

## **Chiditarod Foundation Additional Sheets for Form 1023**

### **Additional Documents Attached:**

1. Articles of Incorporation, filed with the Illinois Secretary of State
2. Current Bylaws
3. Ratified Conflict of Interest Policy
4. Conflict of Interest Policy Acknowledgement form
5. Signed Conflict of Interest Policy Acknowledgement forms from all current board members
6. Website Screenshots, including our Mission Statement
7. Ometa Inc. Chiditarod Foundation Resolution Meeting Minutes

### **Part II, Line 1**

See attachment #1 - "*Articles of Incorporation*".

### **Part II, Line 5**

See attachment #2 - "*Current Bylaws*".

**Part IV - Describe completely and in detail your past, present, and planned activities. Do not refer to or repeat the purposes in your organizing document. You may refer to other parts of the application.**

### **The Mission Statement of the Chiditarod Foundation:**

1. Solve food insecurity challenges in metropolitan Chicago.
2. Create and host charitable events that are unique, participatory and inspiring.
3. Grant funds to other charitable organizations in line with our mission and tax-exempt status.

The Chiditarod Foundation ("Foundation") was created to alleviate hunger and identify, publicize and help solve food insecurity in and around the metropolitan Chicago, IL region. It accomplishes these goals by raising funds through unique, creative charity events, then granting food and funds raised to vetted organizations that share a similar mission and are active in executing that mission. Chiditarod Foundation is inclusive and open to all members of society. In 2012, Feeding America released updated data that details food insecurity in the Foundation's service area - Cook County, Illinois – reporting that 1 in 6 individuals are food insecure, not knowing when or where their next meal will be.

## **Chiditarod Foundation Activities**

### **The Chiditarod Race**

The Chiditarod, or “Chicago Urban Iditarod” is our annual shopping cart race and charity event. The date of the event is in early March, chosen to coincide with the kickoff of the Iditarod dog sled race in Alaska. There are some basic similarities between our event and the Iditarod: Both events have teams pulling a sled (or shopping cart). Each team follows a route map to various checkpoints. It’s cold and often snowing at both events. That is where the similarities end; Instead of snow-covered Alaska, we have the streets of Chicago. Instead of sleds, teams borrow or purchase a shopping cart. Instead of dogs, we have teams of five humans -- four cart pullers and one musher -- who invent a creative theme, decorate and transform their cart, and wear elaborate costumes they have designed themselves. The event draws together more than 800 race participants annually. The average race length is 5 miles, with 5 checkpoints, a starting line, and finish line. There is an awards ceremony with music and trophies. We take the event seriously; we partner with local Alderman, Police Commanders and the City of Chicago to ensure each race is permitted, coordinated, and safe.

The first Chiditarod event took place in March of 2006. The popularity of the annual event has grown quickly and steadily, along with the artistic concepts and technical execution of Chiditarod teams has increased dramatically. An increasing number of teams return year after year with bigger and better ideas for their cart and theme. We have a category called Art Carts, providing overly-inspired teams an opportunity to create mobile works of art. Certain exceptional cart designs have been exhibited in Skyscraper lobbies in downtown Chicago and in City buildings. The Chiditarod unites many communities and neighborhoods throughout Chicago. Participants are geographically diverse, and include cyclists, artists, students, teachers, business owners, and not-for-profits. What would otherwise be a quiet Saturday afternoon on a cold day in March is now an annual, anticipated celebration of creativity and charity.

At the end of the day, Chiditarod is a charitable event. The annual race food drive directly helps Chicago communities that are in need of immediate hunger relief. Chiditarod jokingly lays claim to being “*Probably the World’s Largest Mobile Food Drive*”, however it’s really no joke. Our latest race provided over 14,000 meals in the metropolitan Chicago area by collecting more than 16,000 pounds of food, donated by our racers and local businesses. Chiditarod food drives have raised more than 85,000 pounds of food since we began the event. The recipient of our food drives is the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) 501(c)(3) organization. According to GCFD, Chiditarod is one of their top 10 annual food drives by amount of food raised. This is quite amazing considering the Chiditarod is a single day event, while many of the larger food drives in the area can span weeks.

As the race grew in popularity, our teams asked race organizers if they could raise funds using online fundraising tools and donate those contributions to charity. We of course agreed and set out to find online partners who specialize in raising funds for charity. In 2011, all funds raised by teams benefitted the Chicago Anti-Hunger Federation. In 2012, Chiditarod partnered with the offices of Chicago Alderman Michelle Harris to identify charitable organizations working to improve access to organic fruits and vegetables in our City’s “food desert” neighborhoods. We identified the Cottage Grove Heights

Community Coalition, a 501(c)(3) organization who is using the funds in partnership with the City of Chicago to build a community garden in the 8th Ward. New friendships were made, and Chiditarod participants really began to see the impact their actions have on the local community.

