

REPORT 2019 October Cycle

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Comal County Family Violence Shelter, Inc.		Federal Tax ID#: 74-2440649	
Address: PO Box 310344	City: New Braunfels	State: TX	Zip Code: 78131
Website: www.crisiscenternb.org		Fax: (830) 620-7520	

Head Of Organization

Name: Stacy Hill	Title: Executive Director
E-Mail Address: shill@crisiscenternb.org	Phone: (830) 620-7520

Application Contact

Name: Stacy Hill	Title: Executive Director	E-Mail Address: shill@crisiscenternb.org	Phone: (830) 620-7520
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REPORT INFORMATION

Report Funding Cycle: 2019 October Cycle	Report Date: 09/02/2020 12:00 am
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1: Please include in your report the dollar amount of the funds that were awarded, the date they were funded and what the funds supported.

Awarded Amount: 35,000	Date: 10/19/2019
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2: Were the objectives cited in your original proposal met? Please address each started objective and how it was met.

During this year, we successfully implemented a prevention program in Karnes ISD and New Braunfels ISD where we were able to collaborate with the school's guidance counselors and social workers to provide lessons on Good Secrets Bad Secrets, Body Safety Rules, and Your Body Belongs to you, and coordinate counseling sessions for the youth. We also provided lessons on Teen Dating Violence awareness and prevention to students in these districts. In our Shelter, we implemented an Art after Dark program for the parents to attend and relieve parental stress. It provided an opportunity for parents to engage with other parents, receive support, and build a sense of community amongst themselves. We also implemented training sessions for case managers to attend regarding parent and child relationships. These training sessions were essential in creating case management that was all-inclusive and helped identify the family dynamics. We were able to tailor the familial needs to each family versus having a one-size-fits-all approach. We were able to provide counseling for children and their parents. We also created parent groups where we discussed the impact of family violence on the family unit, coping skills, and emotional regulation techniques.

3: Please explain any changes from the original proposal and the circumstances that lead to the modification of the objective.

We modified our program objectives with the onset of the Coronavirus Pandemic. The school closures and lockdowns provided the opportunity for us to transition to a digital platform for prevention and a more hands-on approach for children in the shelter. Unfortunately, the events for Sexual Assault Awareness Month were canceled and our prevention program in schools was also canceled. During this time we have seen an increase in sexual assaults in children and families affected by domestic violence. Our shelter remained open but processes and procedures were implemented in order to limit exposure to staff and clients in the shelter. The preparation for a world living in times of a pandemic was exhaustive but we were determined to continue providing services for our most vulnerable, children.

4: What needs were addressed?

In our shelter, we hired three part-time child advocates and a part-time homeschool instructor. We were able to provide parents with much-needed support with the online learning platform schools were and are still using. We included a prevention curriculum to include lessons on Healthy Relationships, Body Safety, and Consent for children in the shelter. Our Prevention Specialist is working with the parents, individually teaching positive discipline, redirecting behaviors, and healthy communication. We assisted parents by caring for their children in order to provide them with time to work on goals, which could include job interviews, resume writing, budgeting classes, support groups, individual and group counseling. We incorporated a variety of support groups to include cooking, gardening, journaling, and a wellness group that consisted of weekly walks at a local park. Our Prevention Specialist transitioned our prevention curriculum used in our community schools to a digital platform. She successfully created videos for children and youth, that touched on topics such as Healthy Relationships, Body Safety, Consent, and Sexual Assault Prevention and for parents, videos were created that provided them with tips on healthy communication and positive parent/child interactions, recognizing signs of abuse, and the prevention of abuse.

5: What method of evaluation did you use to monitor and measure the project's outcome and what are the result?

While we were in schools, we utilized a "pre & post" evaluation form. The evaluation ranked comfortability in accessing services throughout the community, the ability to recognize abuse, and identifying harmful behaviors. Additionally, it provides clients with the opportunity to share any shifting views in relationships, healthy dynamics, skills learned (communication, anger management, expression, etc). Many of the participants expressed an increase in knowledge and understanding in community services, victim rights, and in identifying and preventing abuse. For our shelter clients, we utilized a one-page survey that included questions regarding their personal and emotional safety, their children's safety, and an increase in knowledge regarding community services, victim rights, and identifying and the prevention of abuse. We report that the outcome was positive. Approximately, 78% of our clients reported that they have an increase in knowledge regarding community services, victim rights, and identifying and the prevention of abuse.

6: Do you plan to continue this project, and if so, how do you plan to sustain it?

We cannot abandon the efforts to provide families with educational, emotional, and physiological support, especially those affected by domestic or family violence. Unfortunately, there aren't a lot of state and /or federal grants geared towards helping children. Our relationships within the community have allowed for successful partnering with other agencies. Our partnership to Communities in Schools, SJRC, and the CAC enhances the resources available to high-need, vulnerable populations. We understand how critical it is to break the cycle of abuse especially in children exposed to family violence. The trauma and its effects can be long-lasting and can lead to substance abuse, chronic homelessness or it can perpetuate the cycle of abuse. We would resort to seeking out community and business sponsorships, and hosting a variety of fundraising events. The Najim Foundation grant was and will hopefully continue to be pivotal in the success of our program.

7: Please provide any other comments of information relevant to this grant.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we have seen an increase in the sexual assault of children. We have hired a third contract counselor in order to meet the increasing demand. We have also partnered with HHSC and have become a community partner where we will be able to help families connect to entitlement programs and additional resources for children with special needs. This is to include evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment for special needs in children under three years of age.

8: Please provide an updated detailed projected budget with expenses for the received grant. Also include the totals for the budgeted and actual amount. Explain any discrepancies between the budgeted and the actual expenses for the project.

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Requested Funds	Project Funds Actual	Najim Funds Allocation
Prevention Specialist	\$48,807	\$0	\$49,947	\$0
Children's Aids	\$23,062	\$10,832	\$34,600	\$11,493
Supplies/Field trips	\$7,824	\$7,824	\$7,053	\$7,047
Travel/Conf	\$2,062	\$0	\$1,452	\$0
Advertising/Equipment/Communication	\$1,986	\$0	\$0	\$0
Rent/Utilities/Ins.	\$1,608	\$0	\$0	\$0
Training Supplies	\$6,470	\$0	\$14,117	\$0
Counselors	\$52,344	\$42,344	\$51,767	\$16,460
Case Manager	\$10,837	\$0	\$44,788	\$0
Digital Prevention Specialist	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL:	\$170,000	\$61,000	\$203,724	\$35,000

Signature

Stacy Hill