

VIRGINIA HODGKIN SOMERS FOUNDATION

Face Sheet:

1. Legal Name of Organization, and Mailing Address.

New England Time Banks is located at 144 Cumberland Avenue, Portland, ME 04101.

2. IRS 501©3 nonprofit. Federal Tax I.D. # 01-0496955. 3. Year Incorporated: 1996

4. Contact Person and Title: _____ 5. Phone & Fax: 207-874-9868.

6. Amount requested: \$10,000 7. Type of request: Project

8. Link to Virginia Hodgkin-Somers: Education, social services.

9. Total number of board members: Six. (Attached) 10. Total number of staff: 3 FT; 2 PT

11. Total annual organizational budget: \$235,000 12. Project Total: \$12,740

13. The period this grant will cover: 2005. 14. United Way Affiliate: NO

Summary of Organization's Mission:

The goal of this entrepreneurial program is to build social capital and strengthen communities via a non-cash economy. Units of service, valued equally *regardless of skill level*, are “banked” by members and exchanged as credits and debits which are tracked by a paid Coordinator in a central data system. The appeal of the program, which has grown ten times since its inception, is that persons of all social/economic strata trade services and time with each other while tackling a broad menu of social issues through safe and friendly community contacts. Essentially, NETB supports the infrastructure of a shared community by linking individuals, families and businesses to resources—and to each other.

Background of New England Time Banks:

New England Time Banks was born out of a grassroots movement begun by its founder, Dr. Edgar Cahn, in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1996 the program was launched in Maine with 35 original members. It has since grown to over 600 active members, exchanging over 25,000 units of service annually. We are pleased that the national office of Time Banks USA was birthed in July, 2004 and our program was unanimously selected to serve as the first regional hub in the country. NETB was chosen due to our longevity, quality of programs and role as a trainer and technical advisor to the New England region. Currently there are 23 communities on a waiting list for training/orientation.

Our membership is comprised of primarily low income persons representing all ages, ethnic and cultural diversity, and inclusive of persons with physical, mental or emotional challenges. Individuals receive a range of \$500-\$5000 per year in non-cash services such as child care, health care, job training, transportation, arts and entertainment and professional services (resume writing, job coaching, work experience.) In the last year, two mothers who received time dollar prenatal health care gave birth to healthy babies! Additionally, time dollars pay for families to attend arts and cultural events, utilize our Time Dollar Taxi service and select from over 500 other exchanges in our membership directory. During our six years of steady growth we have networked with professionals, businesses, non-profit groups and individuals to offer a wide array of exchanges. Our health care, arts & culture, taxi service and home repair divisions are strong. Our education division, however, has included only the Portland Adult Education program and GED testing. For students who desire an associate degree or higher, the only route was the standard road in the cash economy, Until now...

Request to Virginia Hodgkin Somers Foundation:

Southern Maine Community College has invited NETB to partner with the college to offer a pilot exchange for 3-4 students in 2005. NETB is very pleased that SMCC will pilot time banking. There are seven community colleges in Maine and if we are successful in South Portland, we hope to open exchanges throughout the state. SMCC endorses the concept of time banking and is interested in community exchanges for labor on its campus. Exchanges will reduce the SMCC operating budget while enticing new students to explore studies at the college. Most importantly for both partners, however, is the shared goal is to assist willing adults to return to school, earn a degree and achieve success in the job market.

We respectfully request a grant in the amount of \$10,000 from the Virginia Hodgkin Somers Foundation. Funding will be used to support a part time coordinator to establish and coordinate the long awaited *Education Division*, which will be piloted at Southern Maine Community College. The Coordinator will document each step of the process at SMCC, and will travel to each of the other community colleges in Maine to promote partnerships with Time Banking programs located in towns that have college campuses. Ultimately, NETB desires to connect with all the higher education colleges in the state.

Program Specifics:

A Memorandum of Understanding will be generated between NETB and SMCC. The terms of the agreement will cover a one year period commencing January, 2005, and involve two school semesters of activity. Three or four "non-traditional" adults will be selected to take one course each at SMCC. These are working persons whose family income exceeds grant guidelines, but is too low to afford tuition and books. As a prerequisite, each student will be required to complete a pre-test to determine the skill levels of language and math readiness for a college course.

