers' Markets in order to contact farmers with excess produce. Conversations about donating the produce have also been carried on with Food For Free, the Boston Food Bank and various food pantries and shelters. The Coordinator manages the Arlington Farmers' Market, so there's good communication there!

14. How have you gained knowledge about your issue? Definitely that the fresh produce is welcome, even formerly exotic produce such as bok choy; also that there is plenty more produce left in the farm fields than our group has been able to harvest! We have set up good communication with a core group of six or seven farmers who let the coordinator know when there's extra produce in the fields to be harvested.

15. If your organization is more than a year old, can you quantify any of your "successes"? See B.A.G. website www.bostonareagleaners.org. In 2004 crews gleaned and donated to hunger relief organizations 290 boxes of produce, about 7,000 pounds, in 2005 148 boxes, approximately 3,000 pounds, in 2006 239 boxes, 5,000 pounds, 2007 233 boxes, 5,000 pounds.

16. What are the biggest challenges your community faces? As previously mentioned, morphing from a one person operation to a functioning, organized non-profit.

17. What skills do you feel you and/or members of your group could use to help move your issue forward?

Organizational skills!