

**New Life Resources, Inc.**  
**23404 W. Lyons Ave., Suite 104**  
**Newhall, California 91321**

August 18, 2006

Ms. Jenny Shilling Stein  
Executive Director  
Draper Richards Foundation  
50 California Street, Suite 2925  
San Francisco, CA 94111

Dear Ms. Shilling Stein,

It is with great pride and appreciation that I submit my application to the Draper Richards Foundation for fellowship consideration.

As I am sure is true for most new social entrepreneurs, I have adopted my mission for personal reasons which profoundly call me to this specific action. Certainly, there are many social problems in both our country and in our world, yet responding to the needs of victimized children is a cause that has chosen ME, rather than the other way around.

My new non-profit organization, New Life Resources, Inc. (NLR), seeks to answer many of today and tomorrow's societal needs, but the program will begin first with legal support and educational services for children as relates to physical and sexual abuse, exploitation, and the prevention of such atrocities. Through the initial project, "The Child's Voice," a program with potential for global reach and one that will garner the organization's full attention for at least years 1-5, NLR intends to implement both a crisis response component with community-based educational outreach. Working collectively with existing systems and programs, NLR seeks to fill present voids in system delivery, contributing to widespread systemic change.

An experienced paralegal, it seems natural that I would gravitate toward my specialty in addressing the needs of vulnerable children. However, just as my expertise is in a particular area of service, I believe that an optimally effective program needs to bring in other talents and perspectives, all working toward the common good and greatest reach. Therefore, along with my resume, I am including that of my non-profit consultant who will offer ongoing guidance and assistance in aspects of this non-profit venture that I have not yet personally mastered. In addition to the support I would eagerly embrace from the Draper Richards Foundation if awarded this most sought-after fellowship, I believe wholeheartedly that we must turn to experts, other change agents, and creative synergy in order to reach our fullest potentials. Our strengths, when united, compound our impact—and that embodies the spirit of NLR.

I sincerely hope that you will extend NLR the opportunity to submit a full proposal. Our program is extensive, will demand and receive my full attention, and certainly will require more pages to completely explain. The focus is clear, the activities preliminarily detailed, and the approach is solid.

For now, perhaps you would ask, “why should NLR be awarded this fellowship? Aren’t other programs doing similar work? Doesn’t the government or similar entities meet this need?” The answer is simple. The need outweighs the resources and existing supports require improvement and expansion. Some necessary services are virtually non-existent such as legal advocacy for unaccompanied minor refugees who are in tremendous crisis and truly effective school outreach to bring victimized children forward.

When asked what prompted me to start this journey, I routinely refer to the “Starfish Story”...

*An old man was picking up objects off the beach and tossing them out into the sea. A young man approached him and saw that the objects were starfish. "Why in the world are you throwing starfish into the water?"*

*"If the starfish are still on the beach when the tide goes out and the sun rises high in the sky, they will die," replied the old man.*

*"That is ridiculous. There are thousands of miles of beach and millions of starfish. You can't really believe that what you're doing could possibly make a difference!"*

*The wise old man picked up another starfish, paused thoughtfully, and remarked as he tossed it out into the waves, "It makes a difference to this one."*

Thank you for taking the time to review my materials. Should you require any additional information or wish to extend an invitation to continue with the fellowship application process, you may reach me at 661- 435-3444 or at clarinto1@yahoo.com. And, I look forward to hearing of your preliminary determination.

In closing, the Draper Richards Foundation fellowship would enable New Life Resources to quickly begin our important work and to immediately help children facing these dire circumstances. As we expand services with each given year, more and more children in crisis will benefit from our advocacy and outreach. Long-term impact is limitless. But, like the Starfish... to a child who is rescued, protected, or spared from victimization—we have already changed the world.

Sincerely,

Carol Larinto  
Executive Director  
New Life Resources, Inc.

## **Mission Statement**

New Life Resources, Inc. is a national non-profit organization dedicated to the provision of direct outreach, educational school-based programming, and a wide range of advocacy services and campaigns in response to issues of physical and sexual abuse of children, human rights violations, and unaccompanied refugee minors in desperate need of legal representation.