As a member organization of Time Banking, SMCC will receive services to its campus including painting of the dormitories, landscaping and clerical work. All parties benefit from the relationship. The responsibilities of NETB, the students and SMCC are as follows:

NETB

- will recruit and select four highly motivated, eligible applicants for the program. Barriers to success will be identified. Each individual will have a written plan to resolve his/her barriers. Examples include: tutors, child care, transportation, clothing needs, medical care and personal care such as a new haircut. Students will be encouraged to join appropriate support groups at SMCC or in the adult education community.
- will contact the students bi-monthly to assess the individual’s progress, but will be available by phone, email, or for appointments as needed throughout the length of the course.
- will escort the students on a campus tour and visit to the bookstore to purchase class books, accompany each to a meeting with their advisor, and co-create a plan that insures access to the class, study groups and others support systems are in place.
- will recruit NETB members to reciprocate service exchange hours to offset the value of the courses. Examples of work requested by SMCC include: painting the dormitories; landscaping the grounds; clerical assistance and servicing events on campus.

STUDENTS

- will sign an agreement with NETB and SMCC agreeing to fully participate in a course of their choosing.
- will complete SMCC’s pre-test before enrolling in any class.
- will be required to provide a copy of course completion. If for any reason, he/she does not complete the course, the normal action steps will be documented by the student, school and TB

SMCC

- will administer the pre-test to each student.
- orient the student to the campus, review available courses and assign an advisor.
- assess the students individually; determine if additional courses can be pursued through Time Banking or by other means.
- Meet with the NETB Coordinator to schedule member services as reciprocity for courses.

BUDGET			
LINE ITEM	TOTAL COST	FUNDING SOURCE	AMOUNT REQUESTED
I. Personnel:			
Program Coordinator	\$ 9,000	Virginia Hodgkin Somers	\$ 9,000
II. Non-Personnel:			
Phone	\$ 500	MCF Grant	500
Marketing	\$ 250	Time Dollar Members	250
Travel	\$ 500	MCF Grant	500
Books	\$ 1000	Virginia Hodgkin Somers	\$ 1,000
Pre-Test	\$ 120	SMCC	\$ 120
III. *Administration: 10%	\$ 1,370	East End Exchange Funding	\$ 1,370
TOTAL PROGRAM:	\$12,740	Virginia Hodgkin Somers	\$10,000

***Office supplies, bookkeeping, administrative review, use of agency vehicle and misc.**

October 14, 2004

Gordon C. Ayer, Esq.
Susan W. Ayer
Carolyn B. May
The Virginia Hodgkin Somers Foundation
PO Box 247
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Dear Honored Trustees,

I am pleased to submit the attached proposal to the Virginia Hodgkin Somers Foundation on behalf of New England Time Banks in the amount of \$10,000.

As described herein, NETB is a non-profit organization that has enjoyed steady growth in Maine and New England since its inception here in 1996. Currently we have over 600 active members who have provided over 20,000 credit exchanges thus far this year. The *cash value* of these services ranges from \$500 to \$5000 annually, which is a significant savings for persons who are economically challenged. Like a popular advertisement on television, however, the *social capital* shared by members is priceless.

We are very excited that our newest division of services, our Education Division, is poised and ready to be launched. With funding support from The Virginia Hodgkin Somers Foundation, NETB will successfully contract with Southern Maine Community College to pilot a tuition exchange program for members who desire to return to school. Funding will pay for a Coordinator's time to visit each of the state community colleges and time banking offices to develop relationships with administrators from both organizations. The goal is to complete a successful pilot in 2005 and secure contracts with every branch. The next goal, for 2005-06, will be to move the project to the University of Maine system.

NETB is pleased to offer health care, child care, access to the arts, a computer literacy project with a local elementary school and our Time Dollar Taxi service. Next to health care, education is in greatest demand. Our goal is to insure that non-traditional adults who desire higher education, but lack economic resources to pay for it, can achieve that goal through our program.

Thank you. I can be reached at 874-9868.