

# REPORT 2020 April Cycle

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Organization Information

<b>Legal Name:</b> Wonders & Worries, Inc.		<b>Federal Tax ID#:</b> 74-3012982	
<b>Address:</b> 9101 Burnet Rd, Ste. 205	<b>City:</b> Austin	<b>State:</b> Texas	<b>Zip Code:</b> 78758
<b>Website:</b> www.wondersandworries.org		<b>Fax:</b> (512) 329-5757	

### Head Of Organization

<b>Name:</b> Alex Gabbi	<b>Title:</b> Executive Director
<b>E-Mail Address:</b> alex@wondersandworries.org	<b>Phone:</b> (512) 329-5757

### Application Contact

<b>Name:</b> Donna Bueche	<b>Title:</b> Grant Writer	<b>E-Mail Address:</b> grants@wondersandworries.org	<b>Phone:</b> (512) 329-5757
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## REPORT INFORMATION

<b>Report Funding Cycle:</b> 2020 April Cycle	<b>Report Date:</b> 04/28/2021 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: 25,000	Date: 05/12/2020
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**2: Were the objectives cited in your original proposal met? Please address each started objective and how it was met.**

1) One objective was to serve more San Antonio children and their parents than we did the year before, and we met that objective. Our target was 275 individuals. Our actual is 205. This is an increase from the previous year when we served 149 residents.

2) We anticipated that we would serve 165 children and teens during the year of the grant. The actual number of young people served is 137. This is lower than anticipated, and our thoughts on why are outlined in the next response.

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

When we submitted the original proposal, we were at the very beginning stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time, we did not include our response to the pandemic because too much was unknown. Thus, the program description, objectives, and goals listed in the application were all based on pre-pandemic conditions. After our office at the START Center closed in mid-March last year in response to the pandemic, we modified our curriculum so that it could be delivered virtually to clients in all of our service areas in Texas. We began providing telehealth sessions through our communications platform, RingCentral, and we have been offering telehealth sessions since then.

In the months following the start of the pandemic, we did not receive as many referrals as usual because doctors' offices and schools were also closed and our professional contacts there were unable to refer as many clients. By the fall, our San Antonio team had developed and implemented an outreach plan to reconnect with providers, school counselors, and other nonprofit agencies. Our client numbers increased, leading us to start a waiting list for services in October 2020. In December, we received a grant from the Baptist Health Foundation which allowed us to increase staffing hours. Ultimately, we anticipate that we will impact 215 Greater San Antonio residents by the end of this fiscal year (June 30, 2021). As we begin to reopen our doors for face-to-face services, we expect that client numbers will continue to increase.

#### **4: What needs were addressed?**

A parent's life-changing illness can negatively affect a child, increasing their risks for behavioral, emotional, and academic problems. It can interfere with personal relationships and stress management if not addressed. Because of your support, children and teens in Greater San Antonio who received Wonders & Worries' services this past year are now less at risk of developing the negative side-effects, such as anxiety and depression, that are associated with a family's healthcare crisis. This is even more important now during the pandemic, which has added even more stress and uncertainty to the lives of the families we serve. Underserved families are especially vulnerable to mental health issues. Of our clients, 35% have incomes at or lower than 200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines. Nearly all families experience a loss of income during a healthcare crisis. This is even more true now. Thank you for helping San Antonio-area children and teens receive the preventative mental health care they need to remain resilient in the face of serious parental illness.

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

After families complete Wonders & Worries' six-session Illness Education and Coping Support Curriculum, we expect to see an improvement in their communication skills and a reduction in their stress levels. Specifically, as outlined in our grant, we expect that 80% or more of parents or caregivers will indicate improvements in their ability to parent around the illness and their ability to manage stress. We also work to ensure that 90% are satisfied with services.

We are happy to share with you the results of our most recent client survey. The clinical program director distributes the survey electronically twice per year to parents or caregivers whose children had participated in the curriculum three to six months previously. We found that 94% of San Antonio respondents reported that their family's ability to handle the stress of the illness improved, and 83% agreed that they had more confidence in parenting around the illness. Furthermore, 94% reported satisfaction with Wonders & Worries' services. The survey response rate for San Antonio clients was 45%.

Thank you for helping us make a positive impact on the lives of families affected by serious parental illness.

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

Yes, we plan to continue this project and expand our reach in Greater San Antonio. Wonders & Worries has a comprehensive development plan which provides a diversified, stable, and sustaining source of revenue. Through this diversification, we provide opportunities for donors to contribute in a variety of ways and giving levels. Our development plan includes a planned giving program, an endowment, monthly giving options, grants, and corporate sponsorships. Further, we have launched programs that generate revenue from non-traditional fundraising sources, such as our Registered Wonders & Worries Provider program, a training program whereby professionals pay a reoccurring fee to deliver the Wonders & Worries curriculum in their community.

This year, like many other nonprofits, our fundraising events were impacted by COVID-19. To offset these losses, we received a PPP loan in the summer and applied for another one in January. We also received several COVID-19 relief grants, and we ran specific COVID-19-relief campaigns. Although we were unable to host in-person fundraising events in San Antonio this past year, we anticipate that we will host one in the fall and one next spring. We are planning to hire an event planner to coordinate these efforts in San Antonio. We also plan to launch a monthly giving program for San Antonio stakeholders and will be meeting in person with current funders and potential grant funders over the summer.

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

In May, we are reopening our doors to provide face-to-face services again on a limited basis, starting with families who have been waiting for this option. Families that have young children under the age of five, a group that is not easy to support virtually, are one of our target populations for this first phase of reopening. We will also target families that do not have consistent access to broadband internet services. The families will meet face-to-face with a vaccinated child life specialist at the Wonders & Worries office at the START Center for Cancer Care. All group sessions for children and teens, ages 8 - 17, will continue to be virtual for the time being.

Even after we reopen for all families, we will continue to offer virtual support as one of our ongoing options for services. Post-pandemic, families within our service area will work with their primary child life specialist to determine if in-person or virtual/video support is the best fit. We have found that some families prefer the option to meet virtually because it eliminates barriers, such as transportation, to receiving services. It also allows us to extend our geographic range in the region. In the Greater San Antonio area, we are now serving families that live in Bexar, Kendall, Comal, Guadalupe, Wilson, Atascosa, Medina, or Bandera Counties.

**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
Employee Expenses (direct salaried staff to provide services to clients and outreach into the community)	\$53,919	\$17,793	\$49105.57	\$17870.46
Payroll Taxes & Benefits (including health/life insurance)	\$10,784	\$3,559	\$13357.83	\$3574.09
Contract Labor (hourly staff - weekend / evening support)	\$18,460	\$2,398	\$2871.91	\$2643.25
Advertising & Promotion (media, design, promotional items)	\$3,000	\$0	\$238.04	\$0
Information Technology (laptops, software subscriptions)	\$2,190	\$0	\$8909.99	\$0
Office Expense (paper, toner, and miscellaneous supplies)	\$500	\$0	\$53.80	\$0
Printing & Publications	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0

Program Supplies (includes supplies for coping kits/memory boxes/other activities, books related to illness and grief for children and parents [ex. Chill & Spill], and snacks/water)	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$3803.76	\$912.20
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$91,853</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$78,341</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>Signature</b> Alex Gabbi				