

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Foster Angels of Central Texas Foundation		Federal Tax ID#: 27-1024497	501(c)(3) Public Charity 509 (a)(1)	
Address: P.O. Box 152575	City: Austin	State: TX	Zip Code: 78715	
Website: www.fosterangelsctx.org		Fax: (512) 732-2329	United Way Funded: No	

Head Of Organization

Name: Tania Leskovar-Owens	Title: Executive Director
E-Mail Address: tania@fosterangelsctx.org	Phone: (512) 723-2329

Application Contact

Name: Tania Leskovar-Owens	Title: Executive Director	E-Mail Address: tania@fosterangelsctx.org	Phone: (512) 723-2329
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Has the organization applied to the Najim Family Foundation in the past and been declined?

No

Grant Amount Requested \$:	Total Project Budget \$:	Organization's Annual budget \$:
\$15,000	\$15,000	\$943,321

Mission Statement:

The mission of Foster Angels of Central Texas is to improve the lives of children in foster care, ensuring that each child has his or her basic needs met, and to provide life-enriching and life-enhancing experiences whenever possible.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title:

To support Direct Assistance for Children in Foster Care in San Antonio

PROJECT TIMELINE

Start Date	End Date
08/01/2019	12/31/2019

Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation Priorities:

Foster Care-Adoption

Program / Project Description:

The work of FACT is critically needed for children in the State's foster care system, because that system is chronically under-funded. In San Antonio, as across the state, foster stipends are inadequate for children's needs and requests for help are often lost in red tape. Those unfamiliar with the foster care system are often surprised to learn of the many things that foster children do without. Many enter care with few personal possessions, and oftentimes they must catch up at new schools. It is critical that we address the needs of these children, who were removed from homes where they were exposed to trauma including physical, emotional and sexual abuse, severe neglect, homelessness and parental drug abuse. In fact, some 28,000 children in foster care age out of the system every year with no family and with little to no support, and many without having the gained the skills and strengths that would enable them to live a satisfying and independent adult life. Sadly, a high percentage of these children will drop out of school, become homeless and struggle with unemployment and poverty.

Foster Angels is active year-round; we work closely with caseworkers from Child Protective Services to identify each child's needs and areas where we might provide life-enhancing opportunities to help create a sense of belonging and normalcy during this difficult time in a child's life. Funding is utilized immediately to fulfill the most urgent gaps in the care of children and youth in foster care. Our simple and effective model means we are able to respond quickly - generally within 48 hours - when a child's need is greatest, and when we can have the greatest positive impact upon their life and future. This is in contrast to the state's under-funded and cumbersome child welfare system which takes weeks or months to process requests, and sometimes does not respond affirmatively at all. Our program has expanded yearly since it was founded in 2010, and to-date we have served over 24,000 children and youth.

Having learned that there is no similar organization serving San Antonio's children, we seek to expand our successful program to include approximately 50 children who are living in the San Antonio metro area. We will assist San Antonio's children in fulfilling their basic needs and for enrichment activities and resources that help create an essential feeling of normalcy. Basic needs will include food, clothing and footwear, and our shelter category which includes beds, mattresses, and bedding. Items will range from a new pair of sneakers to a set of bunk beds.

The other category for which we seek support encompasses the normal, age-appropriate activities and experiences that are too often lacking in children's lives when they are living in state care. As stated in a report from a Roundtable recently convened by the State Children's Commission, "Normalcy for Children and Youth in Foster Care," a sense of normalcy is critical to a child's healthy socio-emotional development. Activities which promote normalcy may include cultural and other enrichment activities, and extracurricular activities, both in school and out-of-school. As stated by the Roundtable Report, "Without normalcy, foster care can be a stigmatizing and isolating experience. Normalcy has an immediate impact on day-to-day activities but also factors into strengthening mental health and resilience for children in foster care, preventing runaways from foster care, and building opportunities for safe and trusting relationships." We reinforce feelings of normalcy by helping these children to participate fully in life: without our help, many would never have birthday parties or holiday gifts, explore the world outside their neighborhoods, or have the opportunity to play baseball, join the school band, or attend a school dance.

