

Form 1023
Application for Recognition of Exemption
Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

Supplemental Information

Part I

7. Authorized Representative.

Sheryl E. Law, Esq.
Community Law Center, Inc.
3355 Keswick Road, Suite 200
Baltimore, MD 21211



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*Part IV
Narrative.*

A Better Community Association, Inc. is a grassroots community-based organization of residents located in the Better neighborhood of Baltimore, Maryland. Our boundaries are a sixteen-block area from Better Street to Better Ave. and Good Place Street to Super Street. In 2004, with the assistance of the Annie E Casey Foundation's Real Time Community Change Program, residents started this community association for the preservation, protection, growth, and general well-being of the community and its members, establishing the best possible living conditions, and joining with other forces in a combined and cooperative effort to positively and effectively solve area problems.

A Better Community Association, Inc. serves residents from a diverse income, education, and ethnic background. Projects from the past three years have focused on the overall improvement of the community in the areas of hosting monthly community meetings, trash and recycling, education, health, safety, and vacant lot restoration. All projects in the community have been initiated from its unpaid resident-volunteers and all benefits of community projects are to the residents that live inside the A Better Community Association, Inc. boundaries.

Monthly Community Meetings: (Time: 15%; Start Date: February 2004)

A Better Community Association, Inc. hosts ongoing monthly meetings to address and solve problems in the community. These started when the community organization commenced in February 2004 and have continued into the present. In addition to residential attendance at the meetings, outside non-profits and other organizations are consistently invited to speak and present information that assists residents in organizing themselves to solve community issues and accomplish goals. All projects that are exercised in the community are initiated through these meetings. In doing so, A Better Community Association, Inc. has established a Cleaner-Greener Committee that seeks to resolve trash and recycling problems, thus reducing blight, and a Crime and Safety Committee purposed to decrease crime and increase safety in the neighborhood.

In July 2009, Community Law Center, Inc. (Baltimore, MD), a 501(c)(3) public interest law firm, assisted residents in the revision of its bylaws that led to its incorporation on August 20th, 2009. The Board of Directors set the monthly meeting agenda and residents approve the previous meeting's minutes so accountability is insured. Attendance and due-payment records are also kept. As noted in the organization's bylaws, these meetings will continue as long as the organization exists. In addition, grants will fund these meetings and other special events planned through these meetings.



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Narrative (continued)

Trash & Recycling: (Time: 15%; Start Date: March 2007)

A Better Community Association, Inc. and its residents have identified trash and illegal dumping as a major problem in the community. To solve this problem that results in considerable blight, residents have organized a Cleaner-Greener committee that seeks to coordinate and host several events. Grants have provided the funds to carry out these events and it is anticipated that grants will continue to fund these activities in the future.

Baltimore City Community Pitch-Ins: The purpose of these events is to draw residents together to collect trash in the area and deposit it into a roll-off bin provided by the City of Baltimore. Residents of the community benefit from this activity as trash is collected from places where it would otherwise be a resource for rat populations and also accumulate in street storm-water drains. These pitch-in events started April 14th, 2007 and are hosted quarterly each year.

Trash & Recycling Events: The goal of trash and recycling events is to increase the number of recycling and trashcan-using households in the community. From this, the community is able to grow in their understanding of the environment and need to protect it from abuses such as illegal dumping. Trash and recycling events are generally held once a year, starting in October 2009. At these events, trash and recycling cans and related information is distributed to neighborhood residents. In addition, the presence of a Baltimore City legal enforcement officer is also present to address violation questions. Through these events, awareness and collective action is encouraged to both decrease illegal dumping and increase positive trash and recycling habits.



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Narrative (continued)

Education: (Time: 20%; Start Date: August 2009)

A Better Community Association, Inc. initiated a tutoring program for community children, teenagers and those students outside the neighborhood to receive direct instruction that seeks to improve their academic standing. The tutoring occurs twice a week at the Good Funder Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, and is carried out by volunteers who are college graduates from local universities. The future plan is to incorporate more students from local Baltimore City public schools to participate in this program. In addition, students and their mentors from this program will assist community participants in the future to plant gardens in the community.

