

## Mels Charities Summary Report

### **Information about the Applicant**

Mission: provide “Great Times for Great Causes” supporting non-profit organizations in Ozaukee County. We have a strong emphasis in human services, special needs, and memorial scholarships.

Credibility: Since 1999 over \$1,600,000 in grants have been dispersed.

Accountability: 100% of net monies raised at our events are donated back to the community.

Mel’s Charities is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. Federal EIN# 35-2357385

Transparency: All business transactions are properly accounted for and available to the public.

Sustainability: We are committed to sustaining our mission for the long term.

Who would have imaged that a simple, kind gesture by a group of friends determined to impact one life would grow into a significant force for good across Ozaukee County?

In 1995, Tom “Mel” Stanton assembled a group of about 50 fun loving friends at the Cedars III Bowling Lanes. In 1999, things changed. A good friend and member of the original group lost his sister to cancer. She was a single mother of a daughter with special needs. The group decided to hold a raffle which raised \$350 to be donated to Special Olympics in her honor.

Today, Mel’s Charities “Great Times for Great Causes” resonates across the county. What began as a once-a-year pig roast, has expanded to include a calendar of events. If it’s fun and impacting lives in Ozaukee County, Mel’s is there. We have stayed true to our slogan, “What We Raise Here, Stays Here” because 100% of the net proceeds raised is going right back into the community.

In 2021, the Board of Mel’s Charities, Inc. provided grants totaling over \$232,000 to Ozaukee County organizations serving the Intellectual and developmentally disabled, human service and memorials. What began as a \$350 gift in 1999 has exceeded \$1.6 million in total grants!

### **Statement of Need**

PIGments is a program created for a fun-loving group of artists with unique abilities, impacting lives in our community through art! Mel’s Charities is seeking a grant in the amount of \$4,450.00 which will provide for the supplies necessary to provide this programming to the disabled population in Ozaukee County.

### **Project Goals and Expected Benefits**

Mel’s Charities wishes to expand their program and collaborate with another non-profit in Ozaukee County to make this opportunity available to a larger segment of the community.

### **Project Implementation Plan**

Mel’s Charities Collaboration with local Non-Profits to grow their Pigments for a Cause art program: Blossom IDD is a new, recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in the Ozaukee County area. Centrally located with one office in Cedarburg and one office in Grafton Blossom IDD is at the heart of a great county supporting families of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The primary population that is supported by Blossom IDD is a population that is often forgotten or falls through the crack within the IDD population. Individuals identify themselves as someone with IDD and are highly independent—often live on their own in apartments or various living arrangements, but still need support in some aspects of their lives. These individuals are between the ages of eighteen and thirty-six. The individuals served by Blossom IDD are independent with their adult living skills (ADL’s such as showering, dressing themselves, etc.), can toilet themselves independently, and do not have violent

behavior barriers. Our collaboration between Blossom IDD and The Student Union in expanding PIGments envelopes the population we serve. We can support this underserved and marginalized community, but with the support and collaboration of Blossom and The Student Union we are able to expand the population we serve, including individuals who are more significantly impacted by their disabilities and seeking consistent social connectivity and creative outlets.

**Evaluation Plan**

Success for this program will be measured by monitoring the number of increased participants in the PIGments program.

**Budget**

Item	Cost
Blank cards and envelopes	\$750.00
Misc. Paper	\$300.00
Card Stamping Supplies	\$400.00
Paint	\$400.00
Brushes	\$200.00
Canvases	\$500.00
Markers	\$200.00
Clothes Pins	\$200.00
Circuit Machine & Accessories	\$700.00
Holiday Party for artists & volunteers	\$500.00
Misc. (stickers, jewels, decorations)	\$500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,450.00</b>

**Staff Recommendation**

The grant application can be recommended for approval. The grant will provide supplies that directly benefit the disabled individuals participating in the PIGments Program. The grant aligns with the initiatives of the foundation.