

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
Minnesota Nonprofit Corporation/Articles of Incorporation
Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 317A



The individual(s) listed below who is (are each) 18 years of age or older, hereby adopt(s) the following Articles of Incorporation:

ARTICLE 1 - CORPORATE NAME:

Feeding Our Future

ARTICLE 2 - REGISTERED OFFICE AND AGENT(S), IF ANY AT THAT OFFICE:

Name

Address:

Rosemount MN 55068 USA

ARTICLE 3 - INCORPORATOR(S):

Name:

Address:

Christine Twait

Woodbury Minnesota 55125

Aimee Bock

Rosemount MN 55068

Kara Lomen

Vest St Paul MN 55118

DURATION: PERPETUAL

If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the data referenced in the attachment.

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: Christine Twait

MAILING ADDRESS: None Provided

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: christine.twai



Work Item 913838800020
Original File Number 913838800020

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
11/07/2016 11:59 PM

Steve Simon

Steve Simon
Secretary of State

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State Certificate of Incorporation

I, Steve Simon, Secretary of State of Minnesota, do certify that: The following business entity has duly complied with the relevant provisions of Minnesota Statutes listed below, and is formed or authorized to do business in Minnesota on and after this date with all the powers, rights and privileges, and subject to the limitations, duties and restrictions, set forth in that chapter.

The business entity is now legally registered under the laws of Minnesota.

Name: Feeding Our Future

File Number: 913838800020

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter: 317A

This certificate has been issued on: 11/07/2016



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Simon".

Steve Simon
Secretary of State
State of Minnesota

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION FEEDING OUR FUTURE

The undersigned incorporators are individuals 18 years or older and adopt the following articles of incorporation to form a nonprofit organization (Chapter 317A).

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this corporation shall be Feeding Our Future.

ARTICLE II - REGISTERED OFFICE ADDRESS

The place in Minnesota where the principal office of the corporation is to be located at
osemount MN 55068.

ARTICLE III - PURPOSE

This corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational purposes as specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

The purpose of this corporation is to increase healthy food access for youth and seniors.

ARTICLE IV - EXEMPTION REQUIREMENTS

At all times the following shall operate as conditions restricting the operations and activities of the corporation:

1. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purpose set forth in the purpose clause hereof.
2. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall constitute the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, or any initiative or referendum before the public, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including by publication or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office.
3. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities no permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future tax code, or by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future tax code.

ARTICLE V - MEMBERSHIP/BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This corporation shall not have members.

The management of the affairs of the corporation shall be vested in a board of directors, as defined by the corporation's bylaws. No director shall have any right, title, or interest in or to any property of the corporation.

The number of directors constituting the initial board of directors is three (3); their names and addresses are as follows:

- 1. Christine Twait, Woodbury MN 55125
- 2. Aimee Bock, Rosemount MN 55068
- 3. Kara Lomen, West St Paul MN 55118

Members of the initial board of directors shall serve until the first annual meeting at which their successors will be duly elected and qualified, or removed as provided in the bylaws.

ARTICLE VI - PERSONAL LIABILITY

No member, officer, or director of this corporation shall be personally liable for the debts or obligations of this corporation of any nature whatsoever, nor shall any of the property of the members, officers, or directors be subject to the payment of the debts or obligations of this corporation.

ARTICLE VII - DURATION/DISSOLUTION

The duration of this corporate existence shall be perpetual until dissolution.

Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets of the corporation shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

ARTICLE VIII - INCORPORATORS

Signature:	<i>Aimee Bock</i>
Address, City, State, ZIP:	<i>Rosemount, MN 55068</i>
Signature:	<i>Kara Lomen</i>
Address, City, State, ZIP:	<i>W. West St Paul, MN 55118</i>
Signature:	<i>Christine Twait</i>
Address, City, State, ZIP:	<i>Woodbury MN 55125</i>



Aimee Bock <aimee@feedingourfuturemn.org>

Recruitment Complaint - State Agency Response

1 message

Tue, Jun 23, 2020 at 11:03 AM

Johnson-Reed, Jeanette (MDE)
To: Aimee Bock <aimee@feedingourfuturemn.org>, "Kara Lomen

Cc: "Herrera, Monica (MDE)"

Greetings,

Attached is the state agency response to the recruitment complaint by Ms. Kara Lomen of Partners In Quality Care on December 26, 2019.

