

## Application for Northeast District Funding for Innovative Programs

January 2004

Manitowoc County UW-Extension Family Living and 4-H Youth Educators

**Project Title:** "Boomerang!" Character Education Program  
An Iowa State University Extension reviewed and recommended program

**Project Contacts:** Faye Malek, Manitowoc County UW-Extension Family Living Educator  
Kevin Palmer, Manitowoc County UW-Extension 4-H Youth Educator

### Collaborators:

- Dr. Steven Gibson, Superintendent of Manitowoc Public Schools
- Duane Simmons, Guidance Counselor, Lincoln High School
- Keith Wakeman, ESL and Foreign Language Coordinator for the Manitowoc Public School System
- Lincoln High School student volunteers
- Fourth grade teachers (We will start with as many fourth grade classrooms as we have volunteer teachers. A long term goal is to consistently add schools throughout the County each year.)

### Situation Statement:

The following statement provided by Keith Wakeman accurately describes the need for the "Boomerang" program in Manitowoc County.

"As we proceed through the 21st century, the needs of children and young adults are becoming more pronounced. Family structure is changing at a rapid pace, positive role models are disappearing, and personal time for fun and development is endangered. As we diversify in our schools and neighborhoods there is a growing need for character building, tolerance, and understanding."

### Project Goals and Expected Outcomes:

1. High school student volunteers will serve as cross-age teachers. This opportunity will increase their self-esteem, confidence, sense of community, as well as tolerance and acceptance of others.
2. Team teachers will help create a caring and supporting environment with youth over the multi-session program by being interested in the youth, actively listening to and getting to know the gifts of the youth.
3. Team teachers will help create an atmosphere of high expectations and positive beliefs through the character traits they teach and model.
4. Ultimately, participants will report being more respectful of others and value differences between individuals.

**Project Timeline:**

December 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop a partnership with the school sponsoring delivery of the program.</li> </ul>
January 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meet with the school administration to discuss programs and answer questions.</li> <li>▪ Meet with adults who may be assisting with the program.</li> <li>▪ Provide a 30-minute in-service to inform staff/volunteers about the program.</li> <li>▪ Select a leader to work with the Team Teachers</li> </ul>
February - August 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recruit and select high school youth who will serve as Team Teachers</li> <li>▪ Train Team Teachers</li> </ul>

**Note:** The UW-Extension Family Living and 4-H Youth Educators will meet with the Team Teachers monthly once the school year begins to review the previous session and to do training for the next session. Additionally, the Educators would communicate regularly with the 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers.

**Evaluation Plan:**

Both quantitative and qualitative evaluation will be conducted with:

- Team Teacher volunteers
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade students
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom teachers and other staff who can provide observation data
- The Team Teacher Advisor

The "Boomerang!" curriculum provides evaluation suggestions for collecting this data including focus group evaluation and pre-post tests.

**Applied and Received Resource Funds Before?**

Yes. Faye received \$2100 in 2001 to do focus groups with Latino residents which resulted in the "The Latino Focus" report. The research was accepted by the Journal of Extension and was written into a Department of Family Living Department Paper. Funding this project proposal will allow for the continuation of diversity, tolerance, and acceptance topics in Manitowoc County.

<b>Detailed Budget:</b>	
1. Purchase of two "Boomerang!" Leader Manuals	\$100
2. <b>Training costs of 20 Team Teacher volunteers:</b>	
▪ Transportation to Camp Tapa Wingo with two vans	\$175
▪ Two meals each at Camp Tapa Wingo	\$200
▪ Training materials, props (front-end costs)	\$100
▪ Printing costs for evaluations and parental approval slips, etc.	<u>\$ 50</u>
	<b>\$625 - Total Cost</b>