Health: (Time: 15%; Start Date: February 2009)

A Better Community Association, Inc. seeks to improve the overall health quality of its residents through hosting an assortment of events that promote healthy lifestyles. Starting in February 2009, quarterly “community health chats” happen at the monthly community meetings where a volunteer representative from Johns Hopkins Medicine speaks to the community about a pre-determined health topic. Past areas of presentation include heart disease, nutrition, and depression. In the future, A Better Community Association, Inc. plans to host community blood drives to help those in need in the area.

Safety: (Time: 15%; Start Date: September 2009)

A Better Community Association, Inc. conducted a community-wide survey in March 2009 and the response strongly indicated that an increase in safety was a priority for the majority of residents. As a result, a committee was initiated in September 2009 to increase the safety of residents and reduce the criminal activity in the area. A Better Community Association, Inc. hosts monthly Good Neighbor Walks, where residents tour the neighborhood with a uniformed police officer to point out problems in the community. In the future, additional strategies will be used to effectively increase the safety of all the residents in the community.

Vacant-Lot Restoration: (Time: 20%; Start Date: April 2006)

A Better Community Association, Inc. has four blocks of vacant lots that are sites of abandonment. In April 2006, residents came together to restore one lot into a garden that is now called “Better Gardens.” Vacant-lot revitalization projects like this will continue in the future with additional grant funding.



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Part V

Ia. Names, Titles, Mailing Addresses and Compensation of all Officers and Directors:

Name	Title	Address	Compensation
Leslie Helps	President	4569 Better Street Baltimore, MD 21299	0
John DoGooder	Vice- President	12 Good Place Ave. Baltimore, MD 21299	0
Peter Nonprofiteer	Secretary	4571 Better St. Baltimore, MD 21299	0
George Taxexempter	Treasurer	4579 Better St. Baltimore, MD 21299	0
Harold Facilitator	Sergeant-at- Arms	2245 Better Ave. Baltimore, MD 21299	0
Angie Assists	Director	2129 Better Alley Baltimore, MD 21299	0
Carol Improvement	Director	24 Good Place Baltimore, MD 21299	0
Althea Advocate	Director	14 Helpful Lane Baltimore, MD 21299	0
Paul Benefit	Director	16 Good Street. Baltimore, MD 21299	0



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3a. Names, Qualifications, Average Hours Worked, and Duties of Officers and Directors. (There are no compensated employees or independent contractors.)

Name	Position	Duties	Qualifications	Hours per month
Sheryl Helps	President	Preside, conduct meetings; signs contracts, represents Corporation and performs duties assigned by the Directors	Meets the requirement of voting members (Article 4, Section 2) and residency (Article 6, Section 5).	15
John DoGooder	Vice-President	Performs tasks assigned by the President and Board	Meets the requirement of voting members (Article 4, Section 2) and residency (Article 6, Section 5).	15
Peter Nonprofiteer	Secretary	Keeps records and minutes of all meetings and contact information for Directors of Corporation; provides notices of meetings	Meets the requirement of voting members (Article 4, Section 2) and residency (Article 6, Section 5).	10
George Taxexempter	Treasurer	Oversees the deposit of funds into the proper accounts; records receipts and files taxes	Meets the requirement of voting members (Article 4, Section 2) and residency (Article 6, Section 5).	10
Harold Facilitator	Sergeant-at-Arms	Logs and monitors attendance at meetings, verifies voting eligibility and maintains order at meetings	Meets the requirement of voting members (Article 4, Section 2) and residency (Article 6, Section 5).	10
Angie Assists	Director	Provides oversight on the activities of the organization for his specified quadrant	Meets the requirement of voting members (Article 4, Section 2) and residency (Article 6, Section 5).	10
Carol Improvement	Director	Provides oversight on the activities of the organization for her specified quadrant	Meets the requirement of voting members (Article 4, Section 2) and residency (Article 6, Section 5).	10
Althea Advocate	Director	Provides oversight on the activities of the organization for his specified quadrant	Meets the requirement of voting members (Article 4, Section 2) and residency (Article 6, Section 5).	10
Paul Benefit	Director	Provides oversight on the activities of the organization for her specified quadrant	Meets the requirement of voting members (Article 4, Section 2) and residency (Article 6, Section 5).	10



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Part V

5a. Adoption of Conflict of Interest Policy

The organization adopted its conflict of interest policy (attached) at its November 17, 2009 meeting by majority vote.