My apologies for the delay in this MDE response. The response was drafted in early February, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting emergency response from MDE, final review and approval of this complaint decision was delayed.

Jeanette Johnson-Reed

Supervisor Community Nutrition (MDE) (MDE/CP)


WORK CELL PHONE

Minnesota Department of Education

1500 Highway 36 West, Roseville, MN 55113

<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/FNS/index.htm>



 Recruitment Complaint PIN and FOF January 2020.docx
72K



DATE: June 23, 2020

TO: Ms. Kara Lomen, Executive Director of Partners in Quality Care
Ms. Aimee Bock, Founder of Feeding Our Future

FROM: Jeanette Johnson-Reed, Supervisor Community Nutrition Programs
Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)

TOPIC: State Agency Response to the Complaints from Partners in Quality Care regarding Recruitment Practices of Feeding Our Future

Executive Summary

This is a response to a written complaint by Ms. Kara Lomen of Partners In Quality Care (PIQC) on December 26, 2019 alleging inappropriate or unethical recruitment practices by Ms. Aimee Bock and her staff at Feeding Our Future (FOF). Both organizations are sponsors of the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) having similar types of customers (child daycare and adult daycare centers). Ms. Lomen alleges recruitment practices by FOF have resulted in sites sponsored by PIQC transferring their CACFP participation to FOF, in particular four sites during the month of December.

This is the second written complaint by PIQC of a similar nature regarding recruitment of sponsored sites by FOF. The previous complaint from Ms. Lomen was dated December 2018. At that time the complaints could not be substantiated. This complaint has a similar outcome. No unethical recruitment of daycare centers to transfer sponsors of CACFP was substantiated at this time based on the information provided by Ms. Lomen in the complaint.

Background Regarding Transfers of Daycare Centers Between Sponsors of CACFP

MDE is involved with the execution of all CACFP daycare center transfers from one sponsor to another in the Cyber-Linked Interactive Child Nutrition System (CLiCS). There is a written recruitment complaint procedure detailing types of recruitment activities. There is also a required transfer form with sections completed by each party involved with the transfer including the site, the current sponsor and the sponsor requested for transfer.

MDE verifies the transfer request via phone call with the center authorized representative who signed the transfer form. The phone discussion includes a question about how the day care center found out they could transfer upon request and how they heard about the other sponsor.

Transferring between sponsors is seen as an administrative burden, does not benefit CACFP and does not serve more meals to children. It is unallowable for sponsors to recruit sites that are already participating in CACFP with another sponsor. CACFP is not a competitive business, but a federal funding program to provide aide for

nutritious meals served in daycare settings. Sponsoring organizations are encouraged to work together to meet the needs of daycare centers in Minnesota that don't already have access to CACFP benefits.

Actions and Timelines:

- December 26, 2019 – Ms. Lomen sent an email complaint to MDE regarding FOF recruitment of sites.
- January 6, 2020 – MDE reviewed the complaint and sent a copy of the written complaint to Ms. Bock, executive director of Feeding Our Future, asking that she respond in writing to the complaint allegations.
- January 6, 2020 – Ms. Bock inquired by email with Ms. Lomen for specific examples of child care centers she was referring to in the complaint, and asked for dates of recruitment visits that would assist Ms. Bock in addressing Ms. Lomen's concerns.
- January 6, 2020 – Ms. Lomen responded by email to Ms. Bock with cc to MDE. Her response included categorical accusations of recruitment visits that caused over 40 sites to transfer over the past few years. Ms. Lomen did not provide the information requested by Ms. Bock.
- January 9, 2020 – Ms. Bock sent MDE a written response addressing the complaint allegations.
- February 3, 2020, –MDE reviewed the information regarding the complaint and reviewed information collected by MDE during the transfer process, which may facilitate a resolution.
- February 4, 2020, – MDE prepared and distributed a synopsis of the written complaint and responses.
- *Note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting emergency response from MDE, final review and approval of this complaint decision was delayed.

