

Form **1023**
(Rev. September 1998)
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

OMB No. 1545-0056
Note: If exempt status is approved, this application will be open for public inspection.

Read the instructions for each Part carefully.
A User Fee must be attached to this application.
If the required information and appropriate documents are not submitted along with Form 8718 (with payment of the appropriate user fee), the application may be returned to you.
Complete the Procedural Checklist on page 8 of the instructions.

Part I Identification of Applicant

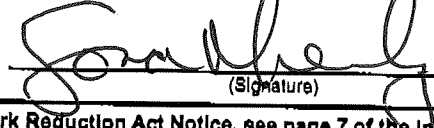
1a Full name of organization (as shown in organizing document) CaringBridge, Inc.		2 Employer identification number (EIN) (If none, see page 3 of the Specific Instructions.) 42-1529394
1b c/o Name (if applicable)		3 Name and telephone number of person to be contacted if additional information is needed Sona Mehring 651-452-7940
1c Address (number and street) 4607 Beacon Hill	Room/Suite 200	4 Month the annual accounting period ends December
1d City, town, or post office, state, and ZIP + 4. If you have a foreign address, see Specific Instructions for Part I, page 3. Eagan, MN 55122-2907		5 Date incorporated or formed January 29, 2002
1e Web site address www.caringbridge.org		6 Check here if applying under section: a <input type="checkbox"/> 501(a) b <input type="checkbox"/> 501(f) c <input type="checkbox"/> (501)(k) d <input type="checkbox"/> 501(n)
7 Did the organization previously apply for recognition of exemption under this Code section or under any other section of the Code? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If "Yes," attach an explanation.		
8 Is the organization required to file Form 990 (or Form 990-EZ)? <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If "No," attach an explanation (see page 3 of the Specific Instructions).		
9 Has the organization filed Federal income tax returns or exempt organization information returns? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If "Yes," state the form numbers, years filed, and Internal Revenue office where filed.		

10 Check the box for the type of organization. ATTACH A CONFORMED COPY OF THE CORRESPONDING ORGANIZING DOCUMENTS TO THE APPLICATION BEFORE MAILING. (See Specific Instructions for Part I, Line 10, on page 3.) See also Pub. 557 for examples of organizational documents.)

- a Corporation — Attach a copy of the Articles of Incorporation (including amendments and restatements) showing approval by the appropriate state official; also include a copy of the bylaws.
- b Trust — Attach a copy of the Trust Indenture or Agreement, including all appropriate signatures and dates.
- c Association — Attach a copy of the Articles of Association, Constitution, or other creating document, with a declaration (see instructions) or other evidence the organization was formed by adoption of the document by more than one person; also include a copy of the bylaws.

If the organization is a corporation or an unincorporated association that has not yet adopted bylaws, check here

I declare under the penalties of perjury that I am authorized to sign this application on behalf of the above organization and that I have examined this application, including the accompanying schedules and attachments, and to the best of my knowledge it is true, correct, and complete.

Please Sign Here  Sona Mehring, Chairperson 7/23/02
(Signature) (Type or print name and title or authority of signer) (Date)

Part II Activities and Operational Information

- 1 Provide a detailed narrative description of all the activities of the organization — past, present, and planned. Do not merely refer to or repeat the language in the organizational document. List each activity separately in the order of importance based on the relative time and other resources devoted to the activity. Indicate the percentage of time for each activity. Each description should include, as a minimum, the following: (a) a detailed description of the activity including its purpose and how each activity furthers your exempt purpose; (b) when the activity was or will be initiated; and (c) where and by whom the activity will be conducted.

CaringBridge was organized January 29, 2002 in the State of Minnesota with the intention of qualifying as a charitable organization as described in IRC Sec. 501(c)(3). Its exempt purpose will be accomplished by providing free personalized easy-to-use private web sites for persons receiving medical care. These sites will enable the public to easily communicate to their community of care throughout the world. The web sites will include, among other things, a journal, history journal, photos, and a guestbook. These web sites are used by several different types of individuals and families in need, i.e., newborns in a NICU, cancer patients dealing with ongoing treatments, elderly patients in a nursing home care facility, etc. Future services planned for CaringBridge include the formation of a support community for its users which allows for the exchange of information, support, etc., for individuals and families dealing with similar conditions, i.e., bone marrow transplants, premature births, children with rare conditions, etc. The activities of CaringBridge will include the construction and ongoing maintenance and updates of the websites along with the acquisition and maintenance of required computer hardware and software. Access to the websites will be made available at local medical care facilities. CaringBridge will have one full-time employee to handle the daily administrative functions and several advisors providing services on a voluntary basis.

