

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Blessed Sacrament and Incarnate Word Convent		Federal Tax ID#: 74-1369411	501(c)(3) Public Charity 509 (a)(1)	
Address: 1135 Mission Road	City: San Antonio	State: Texas	Zip Code: 78210	
Website: www.blessedsacramentacademysa.org		Fax: (210) 532-4731	United Way Funded: Yes	

Fiscal Year:
July 01 to June 30

Head Of Organization

Name: Odilia Korenek	Title: Executive Director
E-Mail Address: okorenek@bsasa.org	Phone: (210) 532-4731

Application Contact

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Previous Najim Funding

Year	Funding \$
2007	\$20,000
2009	\$20,000
2017	\$20,000
2018	\$30,000
2019	\$30,000
Total	\$120,000

Has the organization applied to the Najim Charitable Foundation in the past and been declined?
No

Grant Amount Requested \$: \$35,000	Total Project Budget \$: \$150,000	Organization's Annual budget \$: \$1,333,396
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Mission Statement:

To educate and encourage children, youth and families in need. We daily offer hope to the vulnerable, and give them the tools and support to become contributing members of society.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title:

To support Opening a New Learning-Centered Family Engagement Center.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Start Date

06/01/2021

End Date

06/01/2022

Harvey E. Najim Charitable Foundation Priorities:

Education

Education Priorities:

Pre-K

Program / Project Description:

Urban children born in poverty already are labeled from birth as "at risk" for academic failure. They are born in low-income neighborhoods with inadequate property tax bases to support local schools. Their financially struggling families have fewer resources to help their children overcome learning gaps that threaten their future success in school and in life.

Then came a global pandemic, which has only widened learning gaps during a year of stop-start closings. New national studies confirm that at-risk children could end this year as many as 12 months behind other children.

We request \$35,000 to add a new dual generation learning component to help us quickly, effectively close these wider learning gaps for at-risk children - our future. With your gift, we will open a new learning-centered Family Engagement Center created from renovated space inside the Child Development Center at Blessed Sacrament Academy. We will serve a minimum 100 children and 150 parents/caretakers in year one (2,500+ by year 10).

We serve predominantly at-risk Hispanic (89%) children from low-income urban homes. Because 90% of a child's brain has developed by age 5, we serve at-risk children during the critical years of 6 weeks to age 5. Following best national practices, we have helped thousands of at-risk San Antonio children overcome learning gaps before they reach kindergarten.

With your support, we can ensure these deserving children do not fall further behind during this still ongoing pandemic. The Family Engagement Center will engage parents, a child's first teachers, in a proven dual generation approach to maximize learning benefits. Parents without resources at home will find them available free. Parents and/or caretakers will learn how to become active participants in learning-centric activities.

We know these Family Engagement Center activities will be successful, based on other states' dual education programs producing proven, consistently positive outcomes. National reports confirm this approach has proven especially beneficial to at-risk children.

A Sustainable Solution

We offer 32 years of expertise, highly trained staff and instructors, already-enrolled infants and toddlers, and a ready roster of enthusiastic parents. We own and maintain our land and building that will house the center. As our co-investment, we will absorb all costs for staff, utilities, maintenance, sanitation, tracking and reporting.

We already meet COVID-related guidelines for safer learning environments. What we need is a safe, socially distanced inside learning space specifically for dual generation education. This will prove especially welcome during Texas' hot summer months.

At a lowest-bid cost of \$27,974.31, a respected local contractor will renovate an existing large room for ample social distancing, incorporating a design to maximize parent/child learning. This work will include painting, sound insulation, a new dividing wall, code-compliant doors and new storage space, and a split air conditioning/heating system for year-round use.

Code-compliant electrical work will include an exit sign with emergency lights, and new plug outlets, power sources and light fixtures. This bid includes safe removal of all construction debris. Remaining funds will pay for dual generation program materials, printing and dissemination, and expanded online programming to bolster in-person activities.

The 100 infants and toddlers enrolled at the Child Development Center will participate at the Family Engagement Center outside of classroom hours. They will participate with a minimum 150 parents/caretakers in supervised activities using existing learning-centered toys, books and other supplies. The children's older siblings ages 6-12 will participate in some activities.

Parents who can ill afford extra expenses in the middle of a pandemic will not be asked to pay fees or purchase learning supplies. We will offer activities that can be replicated free at home. Parents will learn to be proactive participants in their children's education from the earliest years.

The program will be supervised by our Family Success Academy, which has transitioned from the Parents' Academy. This staff already is trained in parenting and dual generation education, and directly coordinates with experienced Child Development Center instructors and staff.

Our experience and successful outcomes have allowed us to achieve highest 4-Star Texas Rising Star (TRS) ratings for superior quality. We are a longstanding national Early Head Start (EHS) center, and now meet strict national NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) requirements. These three components already make us a model for high-quality early education in the heart of some of San Antonio's poorer urban neighborhoods. We are uniquely positioned to successfully close new pandemic-related learning gaps.

Family outreach already is part of our TRS, EHS and NAEYC programs. Instead of individual home site visits now essentially impossible due to COVID restrictions, we can centralize best practices in one safe location. The new center will be located adjacent to the Child Development Center's kitchens, where we can serve healthy foods during most activities. We will absorb food and kitchen costs.

All pandemic-related building sanitation stations, safety and cleaning protocols already are in place at our building. Portable sanitation stations can be relocated for center activities outside daycare hours.

