

Metropolitan Savannah Rotary Annual Service Organization Application

Metropolitan Savannah Rotary (MSR) intends to support, both financially and through volunteer support, organizations that make Savannah a better, stronger, more livable community. The chosen organization will preferably have a mission that allows for projects with a tangible impact that will provide lasting results for years to come. Applicants are encouraged to be creative and put forth projects in their applications that will bring positive, long lasting effects to a wide range of citizens and the community in Savannah. Funds cannot be applied to overhead, operating costs or marketing. Funds should be directed toward specific projects articulated through our application process. Applicants should seek to incorporate our members' volunteer time into their application.

All projects will be reviewed by Metropolitan Savannah Rotary and finalists must be able to attend an in-person interview during the week of **April 23, 2018**, at a schedule to be determined **between 2:30-5 p.m.** Selected finalists will be notified by **Friday, April 6, 2018**. Recipients must be a 501(c)(3) organization.

Metropolitan Savannah Rotary will partner with one organization for one year (**beginning July 1, 2018**) providing volunteer support once a quarter (four events) in addition to financial support that will be awarded twice per year (\$3,750 in December and the remainder of the grant in June). A minimum of \$7,500 will be awarded with an opportunity for additional funds based on the success of Metropolitan Savannah Rotary events throughout the year with a maximum of \$10,000 awarded. MSR prefers to be the major funder for the proposed project but does not have to be the sole funder. It is very important to MSR that there be opportunities for hands on service projects quarterly at a minimum. *The applicant is responsible for the conception, implementation, and management of the project.*

Applications should be submitted in ONE pdf document via email to service@metrosavannahrotary.org no later than Friday March 30, 2018.

The applicant who will be chosen to be the annual service organization for Metropolitan Savannah Rotary will be notified at the end of May 2018 and will be asked to meet with our selection committee in June 2018 and speak at one of our July 2018 Program Meetings at 12:00 p.m. Should you have any questions during the applications process, please contact Daniel Weiner at service@metrosavannahrotary.org.

1. Exact legal name of the requesting organization:

Coastal Empire Montessori Community Organization, Inc. (CEMCO) dba Coastal Empire Montessori Charter School (CEMCS)

2. Organization's primary contact person for the application process; include their email address and phone number:

Bill Kovach
bill.kovach@cemco.org
912.395.4073

3. Organization mailing address, physical address, phone number and website:

Coastal Empire Montessori Charter School
301 Buckhalter Road
Savannah, GA 31405
912.395.4070
www.cemco.org

4. Organization's primary contact person for the implementation and management of the project; include their email address and phone number:

Bill Kovach
bill.kovach@cemco.org
912.395.4073

5. Organization's Tax Identification Number:

30-0324683

6. Is the requesting organization classified by the IRS as a Section 170(b)(1)(a) organization or Section 501(c)(3) "public charity" that is not a Section 509(a)(3) "supporting organization" or "private foundation"? Please attach 501(c)(3) letter or other supporting documentation.

YES

NO

7. Organization's Mission Statement:

The mission of Coastal Empire Montessori Community Organization is to operate a public charter school that provides individualized elementary education rooted in Montessori philosophy emphasizing emotional, intellectual, physical, and social development in a nurturing and rigorous academic environment.

8. Organization's fiscal year beginning and end: July 1 through June 30

9. Organizations' total budgeted revenues and expenses for current fiscal year:

FY18 Budgeted Revenues – \$2.34M

FY18 Budgeted Expenses – \$2.33M

10. Organization's top three (3) sources of revenue and amount from each source:

BOE General Funding: \$2.26M

Direct Public Support: \$33K

Miscellaneous Revenue: \$50K

11. Please attach a list of your current officers and directors.

Board of Trustees

Elizabeth Berenguer, President

Justin Hummel, Vice President

Michelle Candline, Secretary

Teri Cornelius, Treasurer

Tim Blackston

Spencer Burch

Dave Gibson

Jose Gonzalez

Jay Jones

Star Sinclair

Ex Officio Members

Stephanie Babcock-Wright, Executive Director

Bill Kovach, Chief Financial Officer

Katherine Davis, Head of Montessori Curriculum and Instruction

12. In which of these six areas of focus does the proposed project relate?

Peace and Conflict prevention/resolution

- Disease prevention and treatment
- Water and Sanitation
- Maternal and Child Health
- Basic Education and Literacy
- Economic and Community Development

Basic Education and Literacy

13. Please submit a narrative of the project(s) to be funded by Metropolitan Savannah Rotary.

Please include how this program will make Savannah a stronger, more livable community, and what will be the tangible lasting impacts (approximately 500 words or less).

Coastal Empire Montessori Charter School (CEMCS) serves families from all areas of Chatham County. Currently, CEMCS provides a Montessori education to a diverse student body representative of the local demographics serving 12 zip codes and 300 students of all

socioeconomic backgrounds. Nearly 62% of CEMCS students qualify for the Federal subsidized student lunch program.

CEMCS is the only Montessori Charter school in the state of Georgia. The Montessori educational method offers students the opportunity to benefit from individualized instruction, use of sensorial materials, choice in work, uninterrupted work periods, regular movement, and physical activity. An excellent complement to the Montessori model is to give students a sense of identity with various careers and to set the example for community involvement in the education process. Inviting volunteers with various backgrounds in to talk with our students about their work piques students' interests. They learn more about the careers they may choose in the future or develop an interest in careers they never even considered.