Our organization operates with low overhead costs, with a small staff, engaging dozens of volunteers, so that 100% of a grant from the Najim Family Foundation will be used entirely to help children in foster care in San Antonio, providing the kinds of interventions, supports, and enrichment programs that allow these at-risk children to realize their full potential. A grant of \$15,000 would allow us to assist approximately 50 children and youth. We cannot predict exact amounts for the requests we will receive from area caseworkers, one of our organization's strengths is that we have the ability to respond to changing needs, such as making up for another organization's reduced funding. We also seek to respond fully to each child's needs; Foster Angels is focused on the quality of the request versus the quantity of requests we fill. For example, we might assist a child more than once and/or provide more funding that we originally allotted as we learn more about a child or family's needs.

We would be honored to have the support of the Najim Family Foundation as we seek to improve the quality of life and positive futures for some of San Antonio's most vulnerable youth.

Evaluation Plan:

FACT collects detailed data on all incoming requests, and tracks referrals and in-kind donations. This allows our staff to track progress toward goals and determine areas where needs are growing or changing in our service population. We have specific metrics we collect including age, sex, region, placement type and request type so that we can then see where gaps and opportunities lie as we plan for the following year. Staff is in close communication with caseworkers to gain valuable feedback on program operations, and changes and trends in the needs of foster care youth, as well as to avoid replicating services if other sources of support become available such as governmental funding. We maintain close communication with the community, in order to identify gaps and where we can become involved in order to provide much-needed resources.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

As part of our plan to sustain our services after the term of this request, we will develop partnerships with other organizations that support children in San Antonio foster care, and leverage in-kind donations and discounts so that these will provide continued support for our programs. As we successfully expand to serve children in foster care in San Antonio, and collect data on our services for area children, we will strengthen future applications to funding sources in the metro area. Our dedicated board will provide additional guidance on and connections to sources of continued support, such as the local business community. In effect, we will replicate the successful sustained-funding model that we developed to serve the greater Austin area to ensure we are able to help San Antonio's children in the future.

Children Impacted:

How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?

50

How many unduplicated children will NFF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?

50

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)	38%	African American	7%
Children (6-13)	42%	Asian American	1%
Young Adults (14-18)	20%	Caucasian	16%
TOTAL:	100%	Hispanic/Latino	72%
		Native American	0%
		Other and Define	4%
		TOTAL:	100%

City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:

District1, District2, District3, District4, District5, District6, District7, District8, District9, District10

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
Basic Needs - Food, Clothing, Beds and Bedding	\$10,000	\$10,000
Enrichment Activities to Promote Normalcy	\$5,000	\$5,000
TOTAL:	\$15,000	\$15,000

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

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

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
None provided	\$0
TOTAL:	\$0

PROJECT - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
None provided	\$0
TOTAL:	\$0

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

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Austin Junior Forum	\$10,000
In-N-Out Burger Foundation	\$5,000
Network for Good	\$5,000
Seawell Elam Foundation	\$10,000
Topfer Family Foundation	\$5,000
TOTAL:	\$35,000

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Carl and Marie Jo Anderson Foundation	\$20,000
Ed Rachal Foundation	\$45,000
Texas Stars Foundation	\$5,000
Lola Wright Foundation	\$15,000
TOTAL:	\$85,000

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 expected to attend quarterly Board meetings (at least 3 out of 4). At these meetings, the Board reviews progress toward goals, fundraising plans and determines any needed changes in operations. The Board also sets annual goals. Members are also expected to attend our annual luncheon and financially support one of our program areas (including our Back to School drive, Youth Fishing Trip, Toys for Teens at the holidays, daily request fulfillment, etc.).

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Name & Office Held	Corporate Affiliation
JJ Gottsch, President	Ryan Sanders Baseball
M P Mueller, Vice President	Mueller Marketing
Blair McBride, Secretary	Keller Williams Realty
Jon Berry, Treasurer	Pacific Western Bank

Signature

Tania Leskovar-Owens