The Family Engagement Center will become a permanent, sustainable addition to the center - multiplying benefits to children most in need now and in post-pandemic years.

The benefits will be immediate and long-lasting. Even in a pandemic, research shows that at-risk children - with extra support from engaged parents - can overcome learning gaps from their earliest years.

As a community, we all succeed when the youngest among us succeed in learning and in life.

Evaluation Plan:

We use Texas Rising Star, federal Early Head Start and national NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) baseline, tracking and outcomes metrics, which incorporate the effects of direct family engagement to maximize children's learning success. We add proven (qualitative and quantitative) internal evaluation tools in place since the Child Development Center opened in 1989.

We will incorporate national best-practices in reporting and evaluating intergenerational learning program outcomes targeting at-risk children. We will proactively engage administrators, instructors and parents in tracking Family Engagement Center outcomes.

We collect information daily, monthly and quarterly. We prepare and present reports quarterly and annually to program and organization executives, the board and funders. Because we want community members to be stakeholders in high-quality early childhood education that benefits all of San Antonio, we regularly disseminate public information about our work and successes.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

We have a 95-year record of success in sustaining programs at Blessed Sacrament Academy since opening our doors to serve children and their families in need in 1926. The infrastructure changes made possible by this grant will become a permanent addition to a building that is owned and maintained by Blessed Sacrament Academy. Because this is a permanent addition, we expect the minimum 250 children and parents served in year one to total 2,500 children and family members in the first 10 years alone.

The Family Engagement Center, upon completion, will prove a springboard to obtain new intergenerational funding resources. Each year, we seek new funding opportunities to support all programs. Our annual outreach to the public helps us build our local base of volunteers and individual donations. Plans now are under way to establish a permanent endowment fund.

Children Impacted:

How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?	How many unduplicated children will NCF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?
100	100

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)	100%	African American	5%
Children (6-13)	0%	Asian American	2%
Young Adults (14-18)	0%	Caucasian	4%
TOTAL:	100%	Hispanic/Latino	89%
		Native American	0%
		Other and Define	0%
		TOTAL:	100%

City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:

District3

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
Family Engagement Center room inside construction and renovations. Renovating an existing room to create socially distance learning and dual generation activity spaces with storage new inside wall, exit sign with emergency lighting, electrical outlets, AC/heating system for year-round use, painting, door changes to be code compliant. (Bid from B&E Contractors, available upon request	\$27,974	\$27,974

Family Engagement Center program supplies, incl. play-learn rugs, additional toddler chairs, tables, paper, printing for mail home materials, and online materials for seamless engagement of parents between center and home	\$4,500	\$4,500
Contingency funds to cover unanticipated additional expenses in construction, setup	\$2,526	\$2,526
Inside Family Engagement Center prep modifications, incl. replace ceiling tiles and replace sink	\$15,000	\$0
BSA co-investment in salaries, benefits, admin oversight, COVID-related sanitation, cleaning, temperature checks for entry, related equipment, kitchen costs, curriculum integration	\$100,000	\$0
TOTAL:	\$150,000	\$35,000

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

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

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Najim Family Foundation	\$35,000
TOTAL:	\$35,000

PROJECT - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Blessed Sacrament Academy (through budgeted funds)	\$100,000
United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County	\$15,000
TOTAL:	\$115,000

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

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Myra Stafford Pryor Trust	\$25,000
TOTAL:	\$25,000

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County	\$110,000
Valero	\$25,000
Workforce Solutions (U.S. Department of Labor)	\$15,000
The Big Give	\$63,000

Sisters of the Incarnate Word Convent	\$30,000
Pepper Tree for Education Fund	\$12,000
SA CCDS (Child Care Development Services	\$145,000
USDA CACFP Food Subsidy Program	\$45,000
Federal EHS (Early Head Start)	\$277,200
Sisters of the Incarnate Word-Victoria Convent	\$50,000
TOTAL:	\$772,200

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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

How are board members expected to participate in your organization?

The Board provides guidance, leadership and oversight to all Blessed Sacrament Academy programs and administration staff. Each Board member makes an annual financial contribution. Board members contribute and/or raise additional funds for general, unexpected (emergency) and specific project costs. This practice provides a reliable financial cushion to support unexpected expenses, and to sustain new and ongoing projects.

The Board proactively engages in long-term planning. Currently, the Board is working to create a permanent endowment fund for long-term support of all programs. The Board actively participates in planning, funding and participation for all fundraising events. The Board's grant oversight functions include approval of grant project and program progress reports and formal approval of all grant outcomes reports. The Board formally oversees and must approve all budget reports, budgets, audits and other financial reports.

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Name & Office Held	Corporate Affiliation
Sr Kathleen Goike, Board President	Sisters of the Incarnate Word Convent
Sr M Mildred Truchard, Board Vice President	Sisters of the Incarnate Word Convent
Sr M. Geraldine Pavlik, Board Secretary	Sisters of the Incarnate Word Convent
Sr. Agnesine Heinsch, Board Member	Sisters of the Incarnate Word Convent
Sr. M. Mary Theresa Fritz, Board Member	Sisters of the Incarnate Word Convent
Sr. Odilia Korenek, Ad Hoc	Executive Director, Blessed Sacrament Academy
Carol Silva, Ad Hoc	Director, Child Development Center, Blessed Sacrament Academy
Kathy Lozano, Ad Hoc	Director, Family Success Academy

Signature
Sister Odilia Korenek