## **Objectives**

1. To harness and coordinate available Pro Bono assistance by attorneys and legal firms across the United States to provide representation with regard to issues of child abuse, neglect, sexual abuse and exploitation, and the vast number of refugee children who are unaccompanied minors facing deportation that currently receive no legal assistance or intervention.
2. To create and implement a nationwide initiative, presented within school-based settings, which will encourage children to openly discuss sexual abuse and appropriate/inappropriate touching, help children to understand “It’s Not Your Fault,” prompt victims to safely come forward, and provide resources when a child needs legal representation and/or counseling services.
3. To implement a national advocacy campaign to help victimized children through eye-catching posters that provide emergency contact information, furnished to every school, library, health department, and community center in the United States.
4. To partner with existing programs within the United States to mutually enhance respective service models, bring about widespread systemic change, and fully address the critical needs of children in crisis.

## **Systemic Social Change**

There are many definitions of “social change.” New Life Resources, Inc. (NLR) is particularly drawn to the description provided by Walden University, which summed up the concept as “a process of creating and applying ideas, strategies, and actions to promote the worth, dignity, and development of individuals, communities, organizations, institutions, cultures, and societies. Positive social change results in the improvement of human and social conditions.”<sup>1</sup>

To accomplish systemic social change, NLR proposes work with existing systems through partnerships and collaborations, targeting the most pressing needs, investigating current trends and lack of resources, and creating new response systems where indicated—NOT duplicating existing efforts. Enhancing available supports or filling service gaps is essential, but the first stage of program implementation is to focus on cities where no services are currently available.

For example, a recent CCN interview with actress Angelina Jolie, Good Will Ambassador to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), alerted NLR to an alarming and critical need that has, until recently, been widely unrecognized in the U. S. by the public at large. According to the interview and the UNHCR website, more than 7,000 unaccompanied refugee minors arrive in the U.S. every year, many of whom have been sexually or physically abused, repeatedly raped, are victims of human trafficking, await atrocities such as genital mutilation if deported, or even face death should they return to their native countries. These children are detained in America and most often must represent

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.waldenu.edu/c/About/Ponder\\_2243.htm](http://www.waldenu.edu/c/About/Ponder_2243.htm)

themselves in U.S. immigration proceedings without legal representation whatsoever, and, often without proper language interpreter services. As a result, this presents an immediate call to action—an urgent crisis involving human rights violations and child protection issues that NLR’s “The Child’s Voice” program must—and will—promptly address. Out of the 7,000 children in need, only approximately 1,500 have been helped so far.

## **Program Design**

The Executive Director is a trained paralegal and will provide support services to all Pro Bono attorneys who work on cases in their home states, and will focus on marketing and recruitment of volunteers to meet the program’s initial needs. Upon expansion, State Directors will be hired in each state to coordinate services in their geographic locales, with the first identified state being that of Florida. State Directors will be responsible for scheduling in-school educational programming, recruitment and training of speakers, widespread distribution of brochures and outreach materials, establishing local pools of Pro Bono attorneys and firms, and, with the support of the national headquarter office, securing local funding for programming. Although the legal advocacy efforts will rely upon the donated time of legal professionals throughout the country, NLR will secure funding to pay for legal filings and incidental costs associated with services. If necessary, the program will pay for legal assistance in the absence of available Pro Bono firms, subject to available funds, or consider hiring staff attorneys if that model proves to be most cost effective.

The school-based educational program will involve a specific curriculum created by an advocate/sexual abuse survivor, a Ph.D. level clinician/consultant specializing in issues of abuse and recovery, and our Program Development/Grant Writer consultant. The “It’s Not Your Fault” presentation will incorporate a video or slide show, personal stories, and targeted questions to prompt open dialog with students in hopes of reducing the numbers of children who may otherwise be future victims, while encouraging those who have already suffered victimization to safely, and privately, seek assistance. Brochures will be provided to children with contact information for additional services and support. Presentations will be offered for grades 5-12. A 24-hour crisis hotline will also be established.

## **Implementation Plan**

**YEAR ONE** – The national headquarters will be established in California and staffed by one Executive Director. An administrative assistant will be added upon additional funding support. During the first year, efforts will focus heavily on development needs, both programmatic materials/processes and applications for funding support. We will draft our policies and procedures, job descriptions, employee handbook, training materials, referral forms and protocols, develop databases and statistical collection systems, and create brochures/marketing tools. Program development activities will take place while waiting for IRS 501(c) 3 approval, which we understand to take 6-9 months due to current IRS backlogs. During this time, we will begin building our national pool of Pro Bono attorneys and legal firms, as well as reaching out to other programs across the country to begin forming coalitions and project partnerships. Year one will also include the identification of 3 states for initial operations, based on locations with the greatest need for services and present lack of resources. NLR will also contact UNHCR to discuss services for refugee children. We will immediately begin developing resources to help address this crisis and will choose states where this problem is most prominent as a first step in our strategic plan for program expansion.