- 2 What are or will be the organization's sources of financial support? List in order of size.

The primary source of support will be provided from sponsorships received from care providers. Additional support will be provided from gifts, grants and contributions.

- 3 Describe the organization's fundraising program, both actual and planned, and explain to what extent it has been put into effect. Include details of fundraising activities such as selective mailings, formation of fundraising committees, use of volunteers or professional fundraisers, etc. Attach representative copies of solicitations for financial support.

See statement of fundraising activities and solicitation materials attached

Part II Activities and Operational Information (Continued)

4 Give the following information about the organization's governing body:

a Names, addresses, and titles of officers, directors, trustees, etc.	b Annual compensation
Sona Mehring, 4607 Beacon Hill Rd, Eagan, MN 55122-2702, Chair	0
Sami Pelton, 4696 Weston Hills Dr, Eagan, MN 55123, Vice Chair	0
John LeBlanc, 1622 Irving Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55411, Treasurer	0
Kate Hardegger, 1904 Melody Lane, Burnsville, MN 55337-2915, Secretary	0
Matt Mehring, 4607 Beacon Hill Rd, Eagan, MN 55122-2702, Director	0
Frank Forsberg, 1450 Pascal St N, St. Paul, MN 55108, Director	0
JoAnn Hardegger, 2020 77th St, Somerset, WI 54025, Director	0

c Do any of the above persons serve as members of the governing body by reason of being public officials or being appointed by public officials? Yes No
If "Yes," name those persons and explain the basis of their selection or appointment.

d Are any members of the organization's governing body "disqualified persons" with respect to the organization (other than by reason of being a member of the governing body) or do any of the members have either a business or family relationship with "disqualified persons"? (See Specific Instructions for Part II, Line 4d, on page 3.) Yes No
If "Yes," explain.

5 Does the organization control or is it controlled by any other organization? Yes No
Is the organization the outgrowth of (or successor to) another organization, or does it have a special relationship with another organization by reason of interlocking directorates or other factors? Yes No
If either of these questions is answered "Yes," explain.

6 Does or will the organization directly or indirectly engage in any of the following transactions with any political organization or other exempt organization (other than a 501(c)(3) organization): (a) grants; (b) purchases or sales of assets; (c) rental of facilities or equipment; (d) loans or loan guarantees; (e) reimbursement arrangements; (f) performance of services, membership, or fundraising solicitations; or (g) sharing of facilities, equipment, mailing lists or other assets, or paid employees? Yes No
If "Yes," explain fully and identify the other organizations involved.

7 Is the organization financially accountable to any other organization? Yes No
If "Yes," explain and identify the other organization. Include details concerning accountability or attach copies of reports if any have been submitted.

Part II Activities and Operational Information (Continued)

8 What assets does the organization have that are used in the performance of its exempt function? (Do not include property producing investment income.) If any assets are not fully operational, explain their status, what additional steps remain to be completed, and when such final steps will be taken. If none, indicate "N/A."
Office equipment such as computers, telephones, copiers and internet services are used by CaringBridge for its exempt purpose

9 Will the organization be the beneficiary of tax-exempt bond financing within the next 2 years? Yes No

10a Will any of the organization's facilities or operations be managed by another organization or individual under a contractual agreement? Yes No

b Is the organization a party to any leases? Yes No
If either of these questions is answered "Yes," attach a copy of the contracts and explain the relationship between the applicant and the other parties.

11 Is the organization a membership organization? Yes No
If "Yes," complete the following:

a Describe the organization's membership requirements and attach a schedule of membership fees and dues.

b Describe the organization's present and proposed efforts to attract members and attach a copy of any descriptive literature or promotional material used for this purpose.

c What benefits do (or will) the members receive in exchange for their payment of dues?