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Part VI

1a. Provision of services to individuals.

(Goods) Trash and Recycling Can Distribution Program: A Better Community Association, Inc. provides trash and recycling cans to persons with financial struggles in the community. The funds for this program are derived from grants and donations.

(Service) Tutoring: A BetterCommunity Association, Inc. provides a tutoring program to students in the community. Volunteers include local college students and adults who come once or twice a week to tutor students and help their education needs.

(Service) Vacant Lot/Block Beautification Projects: A Better Community Association, Inc. restores vacant lots and blocks identified by residents to prevent illegal dumping and to increase the overall beautification of the neighborhood.

(Service) Monthly Communications: A Better Community Association, Inc. distributes fliers that contains information to promote the community and nearby activities.

(Service) Monthly Community Meetings: A Better Community Association, Inc. hosts monthly community meetings to promote the health, education, safety and overall well-being of the community and its members.

2. Limiting the provision of services to groups or specific individuals.

Goods and services are generally only provided to individuals who reside within the designated community boundaries stated in Article 2 of the organization's bylaws.



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2a. Attempts to influence legislation.

On rare occasions, there will be a legislative measure that directly impacts the welfare of the neighborhood, either due to an unfair item or practice that violates the overall purpose of the organization and community. In these rare instances, communication with city, state, and federal persons take place to state the community position on the issue.

These limited attempts will be an insubstantial part of the organization's overall efforts and expenditures and will happen very infrequently. As this organization is an all-volunteer effort, no paid employees will participate in any attempts to influence legislation.



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4a. Description of fundraising.

A Better Community Association, Inc. is in the early stages in developing a comprehensive fundraising program. The organization expects to acquire funds from various avenues, such as grants, email solicitations, letters, and telephone calls. In addition, special events may occur to raise funds.

Assistance to write grants and develop grant templates has been solicited. In addition, resident-volunteers perform all fundraising activities and fundraising will happen from a resident-volunteer in the future. A Better Community Association, Inc. will obtain funding from the following sources:

Grants (75%)

A BetterCommunity Association, Inc. anticipates funding for support of programs from grants offered through community foundations. The organization has received small grants from Good Company, Inc., Good Funder Foundation, Local Foundation, and the Helping Others Foundation, Inc. Once approved as a 501(c)(3), further grant requests will take place to expand existing programs. The organization may seek government grant funding in the future.

Donations (24 %)

A BETTER Community Association, Inc. anticipates continued funding for support of programs from donations. Such donations come from residents of the community and outside individuals. For example, Christ Church, Inc. of Towson, MD recently made a donation to assist A Better Community Association, Inc. in covering the expense of its 501(c)(3) application fees.

Community Dues (1%)

The Board of Directors sets member dues annually for A Better Community Association, Inc. This additional source of funding will continue to support existing programs.



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4d. States and local jurisdictions where fundraising will be conducted.

The organization shall conduct fundraising within the State of Maryland and across the United States, and may seek foundation and government grant funding from any state within the United States. The organization may conduct fundraising in all local jurisdictions within the state of Maryland, but anticipates that most fundraising will occur within Baltimore City in the beginning of the organization's activities.

The organization shall only raise funds for itself.



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Financial Data – Line 23

List of expenses not otherwise classified.

	<u>8/20/09 – 12/31/09</u>	<u>1/1/10 – 12/31/10</u>	<u>1/1/11 – 12/31/11</u>
Community Events	\$528	\$1425	\$1450
Trash/Recycling Cans	\$2185	\$2550	\$2600
Supplies (Tools, paper, etc.)	\$287	\$1225	\$1250
Start-up Filing Fees	\$364	\$0	\$0
Total:	\$3,364	\$5,200	\$5,300



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