In 2013, The Chiditarod Foundation was incorporated as an Illinois not-for-profit corporation. We seek to continue creating the annual Chiditarod race, and to grant funds raised by Chiditarod to local, vetted 501(c)(3) organizations in the Chicagoland community that are fighting hunger, focused on local food sustainability and education, and making an impact in their community. We will continue to grow our food drive initiatives to help food banks in the metropolitan Chicago area. This event furthers our tax-exempt status by fulfilling our mission through the large food drive component, fundraising, and creating unique, participatory events.

50% of the Foundation's efforts are devoted to producing the annual Chiditarod race.

### **Events**

Chiditarod Foundation plans to create events other than the Chiditarod race in the future. These events will embody the same creative, participatory spirit as the race, and will have charitable components such as food drives and/or fundraising in line with our mission and tax-exempt requirements. Funds raised are devoted to our grant programs.

10% of the Foundation's efforts are devoted to events.

### **Fundraising**

Our fundraising efforts are described in in Part VIII, Line 4a. Fundraising furthers our tax-exempt status by enabling us to raise money to be granted to other 501(c)(3) organizations who share our mission, and to support local food banks by producing the Chiditarod food drive.

15% of the Foundation's efforts are devoted to fundraising.

### **Distribution of Funds**

When money is raised during our fundraising efforts, that money is granted to organizations that meet the criteria established by the Board of Directors. There will be one or two grant cycles per year. Any organization whose mission is related to alleviating hunger, addressing food insecurity, and/or improving the lives of the public through education, food and hunger relief is a candidate for a grant from the Chiditarod Foundation. Organizations must qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code to be eligible. There are many excellent 501(c)(3) organizations the Board is evaluating. This activity furthers Chiditarod Foundation's tax-exempt purposes by providing charitable grants to organizations devoted to alleviating hunger in the Metropolitan Chicago area.

Approximately 15% of Chiditarod Foundation's efforts are devoted to finding and evaluating grant recipients and providing grant money to recipients.

## **Oversight and Routine Operations**

In addition to the specific activities above, members of the Board meet monthly to coordinate and provide oversight for the activities above, respond to questions and inquiries from the public, and engage in other routine activities related to Chiditarod Foundation's existence as a not-for-profit corporation. They further our tax-exempt status by ensuring the organization meets all deadlines, stays in good standing with the state, attorney general, and IRS, and coordinate all of our activities.

5% of Chiditarod Foundation's efforts are devoted to these activities.

## **Communications**

The Foundation has a website and an opt-in email list, our website, and our Facebook page. These activities further Chiditarod Foundation's tax-exempt purposes by broadening the reach of our projects and announcements, creating opportunities for new organizations to connect with us for potential grants, publicizing the race and other events, and creating a way for volunteers, donors, and the public to get involved. In January 2013, Chiditarod Foundation built and launched our website:

<http://chiditarod.org> - consult the included attachment #6 - "Website Screenshots" for samples of our website.

5% of Chiditarod Foundation's efforts are devoted to communications.

## **Part V, Line 2a**

Devin Breen (President) and Elizabeth Breen (Treasurer) are married.

## **Part V, Line 3a**

We do not have any employees receiving compensation. Below is a list of the officers and board members. None receive compensation.

- Devin Breen, President. Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Illinois Urbana/Champaign. He is employed as a Production Tools Engineer at Groupon, Inc. Chiditarod founder. Co-founder and President Emeritus of the Bold Urban Renaissance Network 501(c)(3), a community arts organization based in Chicago. He co-founded and performs with the Pyrotechniq fire performance troupe. Specializations include consulting, engineering, web development, project management and communication. He is dedicated to the betterment of life for all people on this planet, but focuses his mission on improving his hometown of Chicago.

Foundation responsibilities: President of the Board of Directors; program director, CTO, attends board meetings and votes on board decisions. He works approximately 25 hours a month on the behalf of the Foundation.

- Diane Back, Secretary. Masters of Social Work Candidate in Community Organizing & Child, Youth & Family; Minor in Interpersonal Practice & School Social Work Certificate, University of Michigan. Bachelor of Science/Family Studies, University of Maryland. Currently participates in the University School of Social Work Curriculum Committee; interning at Bright Futures, a 21st Century funded after-school program addressing youth voice and needs for at-risk youth; and working at the National Center for Institutional Diversity as a program assistant documenting funding collaborations and event coordinator for diversity conversations. Specializations include communications, event and project management, and business development. My passions revolve around sustainability, youth voice and social justice issues and have entailed volunteer work in community gardens, local elections, and natural building.