12a If the organization provides benefits, services, or products, are the recipients required, or will they be required, to pay for them? N/A Yes No
If "Yes," explain how the charges are determined and attach a copy of the current fee schedule.

b Does or will the organization limit its benefits, services, or products to specific individuals or classes of individuals? N/A Yes No
If "Yes," explain how the recipients or beneficiaries are or will be selected.
Any individuals receiving care.

13 Does or will the organization attempt to influence legislation? Yes No
If "Yes," explain. Also, give an estimate of the percentage of the organization's time and funds that it devotes or plans to devote to this activity.

14 Does or will the organization intervene in any way in political campaigns, including the publication or distribution of statements? Yes No
If "Yes," explain fully.

Part III Technical Requirements

1 Are you filing Form 1023 within 15 months from the end of the month in which your organization was created or formed? Yes No

If you answer "Yes," do not answer questions on lines 2 through 6 below.

2 If one of the exceptions to the 15-month filing requirement shown below applies, check the appropriate box and proceed to question 7.

Exceptions — You are not required to file an exemption application within 15 months if the organization:

- a Is a church, interchurch organization of local units of a church, a convention or association of churches, or an integrated auxiliary of a church. See **Specific Instructions**, Line 2a, on page 4;
- b Is not a private foundation and normally has gross receipts of not more than \$5,000 in each tax year; or
- c Is a subordinate organization covered by a group exemption letter, but only if the parent or supervisory organization timely submitted a notice covering the subordinate.

3 If the organization does not meet any of the exceptions on line 2 above, are you filing Form 1023 within 27 months from the end of the month in which the organization was created or formed? Yes No

If "Yes," your organization qualifies under Regulation section 301.9100-2, for an automatic 12-month extension of the 15-month filing requirement. Do not answer questions 4 through 6.

If "No," answer question 4.

4 If you answer "No" to question 3, does the organization wish to request an extension of time to apply under the "reasonable action and good faith" and the "no prejudice to the interest of the government" requirements of Regulations section 301.9100-3? Yes No N/A

If "Yes," give the reasons for not filing this application within the 27-month period described in question 3. See **Specific Instructions**, Part III, Line 4, before completing this item. Do not answer questions 5 and 6.

If "No," answer questions 5 and 6.

5 If you answer "No" to question 4, your organization's qualification as a section 501(c)(3) organization can be recognized only from the date this application is filed. Therefore, do you want us to consider the application as a request for recognition of exemption as a section 501(c)(3) organization from the date the application is received and not retroactively to the date the organization was created or formed? Yes No N/A

6 If you answer "Yes" to question 5 above and wish to request recognition of section 501(c)(4) status for the period beginning with the date the organization was formed and ending with the date the Form 1023 application was received (the effective date of the organization's section 501(c)(3) status), check here and attach a completed page 1 of Form 1024 to this application. N/A

Part III Technical Requirements (Continued)

- 7 Is the organization a private foundation?
 Yes (Answer question 8.)
 No (Answer question 9 and proceed as instructed.)
- 8 If you answer "Yes" to question 7, does the organization claim to be a private operating foundation? N/A
 Yes (Complete Schedule E.)
 No

After answering question 8 on this line, go to line 14 on page 7.

- 9 If you answer "No" to question 7, indicate the public charity classification the organization is requesting by checking the box below that most appropriately applies:

