

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Believe It Foundation		Federal Tax ID#: 30-0512535		501(c)(3) Public Charity 509 (a)(1)	
Address: 4242 Broadway Street, Suite 706		City: San Antonio		State: TX	
				Zip Code: 78209	
Website: https://www.believeitfoundation.org/		Fax: (210) 313-2514		United Way Funded: No	

Fiscal Year:

January 01 to December 31

Head Of Organization

Name: Andrew McAllister		Title: Founder/Director	
E-Mail Address: andrew.believeit@gmail.com		Phone: (210) 313-2514	

Application Contact

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Has the organization applied to the Najim Charitable Foundation in the past and been declined?

No

Grant Amount Requested \$: \$50,000	Total Project Budget \$: \$288,800	Organization's Annual budget \$: \$377,100
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Mission Statement:

Our purpose is to enrich the lives of physically challenged children through the inclusion of those children in the lives and experiences of those who do not face the same limitations.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title:

Believe It Bikes: Bringing Inclusive Recreation to Children with Physical Challenges

PROJECT TIMELINE

Start Date 08/01/2021	End Date 07/31/2022
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Harvey E. Najim Charitable Foundation Priorities:

Disabilities/Special Needs

Program / Project Description:

Background

Founded in 2008 by Andrew McAllister, the Believe It Foundation has developed and implemented programming to promote inclusion and foster self-confidence in youth with physical challenges for over 13 years. During this time, we have conducted close to 3,000 extracurricular inclusion activities and served over 4,000 with in-school events with their typical peers. Through engaging in experiences like adaptive bike programming at school or attending summer camp with typically able peers, youth with physical challenges report feeling an increased sense of possibility for their lives.

The Believe It Bikes Program

Launched in fall 2017, Believe It Bikes is the Foundation's adaptive bike program designed to engage children ages 3-22 with physical challenges in inclusive recreation. Through Believe It Bikes, we purchase and supply schools with adaptive bikes from Freedom Concepts, a leader in the field of inclusive recreation. We also work with adapted PE staff to launch the complementary Partners in PE program. Partners in PE is an elected mentorship class that pairs adaptive bike users with their typical peers in the physical education setting, helping to further promote inclusion of students with special needs and provide opportunities for participants to learn from each other.

The program has seen great success, as evidenced by an adapted PE Department Head recently writing to us, "We have seen non-disabled peers, teachers, parents, and community members gain new perspectives and respect for those who are different from themselves simply by witnessing or participating with those using adaptive bikes."

Thanks to dedicated school staff, students are not limited to use of the bikes during physical education time. Bikes are used to aid in "transition times" (for example, from the classroom to the lunchroom) and in classrooms with the help of stationary trainers supplied by Believe It Foundation. Additionally, lending agreements allow families of children with physical challenges to "check out" bikes during school holidays and closures.

A 2011 study in the Pediatric Physical Therapy journal finds children with disabilities have lower levels of physical activity due to real or perceived limitations, putting them at higher risk of a variety of health conditions associated with a sedentary lifestyle. In addition to building bridges to inclusion and promoting feelings of self-determination, adaptive bikes provide a critically important outlet for children with physical limitations to access the physical and mental health benefits of exercise.

Our first three school district partners were Harlandale, Edgewood, and Boerne ISDs. Following success with those districts, we conducted an RFP process and selected the following school districts as additional partners:

- Within Bexar County: East Central, Alamo Heights, North East, Judson, Northside, San Antonio, Southside, and Southwest ISDs

- Outside Bexar County: Lytle, New Braunfels, Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City, Somerset, and Kerrville ISDs

The ten Bexar County districts we serve (including existing and new partners) have almost 34,000 students combined in special education, including 2,816 students who are specifically classified as having physical mobility challenges within the special ed program. On average, approximately 67% of students in these districts are classified as economically disadvantaged and 77% are Hispanic/Latino.

And the six districts outside Bexar County have over 4,800 students in special education, with an average of 49% of students in these districts classified as economically disadvantaged and 58% as Hispanic/Latino.

Last summer we hired our first full-time Program Director, William McGinnis. William is an experienced special education and adapted PE professional and is providing the expertise and support we need to execute our bold vision, including deepening school partnerships.

We collect ongoing data on the number of participants in the Believe It Bikes program and in associated Get Active Days and served an estimated 1,400 students between 2017 and 2020 through these efforts.

We also measure our impact through the stories we regularly receive from teachers, families, and students. A Special Education Teacher at Carroll Bell Elementary recently wrote, "The impact of having access to adaptive bikes for my students in Harlandale has been amazing to experience. In 2018, I watched children light up with exuberant joy while their families cried seeing their children ride a bike for the first time. [...] Two years later, incorporating bike riding in our daily routine remains a highlight. Bonus, having our adaptive bikes available to students during distance learning and summer has helped my families continue to have access to an activity many take for granted. Confidence building, independence, freedom, gross motor skills- priceless!"