Ms. Lomen Complaint #1:

"We are a moving target again as we are being heavily recruited against again by Feeding our Future. We have had 4 sites tell us they are transferring this month and several other sites that are staying with us for now but have been repeatedly visited by Aimee and [redacted]. Several directors have let us know they have been showing up at their program telling them to quit working with us. Kids Clubhouse is a site that Aimee has been to trying to recruit."

Ms. Bock Response Regarding 4 Centers That Requested to Transfer in December 2019:

1. ACTIVE CHILD CARE CENTER, INC.

One of the owners at Active Child care is related to the manager of Minnesota Best, who is a sponsored site of FOF. They had expressed concerns about PIQC to him. Minnesota Best then provided Active Child Care with the contact information to FOF. Active reached out to [redacted] met with them in December and provided them with our initial visit packet, explained our sponsorship and answered their questions. On Friday January 3, 2020 Active called [redacted] and told him that they had decided to transfer and had already given their notice to PIQC. They asked him to come to the center that afternoon to sign the papers. They also informed [redacted] that they had an exit interview scheduled with PIQC for that day. [redacted] went to Active to have them complete the paperwork, as he was leaving Kara Lomen and [redacted] were entering the center.

2. DIVERSITY CHILDCARE, INC.

This site was not a transfer, the old owner sold the center. The new owner, [redacted] owns Success Childcare that has been with FOF for a year. [redacted] referred her daughter to FOF.

and Aimee met with _____ at Diversity to fill out the paperwork required to start the food program as a new site. All contact with FOF was initiated by _____.

3. FAHIYE CHILD CARE CENTER

_____, owner of Fahiyeh Child Care came to FOF's offices unannounced with _____, owner of Liban. She expressed an interest in learning more about our sponsorship. She was provided with that information and later contacted _____ to complete the required paperwork. _____ informed Aimee Bock that she was referred by her sister who works at Original Child Care and her friend _____ at Liban Child Care.

4. SUNSHINE CARE CENTER MN, INC.

This center contacted FOF during the summer to get information. She decided she was willing to give PIN/PIQC time to improve their process, but later decided it was the right decision to transfer. She was referred by _____ (Liban), _____ (Broadway and Madina), _____ (Central), _____ (Success), _____ (Original) and _____ (Somali Senior) who all are sponsored sites with FOF.

Ms. Lomen Complaint #2:

"In the last few weeks many child care and adult care centers inform us that they are being actively recruited to transfer sponsors.

- They are being encouraged to "just quit" with us in order to "retain a higher profit" as well as other incentives.
- _____ has been and continues to regularly stop in at our sites (some sites have been regularly visited for the past year) and now
- Aimee has directly showed up at the doors of our sites unannounced in order to recruit programs as well.
 - I can with certainty tell you that we are not the only sponsor that is having their sites recruited from under them at this time. It has not ever stopped and now the pace seems to be picking back up dramatically."

Ms. Bock Response Regarding Recruitment:

In the response prepared by Ms. Bock, she indicated that FOF has not done any recruitment the past few months. Each of the sites that requested to transfer initiated contact with FOF, asking for information about CACFP. Many said they were referred by friends or family who also own child care centers and work with FOF. Some of the sites had previously contacted FOF for CACFP in the summer of 2019, but were encouraged by FOF to remain with their current sponsor.

FOF does not encourage centers to "just quit" working with their current sponsor. If the center wants to transfer, FOF encourages the center to meet with their current sponsor, and FOF recommends one month notice to their current sponsor prior to a transfer. FOF does inform centers about their administration of CACFP including a 10% administrative fee vs 15% by other sponsors. This information is not promoted as profit, but rather as additional funds to be used to cover food costs.

Regarding Kids Clubhouse Child Care Center, Ms. Bock stated that she has not contacted that center since August of 2018 when she sent out a broad message from her personal email addressed to 60 individuals regarding NAEYC accreditation training, not CACFP.

Regarding Aimee and [redacted] showing up at the doors of PIQC sponsored child care center sites unannounced to recruit the centers to transfer, Ms. Bock indicated that she and [redacted] do not and have not visited any daycare center without an invitation. Further that FOF does not participate in unsolicited door to door marketing of the food program.