THE ORGANIZATION IS NOT A PRIVATE FOUNDATION BECAUSE IT QUALIFIES:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| a | <input type="checkbox"/> As a church or a convention or association of churches (CHURCHES MUST COMPLETE SCHEDULE A.) | Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(i) |
| b | <input type="checkbox"/> As a school (MUST COMPLETE SCHEDULE B.) | Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(ii) |
| c | <input type="checkbox"/> As a hospital or cooperative hospital service organization, or a medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital (These organizations, except for hospital service organizations, MUST COMPLETE SCHEDULE C.) | Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(iii) |
| d | <input type="checkbox"/> As a governmental unit described in section 170(c)(1). | Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(v) |
| e | <input type="checkbox"/> As being operated solely for the benefit of, or in connection with, one or more of the organizations described in a through d, g, h, or i (MUST COMPLETE SCHEDULE D.) | Section 509(a)(3) |
| f | <input type="checkbox"/> As being organized and operated exclusively for testing for public safety. | Section 509(a)(4) |
| g | <input type="checkbox"/> As being operated for the benefit of a college or university that is owned or operated by a governmental unit. | Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) |
| h | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> As receiving a substantial part of its support in the form of contributions from publicly supported organizations, from a governmental unit, or from the general public. | Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vii) |
| i | <input type="checkbox"/> As normally receiving not more than one-third of its support from gross investment income and more than one-third of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions (subject to certain exceptions). | Section 509(a)(2) |
| j | <input type="checkbox"/> The organization is a publicly supported organization but is not sure whether it meets the public support test of h or i. The organization would like the IRS to decide the proper classification. | Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(viii) or Section 509(a)(2) |

If you checked one of the boxes a through f in question 9, go to question 14. If you checked box g in question 9, go to questions 11 and 12. If you checked box h, i, or j, in question 9, go to question 10.

Part III Technical Requirements (Continued)

10 If you checked box h, i, or j in question 9, has the organization completed a tax year of at least 8 months?

Yes — Indicate whether you are requesting:

A definitive ruling. (Answer questions 11 through 14.)

An advance ruling. (Answer questions 11 and 14 and attach two Forms 872-C completed and signed.)

No — You must request an advance ruling by completing and signing two Forms 872-C and attaching them to the Form 1023.

11 If the organization received any unusual grants during any of the tax years shown in Part IV-A, **Statement of Revenue and Expenses**, attach a list for each year showing the name of the contributor; the date and the amount of the grant; and a brief description of the nature of the grant.

N/A

12 If you are requesting a definitive ruling under section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) or (vi), check here and: N/A

- a Enter 2% of line 8, column (e), Total, of Part IV-A.
- b Attach a list showing the name and amount contributed by each person (other than a governmental unit or "publicly supported" organization) whose total gifts, grants, contributions, etc., were more than the amount entered on line 12a above.

13 If you are requesting a definitive ruling under section 509(a)(2), check here and: N/A

- a For each of the years included on lines 1, 2, and 9 of Part IV-A, attach a list showing the name of and amount received from each "disqualified person." (For a definition of "disqualified person," see **Specific Instructions**, Part II, Line 4d, on page 3.)
- b For each of the years included on line 9 of Part IV-A, attach a list showing the name of and amount received from each payer (other than a "disqualified person") whose payments to the organization were more than \$5,000. For this purpose, "payer" includes, but is not limited to, any organization described in sections 170(b)(1)(A)(i) through (vi) and any governmental agency or bureau.

14 Indicate if your organization is one of the following. If so, complete the required schedule. (Submit only those schedules that apply to your organization. Do not submit blank schedules.)	Yes	No	If "Yes," complete Schedule:
Is the organization a church?		X	A
Is the organization, or any part of it, a school?		X	B
Is the organization, or any part of it, a hospital or medical research organization?		X	C
Is the organization a section 509(a)(3) supporting organization?		X	D
Is the organization a private operating foundation?		X	E
Is the organization, or any part of it, a home for the aged or handicapped?		X	F
Is the organization, or any part of it, a child care organization?		X	G
Does the organization provide or administer any scholarship benefits, student aid, etc.?		X	H
Has the organization taken over, or will it take over, the facilities of a "for profit" institution?		X	I

Part IV Financial Data Using accrual method of accounting

Complete the financial statements for the current year and for each of the 3 years immediately before it. If in existence less than 4 years, complete the statements for each year in existence. If in existence less than 1 year, also provide proposed budgets for the 2 years following the current year.

