


Mr. Ben Poe
The City of Dade City, City Manager
38020 Meridian Ave
Dade City, Fl 33525

June 20, 2009

Dear Mr. Poe,

I would first like to start out by introducing ourselves to you. We are Starrz of Tomorrow a not-for-profit organization that provides scholarship for young women of the community by being a part of the largest scholarship organization for young women, The Miss America Organization.

Our very own Andrea Apple, Miss Dade City's Kumquat Festival just returned from the Miss Florida Pageant held in St. Pete where she placed in the Top 15, won the Miss America Academic Award as well as the Miss Florida Academic Award, Preliminary Talent award, non finalist talent award and the Commitment to Health Award totaling about \$4,250 in cash scholarships. So even though it is a lot of work and the cost can get expensive the end result for these young women to further their educational goals in the most rewarding part, as Andrea is entering into her 4th year of Medical School at the age of 22 and will have a significant portion of her schooling paid for by scholarships won in the is organization.

The Miss Dade City's Kumquat Festival and Miss Florida is based solely on volunteers and community members coming together to make it a great organization. As I stated before we are a not-for-profit organization which means 100% of our contributions and donations goes towards hosting the pageant as well as the scholarships and awards given to the young ladies. To be able to put on such a production every year we host a fundraiser pageant for young girls ages 0-18 and boys ages 0-6. Last year we came up with the idea to have a Halloween Spooktacular pageant and have the children model their Halloween costumes of choice. It was a great success and we were able to obtain enough money to pay for our franchise fee to send Miss Dade City's Kumquat Festival to the Miss Florida Pageant.

This year we decided that the Halloween pageant would be more beneficial if it was held during the **Scarecrow Festival on October 10, 2009**, and it would bring more recognition to both our organization and to your community festival as we allow children from surrounding counties to enter the pageant. What a great way to bring new people to Dade City and show them what we, as a City, are all about. We would like to hold the pageant downtown at the American Legion Hall, or any other downtown open hall, which would bring people to the City and hopefully keep them there for the festivities of the Scarecrow Festival.

As you may guess it can be quite costly to put on a pageant. Before we can even begin accepting applications we have to rent a venue, purchase crowns and trophies which cost about \$550, and still be able to make enough money to put into the Miss Dade City's Kumquat Festival fund to hold that pageant every year. To host the Kumquat Festival Pageant for the Miss Florida pageant it cost \$675 for the franchise fee (which gets her entered into the state pageant), an official Miss America Crown cost of \$140 and sash \$35, and a minimum of \$500 scholarship, plus renting a facility which we have been lucky enough to be able to use the Pasco Middle School Auditorium but that cost has doubled, trophies, decorations, sound man to run the music for the talent portion of the competition plus other various expenses that go along with hosting a pageant of this size.

So as you can see there is a lot of cost associated with putting on a pageant and with community sponsorship and contributions we are able to do so every year, but barely. What also helps is being able to keep our costs low for our fundraiser pageant so that more money is being used to put the Kumquat Pageant on and give more scholarship to the winner. We are asking for a little assistance on renting the American Legion Hall for the day, as this building seems to be the only one available in the downtown area, so that we may have the pageant there and subsequently help you as a City bring more people into town and more recognition to what a great place Dade City is. By helping us we are in a better position to help you as a City. I hope that we will be able to work together and in the future be able to continue this relationship and put Dade City on the map.

Thank you for your time and I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Connie Jones
Courtney Jones

Connie and Courtney Jones
Co-Directors