The school-based curriculum will be prepared with input from a consulting licensed Ph.D. level clinician, our first school presenter who is trained in this area of specialty and a sexual abuse survivor herself, and

our Grant Writer/Program Development specialist. The curriculum will be established in manual form and will include a comprehensive training program for all school-based presenters. Since actual grant funding eligibility will be limited until award of 501(c) 3 non-profit status, NLR will focus on corporate sponsorship activities to fund school presentations, marketing materials/brochures, and underwrite some of the program's operational costs. Upon receipt of IRS 501(c) 3 status and additional funding through grant and corporate support, the first State Director will be hired in Florida to begin implementation of services.

**YEAR TWO** - Florida operations are in full swing. Upon grant funding to support the salaries of three additional State Directors, recruitment and training of new staff will take place. The national headquarters will provide hands-on support to each State Director as systems and resources are established in each region. Program expansion will be planned to include the addition of 5 new states in year three. On-going funding applications will be submitted to foundations, corporations, as well as local, state, and federal funding sources.

**YEAR THREE** - By year three, NLR will have operations in the 8 major cities where refugee children are likely to arrive and be detained. Through formal evaluation of program successes and improvement needs, the NLR team will make any necessary adjustments to service delivery systems and then plan state-wide expansion in each region. It is expected by year three that NLR will have developed strong partnerships with other organizations throughout the United States and will play an integral part in the safety, well-being, and protection of vulnerable children.

## **Tangible Results To Date**

In April of 2006, NLR contracted with a non-profit Grant Writer/Program Development specialist to aid the organization in its start-up phase of operations. With her assistance, we have redesigned our program model to increase fundability, scope of services, and intended geographic reach. We have also networked through this individual to include people in other states who will contribute to curriculum design, direct service, and marketing efforts. We created a diverse Board of Directors, investigated opportunities to partner with existing non-profits with complementary missions, are in the process of filing our legal paperwork for incorporation and 501(c) 3 status, and, of course, through research, have learned of the tremendous opportunity made possible by Draper Richards.

## **Measurable Outcomes and Indicators of Success**

Through a comprehensive assessment plan, quantitative evaluation scales will be devised to rate Pro Bono attorney satisfaction with program supports and referral systems. Similar questionnaires will be conducted with other referring or referral agencies. Age-appropriate and short-question scales will also be administered at the schools, in homeroom small-group follow-up sessions, to help identify curriculum strengths and needs, with a section designated for teacher/administrator feedback. Program success will be determined by receiving a 75% or better satisfaction rate from all those participating in the evaluation process in year one, increasing the satisfaction rate levels to 80% in year two, and 85% in year three.

The first two years of operations will enable the program to begin collecting baseline data. Ongoing program evaluations will allow NLR to track referrals versus resource availability in each state, identify reasons why Pro Bono attorneys may be difficult to secure or retain, and provide tools for the NLR's team to modify approaches to best effect change, respond to need, and create new initiatives to rectify problem areas, such as hiring on-staff attorneys if Pro Bono services are more limited in certain regions. An

immediate success will be the program's ability to help refugee children who currently have no available legal representation by quickly creating a solution to this shortcoming.

### **Plan for Reaching National or Global Scale**

Although NLR is interested in attaining global reach, and will likely do so as relates to refugee issues, widespread and effective U.S. expansion is a first priority. Initially testing curriculums and delivery systems in select cities and states, our final duplicative model will be applied to all future expansion activity. Program efficiency in this regard will center on the recruitment of State Directors who will coordinate efforts in their home state with substantial support from the national headquarters office. New directors will also undergo a one-week, extensive training program in California. Expansion will be strategic and well planned, starting in a state's major city or cities, and duplicating services in a targeted, responsible fashion until programs and resources support all geographic regions in that state. No expansions will take place until current operations are solid, organized, and fully effective.

### **Financial Support/Sustainability Plan**

NLR will target several strategies for fiscal support and sustainability. Along with plans for annual, large-scale fundraising events to begin in year two, NLR will rely heavily on grant applications to foundations, corporations, and governmental agencies on a local, state, and federal level, when available. The organization also intends to capitalize on corporate sponsorships for school-based educational programs, nationally and locally, and utilize this resource to fund brochures, videos/documentaries, and other high visibility educational and promotional tools for use in our national work. Of course, personal donations from the general public are expected as well.