



## **SAMPLE GRANT APPLICATION**

### **Optimist Club Grant Request**

#### **Organization Background**

##### **Mission Statement:**

To empower healing through art and community.

##### **Brief History:**

We Care Arts (WCA), founded in 1983 and incorporated in Dayton in 1990, is a nonprofit organization

empowering individuals through art and community. Based in Kettering, Ohio, WCA serves individuals with mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance use diagnoses, with 80% of participants living below 250% of the federal poverty level. In 2004, WCA moved into a fully accessible facility, expanding capacity and creating partnerships with local organizations to increase reach by over 35%. Between 2014 and 2019, WCA earned certifications from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitative Facilities (CARF), the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS), and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), demonstrating professional operation and strong organizational policies. Currently, WCA serves over 3,000 individuals annually across six counties. WCA offers hybrid in-person and virtual programming, fostering creativity, confidence, and inclusiveness to empower individuals of all abilities throughout the Greater Miami Valley.

**Project Name:** Transition to Work (TTW)

##### **Project Goals:**

TTW empowers high school students with special needs (ages 16–22) by enhancing life and job skills through therapeutic art classes. The program supplements state-mandated TTW curricula with weekly lessons on:

- Time management
- Teamwork
- Following directions
- Goal-setting
- Sequencing and project management

Lessons include mindfulness activities aligned with Ohio Department of Education Fine Arts benchmarks. In the 2025/2026 school year, 450 art kits representing 4,500 lessons and instructional videos support hands-on learning and accommodate diverse abilities. TTW aims to increase student confidence, foster accomplishment, and develop practical skills essential for employment and independent living.







### Donation Request Reason:

We Care Arts requests funding from [Optimist Club Name] to support a semester of TTW programming. Funds will provide art kits, teacher resources, and curriculum development, helping students build life and job skills while fostering independence, confidence, and community engagement.

Funding enables WCA to reach more students, expand program offerings, and provide life-transforming art experiences that prepare young people for adulthood and employment.

*“Many of our students don't have the opportunity to go out to art class at the high school level. Having the videos from art instructors is meaningful to them,”* commented one staff member, demonstrating the program’s unique value in supporting students who otherwise have limited access to creative instruction.

### How Funds Will Be Used:

- Creation of individualized art kits and educator resources
- Curriculum development and instructional video updates
- Weekly art programming for students in-person and virtually
- General materials to deliver a no-cost, high-quality program

### Target Audience:

High school students ages 16–22 in special education classrooms across six counties.

### Number of Individuals Impacted:

Over 450 kits annually, across Dayton-area school districts including Dayton, Beavercreek, Kettering, Huber Heights, Springfield, and local charter schools.

### Timeline:

TTW aligns with the academic calendar, providing 450 art kits each semester (900 annually), along with lesson plans and instructional videos to ensure consistent, uninterrupted engagement.

### Success Measurement:

WCA conducts annual surveys of participants and partner schools.

Goals for the 2025–26 school year include:

1. Increase schools served by 10%
2. Achieve over a 33% survey return rate
3. Ensure 90% of survey responses rate the program as “Meets Expectations” or higher.

By cultivating partnerships, seeking new funding, and delivering measurable program outcomes, WCA ensures long-term sustainability and continued community impact.

