

REPORT 2020 April Cycle

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Hill Country Family Services Inc.		Federal Tax ID#: 74-2425029	
Address: 118 W. Advogt	City: Boerne	State: TX	Zip Code: 78006
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Head Of Organization

Name: Staci Almager	Title: Hill Country Family Services
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Application Contact

Name: Staci Almager	Title: Chief Executive Officer	E-Mail Address: stacie.almager@hcfamily svcs.org	Phone: (830) 249-8643
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REPORT INFORMATION

Report Funding Cycle: 2020 April Cycle	Report Date: 03/23/2021 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:
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2: Were the objectives cited in your original proposal met? Please address each started objective and how it was met.

The Children's Toiletry Project had two main objectives to achieve.

(1) HCFS will provide 1,000 toiletry bags and healthful groceries designed for children at the HCFS Corner Cupboard. We distributed 1,217 toiletry bags for children.

(2) HCFS will provide Blessings in a Backpack with the hygiene bag filled with a child friendly instruction card to 600 children with monthly replacement toiletries and weekly snack bags. We distributed 754 bags and provided monthly replacements.

Both grant objectives were 100% met and completed.

Also, the HCFS Children's Shopping Experience at the Corner Cupboard was designed, installed and completed.

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

Rhonda McNeill (HCFS) and Kathy Bandujo (Blessings) worked together on designing and implementing this program prior to COVID-19. Major modifications to the delivery channels were developed due to the required shut downs COVID-19. We relied heavily on individual community relationships (previous and newly developed) in the "seven pockets of poverty" in Kendall County. Rhonda (HCFS) purchased the toiletry bags, supplies and healthy snacks through the San Antonio Food Bank, SAMS and LDS Humanitarian Services. Kathy (Blessings) designed the survey and executed the distribution process of supplies. Jessica Buffington, Executive Director, Boerne Community Coalition, was brought into help support the project. Jessica (BCC) helped identify the "Seven Pockets of Poverty" in the community and establish our point of contact/advocate in each area.

4: What needs were addressed?

In March 2020, the natural disaster COVID-19 caused a 100% global shut down of society including schools. There has never been a more important time to serve children in modern history. HCFS and Blessings in a Backpack creatively designed methods of delivery of food and toiletries for children based on the COVID restrictions. We were collectively concerned about the health and wellness of children who are served by both agencies. Our biggest challenge was finding the children once the school districts closed and our daily access to children and families was cut off. We got creative and our creativity paid off. We found more children to serve in diverse and collaborative ways. We discovered that 25% of the children who receive support from Blessings in a Backpack at Roy Maas Youth Alternatives needed ethnic hair supplies. As a result of our need to "find the children" to distribute toiletries, we established new community relationships with individuals of influence in the key "pockets of poverty" in Kendall County and found distribution points for Blessings in a Backpack students at the Boys and Girls Clubs in Boerne and Comfort. In addition to keeping our finger on the pulse of their toiletry needs, we became a conduit for information in supporting our vulnerable children. We partnered with BISD in distributing school information and with the GVTC Foundation in identifying needs for mobile hot spots and created a "FreeGVTC" mobile hot spot on our campus. This collaborative grant with the purpose of providing basic humanitarian support became a lifeline for 1,600+ children and their families through a global pandemic.

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

We surveyed 100% of parents, guardians and care givers of the children who received the toiletry kits. 100% of our surveys were completed because of our COVID distribution model. We did not distribute through the school districts but face-to -face with parents and children. 82% of children report higher sense of self worth with use of their toiletry kits. 100% of the children reported in the surveys stated that they actively use their own personal toiletries that were given and replenished in their kits. 93% of the children stated that they learned how a clean body is as important as what they eat.

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

We will continue the program after the overwhelming success in 2020. We received a continuation support grant to provide ongoing toiletry replenishments and food from the Stevens Foundation. We identified the same basic humanitarian need with the senior population in Kendall County in 2020. Our seniors are equally vulnerable and isolated. We established at senior program in collaboration with the Meals on Wheels program as well as continuing our current program serving children. We now consider the "Children's and Seniors Toiletry Program" a core program of HCFS by which we will continue to serve the community.

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

We were faced with completing critically important front facing work with this grant during a global pandemic. As a result, we found children in our community during the the most vulnerable days of their lives. Basic food and toiletries allowed us in their communities and led to their doors. Once we arrived, we found so many other needs that are often hidden during traditional "normal" times in children's lives. We thank the Najim Charitable Foundation for this incredible opportunity to serve our most vulnerable children in Kendall County. We literally the streets to find our community children. The result was that we created a pathway for other agencies and services. We hope that COVID is behind us. But, we know that HCFS, Blessings in a Backpack and the Najim Charitable Foundation created hope for children in 2020. Thank You.

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
Food for children age 0-18	\$76,000	\$22,500	\$73,224	\$17,500
Pantry Payroll	\$21,000	\$0	\$21000	\$0
Payroll Taxes	\$3,230	\$0	\$3230	\$0
Case Management Payroll	\$30,000	\$0	\$30000	\$0
Toiletries and bags for children age 0-18	\$76,000	\$22,500	\$47,691	\$17,500
TOTAL:	\$206,230	\$45,000	\$175,145	\$35,000

Signature

Staci Almager