

REPORT 2019 October Cycle

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Tracy's Kids Inc.		Federal Tax ID#: 26-3835257	
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Head Of Organization

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Application Contact

Name: Bridget Gray	Title: Business Director	E-Mail Address: bridget@tracyskids.org	Phone: (202) 441-1298
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REPORT INFORMATION

Report Funding Cycle: 2019 October Cycle	Report Date: 10/01/2020 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: 15,000	Date: 10/25/2019
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2: Were the objectives cited in your original proposal met? Please address each started objective and how it was met.

Our program objectives are to:

- 1) Staff the program with a Master's-trained, Board-certified art therapist: At Methodist Children's Hospital (MCH), the Tracy's Kids art therapist, Courtney Martin, is a well-loved, responsive, innovative, and respected leader in her field. She has helped build the Tracy's Kids program at MCH into a model site, providing therapeutic care for 300-350 patients, plus their families, each year.

- 2) Provide both individual and group art therapy for patients and family members: Typically, Ms. Martin sees an average of 15 inpatients and 15 outpatients daily, but she is only able to provide individual art therapy since the start of the pandemic. She works with youth ranging from toddlers to young adults, and sessions can include siblings and family members, who are also affected when a child has cancer. This therapy provides mental health support to patients and their families to help them be emotionally prepared to fight cancer as actively as possible--and be prepared for the time when they are cancer-free.

- 3) Serve as an integrated member of a patient's medical team, being highly responsive and engaged with the community of medical professionals serving a patient to increase understanding of patients' emotional needs. To bridge the gap between medical treatment and the emotional needs of children battling cancer, Ms. Martin consults with medical teams three or more times a week. Additionally, she supports the emotional needs of staff by creating opportunities for them to process the sometimes difficult emotions of working with young cancer patients.

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

During the pandemic, Ms. Martin is doing her best to provide as much access to art therapy for her patients as possible, even as program logistics are challenging. The main adaptation is a switch to all individual art therapy during this time. To protect against virus spread, the playrooms for both inpatients (in the hospital) and outpatients (in the clinic) are closed, so Ms. Martin is doing all individual sessions in patients' rooms. Ms. Martin is providing a consistent level of art therapy hours, but the switch has resulted in fewer patient contacts, as she typically sees multiple patients at once in the playroom.

4: What needs were addressed?

The pandemic this year has shed light on the real stress and trauma that people face going through the uncertainty of a medical crisis. Cancer patients are immunocompromised and experiencing the added anxiety of the risk of virus transmission, so their mental health is even more vulnerable.

Tracy's Kids' art therapy directly addresses the emotional and mental health needs of young cancer patients and their families. More specifically, Tracy's Kids provides therapeutic art therapy to help patients: 1) understand and process their emotions related to cancer and blood disorder treatments, 2) learn coping skills and build confidence and creativity, and 3) work along with siblings and other family members to reduce the stress that they feel as a result of going through cancer treatment. Additionally, Tracy's Kids works with medical teams so they are advised on patients' emotional needs and fears, and with cancer survivors to help them process residual trauma and/or ongoing medical issues through the long-term follow up opportunities.

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

Tracy's Kids measures our impact through metrics that help us identify the reach of our programs and how they are affecting patients and families. In 2019, we provided 1,321 hours of art therapy and made 3,382 patient contacts -- primarily patients, but also siblings and other family members. The MCH art therapist had 142 consultations with treatment teams. In 2020, we are maintaining similar hours of art therapy, even with the temporary switch to solely individual therapy.

As usual, we receive positive anecdotal feedback on our program, such as this:

"When I was in the hospital I was admitted because of graph verses host disease. I did not know I would be admitted for exactly one year. It was long and boring [and I] felt like I had no purpose. The one thing that would keep me sane was Art Therapy, thanks to Courtney I would get out of my room and feel accomplished and like I did have a purpose again. Every day I would wait for the clock to strike one in the afternoon to go and do arts & crafts. The art therapy would keep my mind off the treatment, and keep me going with socializing with other kids. I don't think if art therapy wasn't there, I could have made it through my tough situation. It helped me get out of my room, helped with depression, anxiety, and kept me going. Thank you for allowing me to focus with art." -- Victor Diaz

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

Tracy's Kids plans to continue our program at MCH. We continue to build relationships with foundations in the area, as well as individual donors. As Acelity was purchased by 3M last year, we unfortunately lost our funding from the Acelity Foundation. However, we have worked to spread awareness about the need for and benefit of our program, and we continue to build community-based financial support for the program. For example, the San Antonio Area Foundation has provided a grant to Tracy's Kids. We hope to continue to partner with the Najim Family Foundation to provide these valuable services to young patients.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/tracyskids/posts/3100254886679862>

This Facebook post congratulates patient Jared and his family for ringing the bell to celebrate his end of chemotherapy at Methodist Children's Hospital this year. The 10 year-old said, "I am thankful for being able to rely on Art Therapy. While everyone isolates themselves in their homes with their families, I and other patients have to continue cancer treatments isolated in our hospital rooms. It's nothing compared to being isolated at home. The good thing about having art therapy is we are still able to do arts and crafts in our room like paint the windows. Of course I painted a dinosaur. It's pretty cool that we get to paint the windows and not get in trouble for it."

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
Art supplies	\$3,300	\$0	\$3,300	\$0
MCH art therapist (salary)	\$50,579	\$15,000	\$50,579	\$15,000
Art therapist - benefits	\$12,012	\$0	\$12,012	\$0
TOTAL:	\$65,891	\$15,000	\$65,891	\$15,000

Signature

Bridget Gray