

## PROSPECTUS

### GLOBAL LEARNING CENTER

Wichita, Kansas

I. Introduction: The modern world has grown smaller through instant communication, rapid travel and the complex interchange of materials, goods and services. The rapid growth of interdependence, however, has not been accompanied by adequate understanding and by the creation of structures necessary to provide peace, justice, freedom and well-being for all people everywhere. Nor have today's technical possibilities resulted in ways directed toward the preservation and renewal of our fragile globe. We live in constant fear of sudden nuclear annihilation.

Our most urgent task is to assure a bright future for ourselves and our children. This can be done only by building bridges with peoples of other nations, other races and other religions. Here in south-central Kansas we seem to be more isolated from international exchanges than are Americans on the two coasts. We are, however, just as much affected by decisions made throughout the world in matters of commerce, environment, war and peace. In Wichita we need to work harder at constructive international dialogue and to acquaint ourselves not only with the glories of our planet but also with the lines of action needed for its preservation and renewal.

II. Purpose: The Global Learning Center as an independent, non-profit organization will seek to involve ever greater numbers of the people of Wichita and the surrounding area in constructive international dialogue, to help visitors from abroad more fully to understand Kansans and to involve large numbers of persons in the adventure of discovering workable solutions to the problems of our globe.

### III. Methods and Programs:

(1) The Center will work closely with libraries, universities, colleges, schools, industries and businesses, as well as with religious congregations and civic, labor and fraternal groups. In addition it will work with scientific, health, humanities, humanitarian and arts organizations and agencies both public and private. The attempt will be made to draw from all these sources and to serve them all while remaining an independent non-profit organization. Volunteers will be essential. The Center will be located where it can most efficiently carry out its functions preferably in downtown Wichita.

(2) The work of the Center will be people oriented. It will work with unattached individuals as well as with group leaders and groups. It will not only be prompt and efficient in extending genuine help to persons phoning or visiting the office but will also reach out to involve people and assist groups throughout south-central Kansas.

(3) The Center will serve as an information center where resource materials and primary documents relating to international affairs and global problems will be available, in some cases for loan, but primarily for reference. Clipping files will be kept up-to-date. Appropriate slides, films, tapes and computer programs will be obtained. All of these will be carefully catalogued and indexed so as to be readily available. The information

resources room at the Center will serve also for international displays and as a place for study.

(4) Another function of the Center will be to conduct seminars and workshops on global problems and international issues. A conference room will be needed for this, for international dialogue and for many other purposes. Yet this function will be carried out for the most part in facilities belonging to other organizations throughout south-central Kansas.

(5) The Center will augment what is already being done in language training. This will take place both at the Center and in other places. A broad concept of skills needed to facilitate international understanding beyond language instruction will include talks, demonstrations, even courses on topics such as the following: (a) Protocol for the business person; (b) Protocol for the tourist; (c.) International investment; (d) How to get the most out of a tour; (e) World hunger; (f) Methods leading to reconciliation and peace; (g) Global resources; (h) World trade. \*

(6) The Center will also serve as a clearinghouse for information on organizations, programs and people in south-central Kansas involved in international affairs and global concerns. It will be a place where local and state-wide organizations can show what their organizations are doing, organizations such as UNICEF, CROP, Bread for the World, Sister Cities, Foreign Exchange Student Program, Literacy Program, Wichita Committee on Foreign Relations, Immigration and Refugee Service, Mid-America World Trade Center, Fellowship Force, the international programs of civic groups as well as service programs of religious groups.

(7) The Center will be especially responsive to the needs of the schools by: (a) helping teachers set up international letter, gift and art exchanges; (b) assisting in establishing international friendship clubs; (c) having information on international travel and study possibilities for students; (d) setting up a scholarship for a carefully selected student to travel or study abroad.

(8) The Center will organize displays and performance groups which carry a message, perhaps depicting life in one country. At the end of a month-long display there could be an international festival.

(9) The Center will enhance international flavor within America by encouraging the possibilities for constructive pluralism which exist in south-central Kansas by assisting ethnic minorities build wider audiences for their historical and cultural presentations.

(10) The Center will be a place where people of other countries visiting Wichita can receive direction about Wichita business, industry, arts.

(11) The Center will be a place where cultural materials of other countries can be accessed. This can be accomplished by having names, addresses and phone numbers of local people who originally came to the United States from other nations; by having regular exhibits from other countries possibly organized around those nations' important observances.

#### IV. Organization:

(1) Membership - Available to any group or individual subscribing to the purpose/goals of the Center and willing to become involved in its development.

(2) Board - The Center's Board will be composed of a representative from each member group plus several members at large.

(3) Officers - elected by the membership at the Center's annual meeting in January. The officers will be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

(4) Steering Committee - composed of the four officers and three other persons plus the Executive Director.

(5) Standing Committees - These will be flexible according to needs but initially will consist of fund-raising, membership, resources and program development.

(6) Advisory Committee - composed of influential persons in south-central Kansas--persons who are genuinely interested in the work of the Center.

V. Funding: Group membership fees will be \$35 per year, individual members, \$15, students and low-income persons, \$7.50. Special charges will be made for services rendered such as fees for class enrollment or for the organization of workshops. Fees received by staff members or volunteers for speeches or other services will be remitted to the Center. Every effort will be made to raise additional funds from every possible source. A three-year preliminary proposed budget will be sent to newly enrolled members upon request.

Membership fees paid now or at any time prior to 1988 will be good for the entire calendar year 1988. Checks should be made out to Inter-Faith Ministries which is helping in these organizational steps without charge. Checks should be earmarked for GLC and sent to Inter-Faith Ministries, 216 E. Second, Wichita, KS 67202.

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