The school's greatest challenge lies in the realm of facilities. The school has grown each year since its inception. Buildings and other campus infrastructure have been added along the way. The 10-year-old facilities and campus design are becoming more cumbersome to maintain. Facility maintenance expenses have been a budget drain. We are taking steps to maximize the longevity of the current facilities while saving and planning for future permanent facilities.

Our proposed project is for the Metropolitan Rotary to partner with CEMCS for a two-fold purpose: to enhance educational offerings and to extend the facilities' useful life and campus curb appeal to match the school's quality education.

14. Please submit a proposed project schedule.

July/August, Summer 2018 – Rebuild handicap ramp to the lower elementary building to ensure ADA Compliance, renovate other building's ramps and Build/Install onsite Storage Facility
September, Fall 2018 – Build Green House and Shelving for Garden; Install new playground equipment
February, Winter 2019 – Montessori Education Week & Career Day
May, Spring 2019 – Student Body Field Day

15. Please submit a narrative detailing hands-on volunteer opportunities for Metropolitan Savannah Rotary members. It is important that MSR is able to participate as a club in large-scale, quarterly volunteer opportunities with the selected service partner. Please provide details of any volunteer opportunities to include the approximate number of volunteers needed at each event, age restrictions, relevant physical requirements, etc. What factors could limit participation by our members, friends and family?

Multiple projects and events throughout the school year require volunteer support to encourage or invest in students' health and safety. A summary of each project and event we are requesting MSR to support in the upcoming school year is provided below.

Rebuild lower elementary building handicap Ramp to ensure ADA Compliance, renovate other building's ramps and Build Storage Facility. The entrance into the lower elementary facility requires improved accessibility for people with disabilities. This improvement would provide safer entrance and egress. The existing ramp may require extensive renovation or rebuilding. Slip resistant additives, hand rails, and ramp pickets will maximize safety and allow easy access into the facility. Other building's ramps also require renovation to secure loose boards, balusters and railings, as well as painting and "slip proofing".

The project will require approximately 6 to 8 volunteers. There is no age restriction, however, volunteers should be physically able to bend for extended periods, grip and use power tools, and lift 50 lbs. Volunteers should bring tools necessary to complete the task.

Volunteers are needed to build a storage facility.

The project will require approximately 6 to 8 volunteers. There is no age restriction, however, volunteers should be physically able to bend for extended periods, grip and use power tools, and lift 50 lbs. Volunteers should bring tools necessary to complete the task.

Build Green House and Shelving for Garden Supplies and Volunteers; Install new playground equipment.

In the next three years CEMCS intends to provide students and staff with hands-on vegetable gardening experience by integrating gardening lessons with the school's Montessori curriculum. The food from the garden will mostly be consumed by school staff and students; we will follow the "eat what you grow" model which ties in the Montessori model for nutrition. Each class will share in the harvests. Crops will be used for lessons to teach students how to prepare food for consumption from garden to table. In these lessons students will harvest crops, wash, cut and consume the food. Adding a green house and shelving for the garden will allow the garden to continue to serve as an educational site throughout the winter months and in rainy weather.

The project will require approximately 6 to 8 volunteers. There is no age restriction, however, volunteers should be physically able to bend for extended periods, grip and use power tools, and lift 50 lbs. Volunteers should bring tools necessary to complete the task.

CEMCS currently has very limited playground equipment. Through the use of funding provided by this grant, and other outside funds recently made available, we would like to upgrade our playground equipment with sturdy environmentally friendly equipment that can be enjoyed by the 300+ students on our campus. This will provide a healthy outlet for their energy as well as providing tools for the teaching staff to utilize as part of their lesson plans.

The project will require approximately 6 to 8 volunteers. There is no age restriction, however, volunteers should be physically able to bend for extended periods, grip and use power tools, and lift 50 lbs. Volunteers should bring tools necessary to complete the task.

Montessori Education Week & Career Day Volunteers.

The purpose of Montessori Education Week is to grow public awareness about Montessori education and respect for all children. Respect of the child is a key Montessori focus. We seek volunteers who can share their vocation with groups of students.

The event will require approximately 10 to 12 adult volunteers. Volunteers should be prepared to speak publicly about their work and answer questions from very inquisitive young minds.

Student Body Field Day Tents and Volunteers.

Volunteers will assist with setup, tear down and run various field day events.

The event will require approximately 10 to 12 adult volunteers. Volunteers should be physically able to bend periodically, stand for long periods, and lift 15 lbs. Volunteers should be prepared to withstand hot temperatures and excited children.

16. Exact dollar amount requested: \$10,000

17. What is the budget for the project? Please provide general budget, does not have to be very detailed.

July, Summer 2018 – Rebuild lower elementary building ramp to ensure ADA Compliance, renovate other ramps and materials for Storage Facility - \$4,000

September, Fall 2018 – Build Green House and Shelving for Garden - \$2,500; Playground equipment \$3,500

February, Winter 2019 – Montessori Education Week & Career Day – no cost

May, Spring 2019 – Student Body Field Day Tents and Volunteers - no cost

18. Will the project have financial support in addition to the funds provided by the Metropolitan Savannah Rotary? If so, from what sources?

Additional funding, if needed, will be provided from the school's general funds or solicited from other fundraising sources.

19. Will the organization accept partial funding of the project budget? Yes.

20. What is the plan to promote MSR as a partner if selected?

Marketing methods include social media posts, a regularly updated website, and private Facebook page consisting of CEMCO families, in addition to regular newsletters and emails to parents/stakeholders. We intend to promote CEMCS' partnership with MSR via posts to our website and social media accounts, printed newsletter to parents, email(s) to our stakeholders, and a press release should CEMCS receive the award.