Foundation responsibilities: Creates, maintains and stores corporate records. Builds programs and networks with other organizations. Project Management. Attends board meetings and votes on board decisions. She works approximately 10-20 hours a month on behalf of the Foundation.

- Elizabeth Breen, Treasurer. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Lawrence University. She is the manager and a performer in the Pyrotechniq Fire Performance Troupe. She is the Founder and President of the Full Moon Fire Jam, NFP. Her specialties include accounting and bookkeeping, marketing social media and networking. She is keenly interested in food and urban farming and actively maintains a large garden in Chicago.

Responsibilities: bookkeeper, comptroller, and preparer of financial reports; communications lead, neighborhood outreach, attends board meetings and votes on board decisions. She works approximately 8 hours a month on the Foundation's behalf.

### **Part V, Line 3b**

Devin Breen (President) owns 100% shares of Pyrotechniq, Inc, an Illinois for-profit Subchapter S-Corporation. Elizabeth Breen (Treasurer) is an independent contractor for Pyrotechniq, Inc. Both perform services on a periodic, part-time basis for Pyrotechniq, Inc and are compensated.

### **Part V, Line 5a**

Please see attachment #3 - *Ratified Conflict of Interest Policy*, adopted by resolution of the Board of Directors.

### **Part VI, Line 1a**

The Chiditarod programs described in Part IV provide services to individuals through the participation in Chiditarod events. The events are exciting and creatively inspiring for the participants. The local neighborhoods enjoy the rich creativity of the annual events.

### **Part VI, Line 1b**

Our Grant Program described in Part IV provides Funds to organizations. Grants are awarded to

organizations whose mission aligns closely with our own – alleviating hunger and the causes of hunger in the metropolitan Chicago area. Organizations must qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code to be eligible.

#### **Part VIII, Line 4a**

The Chiditarod Foundation conducts fundraising for two general purposes: 1) raising money for distributing grants to organizations solving hunger challenges and 2) supporting Chiditarod Foundation's general operating expenses and programs. Both of these further support its Mission.

Our fundraising income is raised from the yearly Chiditarod race and other events that take place throughout the year as described in the Part IV narrative.

We may on occasion send mailings to those on our mailing list. We accept donations on our website through donation buttons and online fundraising platforms. We receive donations from online fundraising tools like Paypal or Firstgiving, or WePay. The Foundation will also request donations through email solicitations sent to those who subscribe to our mailing list.

Personal solicitations: Donations are received at fundraisers such as concerts, parties and open social gatherings at neighborhood establishments (restaurants, bars, etc), charitable athletic events, and other charitable events, and will be solicited at future events in accordance with section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Foundation also accepts direct donations from individuals and receives revenue from program services (e.g. requested donation for admission to fundraising events).

Grants: Chiditarod Foundation has not applied for any grants to date, but plans to do so in the future.

#### **Part VIII, Line 4d**

We fundraise in the State of Illinois, primarily in Cook County. Some mail solicitations may also sent to residents in the collar counties surrounding Cook. We fundraise only for our own organization (though we will make grants to other 501(c)(3) organizations). No other organizations fundraise for us.

#### **Part VIII, Line 10**

At present, we hold ownership of copyright and trademarks to logo artwork developed on our behalf or by us. We own all rights to the logos and distribute them on publicity materials and on donor thank you letters. We also own copyright to text and some images which are distributed as part of our website. We have no intent to market any intellectual property.

#### **Part VIII, Line 11**

We will not solicit donations of such items. If offered, we may accept donations of some of these items, and then immediately dispose of them through sale, grant or donation.

**Part VIII, Line 13b**

Grants may be made to other 501(c)(3) organizations that support various forms of hunger alleviation and food support. Donations may also be made to charitable organizations in support of community engagement activities if their focus relates to food or alleviating hunger. These organizations will ideally provide programs that complement our own, thereby widening the impact of our work.

**Part VIII, Line 13d**

There are no recipient organizations to date.

**Part VIII, Line 13e**

We will make these donations to other organizations as grants and record them in our regular accounting.

**Part VIII, Line 13f**

The Board recommends whether to award funds to other charitable organizations based on past performance, planned activities, fiscal and social track record, and alignment with Chiditarod Foundation's mission and tax-exempt status.

**Part VIII, Line 13g**

Chiditarod Foundation will only grant funds to charitable organizations with whose work it is already familiar. We review their activities prior to each donation to assure they are still fulfilling the purposes that lead to our support. We will periodically review our recipients' projects and achievements and share them with our supporters.

