



7/25/2006

Dear Mr. XXXXX,

Naugatuck Day Care (NDC) has been a service provider to the Naugatuck community for over 30 years. We currently serve 54 children and their families, 40 of whom are able to attend our center because of Department of Social Services subsidies. The funding from the Department of Social Services (DSS) has helped hundreds of low and moderate-income families in Naugatuck to afford childcare so that they can work and support their families. This is a vital service to our community, but it only goes so far. Our purpose for getting in contact with you is to seek your help in acquiring extra funding from the DSS in order to subsidize more low-to-moderate income families in our proposed new center, which will cater for the “Before-and-After” care for children in two age groups; the six-week-old to three year old age group, and the five to ten-year old age group. This new center will be located in the Naugatuck Industrial Park, and thus will serve also as a “Before-and-After” child-care center for employees of such companies as Coca-Cola and Frito-Lay, etc. In order for us to get the grant we require to build the actual premises, we need to know that we have the funding to subsidize the families who would like to avail of the service but who, without the subsidy, would be unable to afford the fees. In light of this, we have made contact with you, Mr. XXXXX, in the hope that you can instigate a funding possibility from the DSS.



Project Summary

The project to build the new “Before-and-After” child-care center is a result of a long study that Naugatuck Daycare engaged in to try to find a way to satisfy a growing need for this type of service among both our current and past parents. Unfortunately, the most sensible solution, i.e. expansion of the current Daycare center, is just not possible, as there is no more land-space for such an expansion. As a result of this inconvenience, we found that the best possible solution would be to construct a new center within the town of Naugatuck, in a highly visible area. This proposed new center has the backing and support of local industries, CEO of the Naugatuck Economic Development Corporation XXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX, and also the Mayor of Naugatuck, Ron San Angelo. In fact, Mayor San Angelo and the Board of Mayor and Burgesses of Naugatuck have been working closely with us in support of our aims, and have been very helpful thus far; unfortunately, they can only help so much, and it is with this in mind that we are now in contact with you.

The Project is already in the advanced planning and preparation stage, and is in fact almost ready to begin. All things being equal, we expect that, given the correct funding, the facility will be operational by 2008. To date, we have employed an Architect to draw up blueprints for the design of the center, including soil sample analyses; we are also working in co-operation with Town of Naugatuck Grant Facilitator XXXXX XXXXXX with regard to the \$600,000 Small Cities Grant needed to construct the facility (this figure could possibly increase to \$700,000). We have also managed to retain the services of a Grant Writer for when the facility is built and operational, so that we might pursue further funding from other grants, particularly for the construction of a playground, as



well as acquiring donations of supplies and furnishings. In relation to the building of the structure, as mentioned previously, we intend to build on land that is currently being held for us in the Naugatuck Industrial Park. Everything is set in place for the new center to be built, but in order to proceed we need to secure funding from the DSS in order to guarantee the day-to-day running of the center once it is operational.

Problem Statement

The problem which exists for us, and with which we need your help, is that the Department of Social Services feels that there is not sufficient need for the facility that we propose to build. Despite the support of the Board of Mayor and Burgesses, despite the support of local businesses whose employees could avail of such a facility, and despite the desire of Naugatuck families for such a facility, we cannot seem to persuade the DSS to provide us with the necessary yearly funding. The main reason that the DSS have given us for not providing us with the funding is that there are simply no funds available.

It is with regards to this point that we are writing to you, in the hopes that you or your department can have some influence in helping the DSS to find the necessary finances to allow us to proceed with our proposed facility. We are very aware of how tight the state budgets are, and how difficult a job it is in allocating funds; but we feel that we have a genuine and special need for extra funds to be made available for this particular project. The long-term benefits of building a facility for “Before-and-After” daycare far outweigh the financial considerations, in our opinion; especially in light of our desired aim to provide subsidized daycare to low-income families.



Another reason the DSS gave for not providing us with extra funding is that our Building Grant requires that 60% of the attendees be from low-to-moderate income families, and that Town of Naugatuck can't satisfy this stipulation. This is despite the fact that the per capita income for Naugatuck is a mere \$26,150, which is lower than the State per capita income (\$32,317)¹; and as the table below shows, this is a mere \$6,167 above the national poverty threshold for a two-adult, three-child family. We believe that we can more than fulfill the Building Grant's requirement for 60% of our enrollees to come from low-to-moderate income families given this information.

2004 Poverty Thresholds, Selected Family Types		
Single Individual	Under 65 years	\$ 9,827
	65 years & older	\$ 9,060
Single Parent	One child	\$ 13,020
	Two children	\$ 15,219
Two Adults	No children	\$ 12,649
	One child	\$ 15,205
	Two children	\$ 19,157
	Three children	\$ 22,543

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the US: 2004, Report P60, n. 229, p. 45

¹ http://www.naugatuckonline.com/pupload/town_profile.pdf



Given this fact, we hope that we can get the help we need from you in persuading the DSS to provide us with the funding necessary to subsidize the 60% of families that the Building Grant stipulates we must provide for in order to receive the Grant. Without this necessary funding, the whole project will collapse, and all the planning and preparation will be for nothing, and a substantial number of low-to-moderate income families will be left without affordable before-and-after daycare for their children.

We are asking you for your help in persuading the DSS to give us the funding for 35 subsidized child-care slots. The subsidies will cover the funding of 8 infant/toddler-age and 27 school-age children. Based on the Department of Social Services' current rate structure, the cost of the subsidies can be broken down as follows:

8 Infant/Toddler Slots, @ \$147.40 Per Slot Multiplied By 52 Weeks	\$61,318.40
27 School Age Slots @ \$56.50 Per Slot Multiplied By 39 Weeks	\$59,494.50
27 School Age Slots @ \$116.60 Multiplied By 13² Weeks	\$40,926.60
TOTAL	\$161,739.50

² Full time weeks either during school vacation weeks and during summer vacation



Goals and Objectives

To reiterate how important this project is to the people of Naugatuck, these are our goals and objectives in relation to establishing the new center:

- To provide structured and educational “Before-and-After” school care for two age groups - 6-week-olds up to 3-year-olds, and 5-year-olds up to 10-year-olds, in Naugatuck Borough. **The current facility will still cater for 3-5-year-old children, as it does at the present time.**
- To provide this facility in subsidized form for 60% of the enrollees who will be low to moderate income families living in Naugatuck. A lot of these families will have more than one child, and may have one child in the current daycare center and will be looking to enroll the other child in the new facility.
- To provide this facility in Naugatuck Industrial Park where it is sorely needed and is supported by the companies located there, such as Frito-Lay and Coca-Cola.
- To provide a place for graduates of the old center to go to as a natural transition and progression, keeping some semblance of familiarity for the children while also eliminating the frustration, inconvenience and financial concerns from the parents of those children.



Conclusion

In conclusion, we would like to emphasize how much we feel this proposed new child-care facility is necessary in Town of Naugatuck. We believe that there is no doubt that the project is a feasible one, and that it serves a gaping hole in the present infrastructure of Naugatuck, especially in relation to low-to-moderate income families. We hope that you can help us to achieve our aims, for the benefit of those who cannot afford standard, unsubsidized, daycare fees; for the benefit of the children who need good structured care during the day; and also for the benefit of Town of Naugatuck as a whole.

The Naugatuck Daycare Board would be pleased to meet with you to discuss the proposal in more detail should you wish, and we are willing to submit any other information you desire. Please contact our center director, Joy Chrzanowski at (203) 720-7209 to schedule any meeting. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Cynthia I. Priest,
NDC Board of Directors Chairperson