

April 24, 2006

Ms. Michelle D. Monse, President
Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation
2929 Carlisle St., Ste. 222
Dallas, TX 75204

RE: Letter of Inquiry requesting an Invitation to submit a full proposal

Dear Ms. Monse:

In this busy age of “two-wage earner” households and deferred retirement, people can no longer count on their children and grandchildren to assist them when they become frail and elderly. Caretakers of people with disabilities cannot depend on extended family and friends to find time regularly to give them a break from their unrelenting responsibilities. Last year, 425 elderly and disabled people were given rides from Kindness, Inc., to 2,300 medical, dental and other essential appointments.

Kindness Inc. volunteers answered the call another 1,000 times last year to provide:

- grocery shopping assistance;
- respite for primary care givers;
- emergency urgent-care prescription medication financial assistance;
- 23 minor home repairs;
- installation of 34 safety bars and 17 wheelchair ramps; and
- reassurance calls, friendly visitation and other non-medical but essential services.

The Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation is well-known for its generosity to initiatives that benefit those with disabilities. We request any funding guidelines you may publish, and an opportunity to submit a fully-developed proposal for \$10,000 in program development and direct program support.

Kindness, Inc. is a *Faith in Action* program and Jubilee Ministry Center in the Twin Lakes communities of Baxter and Marion Counties in North Central Arkansas. Our area is largely rural interspersed with small towns; the largest has a population of 11,405. Located in the beautiful Ozark Mountains, with two lakes, three rivers and many wilderness areas, it has long attracted people interested in outdoor sports and recreation. Many relocate here upon retirement. Approximately 45% of all households in our service area have at least one person over the age of 60. Public transportation services are either very limited or non-existent, adversely affecting people of all income levels who are no longer able to drive an automobile.

Twin Lakes regional residents with poor vision or age-related or chronic illnesses have very few lifestyle options without Kindness, Inc. Even when they are fortunate enough to have younger relatives living nearby, today’s employment responsibilities and busy household obligations limit the availability of extended family members to regularly offer assistance. Friends and neighbors are often busy enjoying active life styles or coping with similar problems and needing the same services. The alternatives are to either move to urban areas when needed services could be available within walking distance or via public transportation, prematurely enter an assisted living facility or ignore their healthcare needs. Kindness, Inc. services allow people to live independently in their own homes, which benefits the local community by keeping homes occupied and maintained by citizens who contribute to local churches and the local

economy. We estimate that the value of services provided by Kindness, Inc. to the Twin Lakes region at \$126,000 last year.

Kindness, Inc. started as an outreach program in a small local church nine years ago, with the encouragement of local hospital home-health nurses. Within six months the need for these services outstripped the resources of the founding volunteers and other churches were invited to join, resulting in Kindness, Inc.'s incorporation as an independent, community outreach, non-profit, interfaith ministry.

Along with being able to remain independent and in their own homes, seniors who receive services from our agency are relieved of the social isolation which is an expected by-product of aging in rural areas. Their interaction with Kindness volunteers and timely medical services, enable them to live healthier and happier lives. Even when someone has the financial resources to pay "top-dollar," it can be difficult to find workmen to modify showers, add safety rails or grab bars and build and install wheelchair ramps in a timely manner. It is next to impossible for low-income individuals. This is an example how Kindness, Inc. volunteers step in and make a life-affirming difference. All of our services are free to qualifying residents regardless of age, income, race or religion.

Annually the number of people seeking assistance grows and the need to recruit more and more volunteers and financial support intensifies. With the onset of the aging of the baby boomers upon us, Kindness, Inc. must double its efforts to recruit more volunteers while struggling to meet normal operating expenses. Geographically our service area also grows, with individuals who needing services now calling from the other areas of Baxter and Marion counties. The number of people Kindness, Inc. serves in 2006 is expected to increase by more than 100.

In order to offer services to our neighbors who need them in these broader geographic markets, Kindness, Inc. needs greater resources to offset the increased operating and direct-service costs. We have increased our fundraising activities to six events per year and mailed appeals to local health care providers and other businesses, previous donors and surviving family members of earlier care receivers. We are exploring the addition of an online "store" to our website, as a new revenue stream. Even as our endeavors begin to show profits, we need help from the philanthropic community to develop programs in emerging expanded geographic markets. We are asking your guidelines and an invitation to submit a fully developed proposal for a \$10,000 Program Development grant. Thank you for your generosity to organizations serving the aged in Arkansas, and for all consideration of our request.

Sincerely yours,
/s/

Margaret Pflug
Executive Director

Attachment: IRS Determination Letter