A. Statement of Revenue and Expenses

	Current tax year	3 prior tax years or proposed budget for 2 years			(e) TOTAL
	(a) From 1/29/02 to 6/30/02	(b) 1/1/03 to 12/31/03	(c) 1/1/04 to 12/31/04	(d) N/A	
Revenue					
1 Gifts, grants, and contributions received (not including unusual grants — see page 6 of the instructions).....	11,070	59,620	65,582		136,272
2 Membership fees received					
3 Gross investment income (see instructions for definition)					
4 Net income from organization's unrelated business activities not included on line 3					
5 Tax revenues levied for and either paid to or spent on behalf of the organization					
6 Value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge (not including the value of services or facilities generally furnished the public without charge).....					
7 Other income (not including gain or loss from sale of capital assets) (attach schedule)					
8 Total (add lines 1 through 7)....	11,070	59,620	65,582		136,272
9 Gross receipts from admissions, sales of merchandise or services, or furnishing of facilities in any activity that is not an unrelated business within the meaning of section 513. Include related cost of sales on line 22					
10 Total (add lines 8 and 9).....	11,070	59,620	65,582		136,272
11 Gain or loss from sale of capital assets (attach schedule)					
12 Unusual grants					
13 Total revenue (add lines 10 through 12).....	11,070	59,620	65,582		136,272
Expenses					
14 Fundraising expenses					
15 Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts paid (attach schedule)					
16 Disbursements to or for benefit of members (attach schedule).....					
17 Compensation of officers, directors, and trustees (attach schedule)					
18 Other salaries and wages					
19 Interest					
20 Occupancy (rent, utilities, etc.) ..					
21 Depreciation and depletion					
22 Other (attach schedule)	3,763	59,620	65,582		
23 Total expenses (add lines 14 through 22).....	3,763	59,620	65,582		
24 Excess of revenue over expenses (line 13 minus line 23)	7,307	0	0		

Part IV Financial Data (Continued) Using accrual method of accounting

B. Balance Sheet (at the end of the period shown)

Current tax year
Date 6/30/02

Assets

1	Cash	1	5,457
2	Accounts receivable, net	2	2,400
3	Inventories	3	
4	Bonds and notes receivable (attach schedule)	4	
5	Corporate stocks (attach schedule)	5	
6	Mortgage loans (attach schedule)	6	
7	Other investments (attach schedule)	7	
8	Depreciable and depletable assets (attach schedule)	8	
9	Land	9	
10	Other assets (attach schedule)	10	
11	Total assets (add lines 1 through 10)	11	7,857

Liabilities

12	Accounts payable	12	550
13	Contributions, gifts, grants, etc., payable	13	
14	Mortgages and notes payable (attach schedule)	14	
15	Other liabilities (attach schedule)	15	
16	Total liabilities (add lines 12 through 15)	16	550

Fund Balances or Net Assets

17	Total fund balances or net assets	17	7,307
18	Total liabilities and fund balances or net assets (add line 16 and line 17)	18	7,857

If there has been any substantial change in any aspect of the organization's financial activities since the end of the period shown above, check the box and attach a detailed explanation.

CaringBridge, Inc.
42-1529394

Form 1023, Part II, Item 3
Fundraising

Current fundraising efforts consist primarily in obtaining sponsorship from care providers. The annual sponsorship is \$960. Each sponsor is listed as a sponsor and each of the sponsors' pages has the sponsors' logo. Currently, there is minimal fundraising efforts involving foundations and individual donors.

Future fundraising plans call for a more proactive approach to applying for grants from foundations as well as individual donors. Churches will be approached to provide sponsorships and tithing donations. Individual donors will have the online capability to charge credit cards for direct donations.

It is not anticipated that a professional fundraiser will be used in the organization's fundraising efforts.

Form 1023, Part IV, Line 22

Other Expenses

	Actual 1/29/02- <u>6/30/02</u>	Budget 1/1/03- <u>12/31/03</u>	Budget 1/1/04- <u>12/31/04</u>
Liability insurance	810	1,134	1,135
Internet server provider	2,749	9,288	10,330
Licenses and permits	70	0	0
Office supplies	134	880	968
Customer relations	0	16,500	18,150
Web serv adm/dev support	0	8,800	9,680
Dev exp-service release June	0	8,938	9,831
Dev exp-service release December	0	11,000	12,100
Accounting and legal	0	1,980	2,178
Brochures	<u>0</u>	<u>1,100</u>	<u>1,210</u>
Total other expenses	3,763	59,620	65,582