**Part IX, Line A**

Line 9

2013: Program Income - Chiditarod	6,224.33
Program Income - Other Events	6,405.59
Sales - Merchandise	1,609.95
<b>Gross Receipts</b>	<b>14,239.87</b>

2014: Program Income - Chiditarod	7,000.00
Program Income - Other Events	8,500.00
Sales - Merchandise	1,800.00
<b>Projected Gross Receipts</b>	<b>17,300.00</b>

2015: Program Income - Chiditarod	8,000.00
Program Income - Other Events	10,000.00
Sales - Merchandise	2,000.00
<b>Projected Gross Receipts</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>

Line 15

2013: Grant Program recipients	\$20,000.00
2014: Grant Program recipients	\$23,000.00
2015: Grant Program recipients	\$25,000.00



Line 23

2013: Fundraising Events – Volunteer Meals	\$200
Website Hosting, Domain Names	\$50
Marketing Materials	\$100
Printing and Postage	\$150
Board of Directors Annual Retreat	\$125
Accounting Software	\$250
Attorney Fees	\$150
State of Illinois Filing Fees	\$240
IRS Form 1023 Filing Fee	\$850
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,115</b>

2014: Fundraising Events – Volunteer Meals	\$200
Internet – Website Hosting, Domain Names	\$50
Marketing Materials	\$200
Printing and Postage	\$200
Board of Directors Annual Retreat	\$125
Accounting Software	\$250
Attorney Fees	\$150
State of Illinois Filing Fees	\$25
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,200</b>

2015: Fundraising Events – Volunteer Meals	\$200
Internet – Website Hosting, Domain Names	\$50
Marketing Materials	\$100
Printing and Postage	\$150
Board of Directors Annual Retreat	\$125
Accounting Software	\$250
Attorney Fees	\$150
State of Illinois Filing Fees	\$25
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,050</b>

## Schedule G

### Line 1a

The Chiditarod was a program operated by Ometa, Inc (Ometa) -- a Subchapter S Corporation registered in the State of Illinois. Ometa acted as the corporate producer of the Chiditarod events. Since it began, Chiditarod has had its own budget and bank account. Its assets have been kept separate from the main body of Ometa assets. Chiditarod has grown to the size where the Ometa board of directors recommended it seek its own governing structure and 501(c)(3) status. The minutes from the resolution report thusly:

Chiditarod Foundation

RESOLVED, that OMETA, INC. accepts and supports the transition of the Chiditarod program to a new, independent entity; Further, once that entity is created, the assets now held by Ometa which are earmarked as "Chiditarod" will be transferred to the new entity.

Upon filing our articles of incorporation with the state of Illinois, Ometa, Inc transferred \$5,000 of Ometa's assets to our PNC bank account with our new FEIN. This asset transfer represented over 25% of the total assets held by Ometa.

### Line 1b

The Chiditarod was never designed to make a profit, it was designed as a charity event, with the slogan of "*Probably the world's largest mobile food drive.*" All of our activities have charitable aspects built in. Each year, Chiditarod participants continue to ask for more ways to help, and by forming a 501(c)(3) organization, we can further that impact with additional opportunities for grant giving, fundraising, and social impact. It also enables us to give better service to our supporters and volunteers, and represents our desire to improve the lives of others. We feel these goals necessitate the conversion to nonprofit 501(c)(3) status.

### Line 2b

The tax status of Ometa, Inc is a non-exempt.

### Line 2e

Before becoming a separate organization from Ometa, Chiditarod Foundation maintained separate financial accounts and records from its parent organization. When it was decided that Ometa should become its own organization, Ometa transferred all the assets currently on the Chiditarod books to its new legal entity.

Ometa is an S Corporation, which does not seem optimal for running nonprofit programs. The Chiditarod has grown to a size where a formal 501(c)(3) organization feels appropriate and beneficial. As many supporters want to donate to Chiditarod, our ability to offer donors a tax savings opportunity provides us with a powerful opportunity to fulfill our mission and make a difference.

## Schedule G

### Line 3

Ometa, Inc.  
1914 N Washtenaw Ave  
Chicago, IL 60647  
FEIN: 26-2339112

Ometa Inc. Activities:

- Produced the Chiditarod charity race.
- Very small web consulting business.

### Line 5

Devin Breen is the President, Secretary and Treasurer of Ometa, Inc. He helped found the Chiditarod Foundation and currently sits on the board as President. There are no agreements other than a signed conflict of interest policy (see attachment #5).

### Line 6a

This list provides details on cash and equipment transferred. All assets were transferred by gift as per resolution of the Ometa, Inc. Board of Directors. See attachment #7 - "*Ometa Chiditarod Foundation Resolution Meeting Minutes*"

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Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,000
Net value of fixed assets - see detail below	\$ 2,800
Total assets transferred in	\$ 7,800

Date	Description	Value	Accumulated Depreciation	Net Value
01/13/2013	3 dozen pvc pipes	\$50	-	\$50
01/13/2013	8 boxes of race infrastructure	\$2000	-	\$2000
02/17/2012	1 Laser printer	\$300	-	\$300

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