



**Non-Profit Funding Request  
City of Chattanooga  
FY 2014**

Non-Profit Organization: **Chattanooga's Kids on the Block**

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Agency Mission: **Using the power of puppetry, our mission is to educate children about social concerns and difference, giving them the skills to stay safe and healthy.**

Funding Request: \$50,000

To provide a minimum of 200 educational programs, free of charge to elementary age students, Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth grade, in the public school system in the City of Chattanooga and Hamilton County. The programs, through national research and carefully scripted material, teach age appropriate skills to children & youth on personal safety issues, social concerns and cultural differences, encouraging communication, conflict resolution, team building and positive self esteem in an effort to provide the opportunities to be successful in education, work and life.

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**Chattanooga’s Kids on the Block (CKOB) Executive Summary**

The purpose of the funding request is to help provide 280 educational programs, free of charge to elementary age students, pre-kindergarten through fifth grade, primarily in the public school system in the City of Chattanooga and Hamilton County. In addition the funds will be used to help provide follow up activities and materials for each child participant, resource materials for parents and follow up materials for educators to reinforce the message in each performance and to continue learning in school and at home. We estimate serving over 38,000 children and adults through the 280 programs proposed.

The programs, through national research and carefully scripted material, teach age appropriate skills to children & youth on personal safety issues, social concerns and cultural differences, encouraging communication, conflict resolution, team building and positive self esteem in an effort to provide the opportunities to be successful in education, work and life.

The educational curriculum uses the non-threatening medium of puppetry to introduce a number of sensitive issues to children in the classroom. Kids on the Block puppets allow for a unique and effective brand of communication, especially since children are more hesitant to interact freely with adults. The puppets, acting as children, respond with clarity and candor to hundreds of questions asked by children during the interactive segment of our program. Our programs foster the development of understanding, acceptance and healthy relationships in children and their families. High risk populations are often the recipients of our programs; however the majority of our programs will be delivered in the public school system serving children from all situations and demographic backgrounds on a daily basis. Focus will be given to the four high risk impact areas in Chattanooga.

The programs model for children the cooperative attitude needed to appreciate one another, offer opportunities to develop skills to help avoid and/or respond to potentially dangerous situations, encourage open communication with others and promote making healthy lifestyle choices.

While CKOB is licensed to perform 42 of the 45 national programs available to KOB troupes, we work with local educators, guidance counselors and community leaders to determine specific issues that are affecting our children. Our programs vary from year to year depending on the concerns being addressed by our schools and community; however all 42 educational programs are available to our community.

This year the following programs have been assigned for specific grade levels.

- **Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten**

*Life Lessons with Yasmin* - Practicing good manners, making new friends and hand washing  
*342: 3 Ways 4 Me 2 Be Safe* - Safety lessons on stranger danger, area codes and emergency plans

- **First Grade**

*Squeaky Clean Kids* - Dental hygiene and hand washing  
*Rescue and Report* - Bullying prevention

- **Second Grade**

*Accepting Differences* - Physical disabilities, learning differences, asthma and food allergies  
*Feelings* - Mental health education

- **Third Grade**

*Personal Safety* - Physical and sexual abuse prevention

- **Fourth Grade**

*Brain Power* - Brain injury prevention and problem solving  
*S.T.E.P.S.: Safety Talk Encouraging Peaceful Schools* - Bullying prevention, anger management, gangs/violence awareness and prevention

- **Fifth Grade**

*Kids on the Move* - Healthy snacking, being active and making the right choices  
*Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs* - Substance abuse prevention

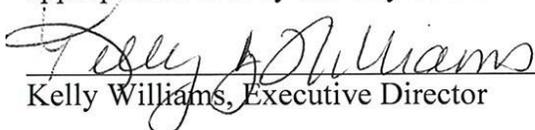
After participating in the programs, students will write letters to the puppets to help determine the effectiveness of the programs presents. Using our “key phrase tools”, letters will be read and scored by trained staff for the purpose of finding changes in attitude, behavior and/or understanding. Pre- and Post tests will be conducted in addition to students’ letters to determine change in knowledge and/or understanding of a particular topic.

Educator/adult/parent evaluations will be provided following each program to determine delivery and content of information presented with post evaluations given a minimum of 30 days following the programs. The post evaluations will help identify longer term effects in attitude, understanding and/or behavior. We anticipate seeing a 20 percent positive change in longer term attitudes, understanding and behaviors.

Since 1979, CKOB has been providing educational puppetry programs to schools and communities in Southeast Tennessee and Northwest Georgia. For the past ten years, we have annually averaged more than 250 programs for over 30,000 children and adults. Last year alone, we performed 423 educational programs, serving over 64,000 children and adults in our 15 county service area. **Just in the City of Chattanooga and Hamilton County last year, we provided 279 educational programs serving over 44,000 children and adults.**

CKOB is one of the most active and respected troupes in the United States. We were named 2012 Non Profit of the Year by the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce. As one of the first troupes established in the Southeast, CKOB has been instrumental in helping more than 30 troupes throughout the United States providing training, networking and conferencing. Our puppeteer/educators are all nationally certified Bunraku puppet artists and hold degrees in various subjects such as early childhood development, psychology, design and theatre. Our staff regularly trains and studies specific topics to be current and relevant when asked questions by children and adults following each program performance. Dressed in black, but in full view of the audience, the puppeteer skillfully operates a hand-and-rod puppet in the art of Bunraku puppetry, to create life size characters who model a variety of behaviors, give information and encourage children to participate by asking the “kids” questions. Research has confirmed that puppet presentations are among the most effective means of communicating messages to elementary aged students.

CKOB will provide a detailed accounting of how and for what purpose municipal funds were spent, prior to the close of the City of Chattanooga’s fiscal budget year and at the close of each succeeding fiscal budget year until all municipal funds have been spent. CKOB will provide the City of Chattanooga with copies of current annual audits or reviews for each year that it spends funds appropriated to it by the City of Chattanooga.

  
Kelly Williams, Executive Director

1-7-13