And a high school student at Lytle ISD- one of our newest partners- said of his experience riding an adaptive bike, "It feels like... Like I'm free."

Our Request

To fulfill our commitment to our existing school district partners, we are seeking to raise the funds to purchase 58 adaptive bikes from Freedom Concepts, at a cost of \$3,500-3,750 per bike. Additionally, we are providing support to launch complementary Partners in PE programs within each partner district and to coordinate free, community-wide Get Active Day events promoting inclusive fitness.

We respectfully request \$50,000 from The Najim Charitable Foundation towards the purchase of adaptive bikes and personnel support for our Program Director. Thank you for your consideration- support from partners like you will enable us to bring inclusive recreation to children across our community!

Evaluation Plan:

We have witnessed the benefits of Believe It Bikes anecdotally time and again over the past four years. As the program grows and matures, our evaluation capabilities are growing and maturing as well. We are in the initial stages of collaborating with Texas A&M University- San Antonio's (TAMU-SA) College of Education & Human Development on a program evaluation for Believe It Bikes. The study will involve professors from the fields of special and general education, kinesiology, and psychology and plans to follow a cohort of Believe It Bikes participants over a few years, measuring items like psychological and physical growth and relationship development.

The TAMU-SA research team is currently finalizing their study design and seeking the appropriate institutional research approvals; they plan to start this year with a comprehensive evaluation of our work with Judson ISD.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

In addition to strengthening our evaluation through the TAMU-SA partnership, we are focused on fostering sustainability throughout our organization. We purchase some of the highest-quality bikes on the market. With routine maintenance these bikes have the potential to last 10+ years. Freedom Concepts has developed a maintenance checklist, and Believe It is working with the districts' shop programs to establish regular maintenance checks.

We are also undertaking a bold and ambitious fundraising effort, in the aim of bringing adaptive bikes to children with physical challenges across our region at no cost. We believe all children deserve access to opportunities like Believe It Bikes and do not want to create barriers by instituting fees associated with the program. We are proud to have 100% Board giving, as well as the support of several foundations noted below. Additionally, we have exceeded recent goals for individual contribution campaigns, including last year's Big Give.

Children Impacted:

How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?	How many unduplicated children will NCF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?
2,250	600

Please provide the percentage of each group below that will be served by the project in which funds are being requested. Do not leave any area blank. If that specific group will not be served, include zero. The percentage should total 100%.

A. Population Served Age		B. Population Served Ethnicity	
Infants (0-5)	0%	African American	3%
Children (6-13)	50%	Asian American	0%
Young Adults (14-18)	50%	Caucasian	30%
TOTAL:	100%	Hispanic/Latino	67%
		Native American	0%
		Other and Define	0%
		TOTAL:	100%

City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:

District1, District2, District3, District4, District5, District6, District7, District8, District9, District10, Outside San Antonio

Counties applicant is in:

Atascosa, Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, Kendall, Kerr, Medina

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
Salaries (Program Director)	\$60,000	\$10,000
Supplies, Printing & Postage	\$2,000	\$0
Get Active Day Events	\$15,000	\$0
Equipment- Bike Purchases	\$208,800	\$40,000
Equipment- Bike Maintenance	\$3,000	\$0
TOTAL:	\$288,800	\$50,000

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

For Project being Requested: Funding sources and amounts, pending and committed.

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Texas Cavaliers Charitable Foundation	\$10,000
James Avery Corporate Foundation	\$25,000
H-E-B Tournament of Champions	\$50,000
TOTAL:	\$85,000

PROJECT - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Charity Ball Association	\$50,000
Semmes Foundation	\$25,000
Gordon Hartman Family Foundation	\$10,000
TOTAL:	\$85,000

Other funding sources and amounts, pending and committed not specific to this request.

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
The Gorman Foundation	\$10,000
Warm Springs Foundation	\$45,000
TOTAL:	\$55,000

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Alamo Kiwanis	\$2,000
The Greehey Family Foundation	\$10,000
The Green Door- San Antonio	\$1,310
TOTAL:	\$13,310

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

What percentage of your board contributes financially to the organization?
100%

If Board giving is not at 100%, please explain why?

How are board members expected to participate in your organization?
Board members are requested to give a meaningful financial contribution, based on their individual circumstances, each year. In addition, members are expected to regularly attend board meetings and special events hosted by the Believe It Foundation.

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Name & Office Held	Corporate Affiliation
John Christie	Turner Construction Company
Brandon Clementson	Presidio Title
Hunter Kingman	Hixon Properties
Andrew McAllister, Chair	Believe It Foundation
David McAllister, Treasurer	Presidio Title
Ross Ormond	Offenhauser & Co
Brooke Peacock	Community Volunteer
Johnny Polk	Community Volunteer
Donna Umhoefer	Northside Independent School District

Signature
Andrew McAllister