Ms. Bock also commented that without specific examples of behaviors viewed as recruiting daycare centers "from under them," it is challenging to respond. And that without having a list of daycare centers that have been visited unannounced or recruited, it is difficult to look into this complaint.

Ms. Bock went on to mention that FOF has a staff member who speaks Somali. Daycare centers mention that it is easier for [redacted] to train the center staff who have limited English proficiency. Catering companies for daycare centers also appreciate a Somali speaking sponsor who understands the culture of the Somali community and can explain food program rules and regulations. Sharing the benefits of FOF sponsoring CACFP with daycare centers that request the information is not by itself a violation of recruitment practices.

MDE Determination

MDE reviewed the transfer forms for center transfers mentioned in the complaint. MDE also reviewed the notes of phone correspondence by MDE staff regarding the centers who made a request to transfer. The purpose of those calls was to verify the information on the transfer form including how the center heard about the other sponsor and the ability to transfer. To date, phone call conversations between MDE and centers who requested to transfer are consistent with the transfer form documentation.

- Phone correspondence between MDE and Fahiye Child Care Center confirmed that Deeqo's sister who owns a center in Minneapolis told her about FOF and recommended them as a sponsor for CACFP. This verbal statement by the center is consistent with Ms. Bock's explanation above, as well as the transfer form.
- Phone correspondence between MDE and Sunshine Childcare MN, Inc. verified that business friends told the director about FOF. This is consistent with Ms. Bock's explanation, as well as the transfer form.
- Active Child Care told MDE that she wanted to transfer because her friend who owns a child care center who told her Feeding Our Future is the perfect food program.
- Kids Clubhouse Childcare Center was mentioned in Complaint #1 that Aimee is trying to recruit: MDE contacted Mr [redacted], the License holder for Kids Clubhouse Child Care Center in Apple Valley. He politely listened to staff questions, but declined to provide a public answer regarding direct recruitment of CACFP sponsoring organizations other than PIQC.

MDE also considered comments made by centers who transferred away from PIQC, based on the transfer forms since 2018. The following are mentioned by child care centers as reasons for transferring away from PIQC to FOF:

- Some mentioned that FOF provides more food program income to the center,
 - A few mentioned that PIQC is holding their payment and has had poor communication and does not show up for scheduled meetings at the center,
-

- Another said FOF has a Somali speaking employee who helps to deliver training to center food program staff with limited English skills.

Ms. Lomen mentioned in her complaint that she did not want daycare centers sponsored by PIQC to be pressured into speaking out against others in the community. She went on to say she understands that evidence for her complaint is necessary, but, "We cannot afford to jeopardize any relationships with our sites at this point."

In order to be respectful of Ms. Lomen's request, other than to call Kids Clubhouse, MDE has not inquired further with other centers sponsored by PIQC in an attempt to verify the allegations that centers are being heavily recruited by FOF to transfer sponsoring organizations. PIQC can always provide evidence of recruitment of specific daycare centers and bring that forward to MDE so that the complaint allegations could be confirmed.

In summary, after reviewing the written complaint, the correspondence between MDE and the daycare centers that have transferred, and the comprehensive response to the complaint from FOF, it is MDE's determination that there is not sufficient evidence to demonstrate unethical recruitment practices by FOF. If subsequent issues arise, the two sponsors are encouraged to resolve any conflicts directly with each other before preparing additional written complaints to MDE.



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Tax Exempt and Government Entities
PO Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

FEEDING OUR FUTURE
3055 OLD HIGHWAY 8 STE 312
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55418-2497

Date:
March 22, 2022
Employer ID number:
81-4343304
Form 990 required:
990, Yes
Person to contact:
Name: V Rackley
ID number: 0727576

Dear Sir or Madam:

We're responding to your request dated May 04, 2021, about your tax-exempt status.

We issued you a determination letter in February 2017, recognizing you as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3).

We also show you're not a private foundation as defined under IRC Section 509(a) because you're described in IRC Section 509(a)(2).

Donors can deduct contributions they make to you as provided in IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax-deductible bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts under IRC Sections 2055, 2106, and 2522.

In the heading, we indicated whether you must file an annual information return. If you're required to file a return, you must file one of the following by the 15th day of the 5th month after the end of your annual accounting period.

- Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax
- Form 990-EZ, Short Form Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax
- Form 990-N, Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations Not Required to File Form 990 or Form 990EZ
- Form 990-PF, Return of Private Foundation or Section 4947(a)(1) Trust Treated as Private Foundation

According to IRC Section 6033(j), if you don't file a required annual information return or notice for 3 consecutive years, we'll revoke your tax-exempt status on the due date of the 3rd required return or notice.

You can get IRS forms or publications you need from our website at www.irs.gov/forms-pubs or by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

If you have questions, call 877-829-5500 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., local time, Monday through Friday (Alaska and Hawaii follow Pacific time).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Martin

Stephen A. Martin
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Tax Exempt and Government Entities
P.O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

FEEDING OUR FUTURE
C/O AIMEE BLOCK
13299 BRONZE PARKWAY
ROSEMOUNT, MN 55068

Date:
12/01/2020
Employer ID number:
81-4343304
Person to contact:
Name: Cara D. Franczak
ID number: 31452
Telephone: 877-829-5500
Accounting period ending:
September 30
Public charity status:
509(a)(2)
Form 990 / 990-EZ / 990-N required:
Yes
Effective date of exemption:
February 15, 2020
Contribution deductibility:
Yes
Addendum applies:
No
DLN:
26053694004440

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

Based on the information you submitted with your application, we approved your request for reinstatement under Revenue Procedure 2014-11. Your effective date of exemption, as listed at the top of this letter, is retroactive to your date of revocation.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to www.irs.gov/charities. Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

We sent a copy of this letter to your representative as indicated in your power of attorney.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Martin

Stephen A. Martin
Director, Exempt Organizations
Rulings and Agreements

Subject: RE: Feeding Our Future - Site Visit
From: Kristine Nogosek
Date: 5/28/2021, 11:21 AM
To: Rhyddid Watkins
CC: Marty Casserly ; Alec Sloan

Rhyddid:

Let me discuss this with people at MDE and some people at my Office who might want to attend too (assuming that the invite would be extended to people at my Office other than Alec, Marty and myself). I'll try to get back to you in a week to let you know what people on my end are thinking.

Kristine K. Nogosek
Assistant Attorney General
she/her/hers

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL
445 Minnesota Street, Suite 1400
St. Paul, MN 55112

Administrative Assistant
Karina Cativo Diaz

From: Rhyddid Watkins
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2021 9:18 AM
To: Kristine Nogosek
Cc: Marty Casserly ; Alec Sloar
Subject: Feeding Our Future - Site Visit

Kristine,

Do you remember when we first started working on this case, you often said that it was important for both of us to stay focused on what matters, "feeding needy children"? Since then, we have seen MDE take increasingly aggressive actions against Feeding Our Future. It is beyond our comprehension why MDE would so aggressively oppose the work we do without making any efforts whatsoever to partner with us to collaboratively build a better food program. It is truly heartbreaking that MDE continues to respond to Feeding Our Future's invitations for partnership with baseless allegations, investigations, and obstruction. Feeding Our Future should not have to fight so hard for the right to just submit an application to participate in the food program. It should not take lawyers, a law suit, a court order, hearings, a motion to enforce the court order, and months of litigation simply so Feeding Our Future can submit an application.

Feeding Our Future does incredibly impactful work to help some of the most amazing families you could ever meet. We help single mothers who have escaped abusive relationships; we feed malnourished children unable to attend, much less fully engage in school; we provide invaluable and irreplaceable support for some of Minnesota's most needy children; and we support and help young children who have fled war torn countries. To help you understand the work that we do and the families we help, Feeding Our Future is inviting each one of you, and any MDE

representative willing to spend time meeting the community, to come to one of our sites, see how we operate, and meet our community partners. We feel it would be an invaluable and enriching experience for you to understand the impacts Feeding Our Future has on the community, as well as the impacts of MDE's decisions and policies.

Please do let me know if you are interested.
Rhyddid

Rhyddid Watkins
Admitted to the CO and MN Bar



MARTIN | HILD, P.A.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

2851 S. PARKER RD, SUITE 460 | AURORA, CO, 80014
CO: | FL: | M:

WEB: WWW.MARTINHILD.COM [vCARD](#)

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