FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name:	Federal Tax ID#:	501(c)(3) Public Charity
THRU Project	46-3961089	509 (a)(1)

Address:	City:	State:	Zip Code:
8103 BROADWAY ST STE 201	SAN ANTONIO	TX	78209-1970

Website:	Fax:	United Way Funded:
www.thruproject.org	(210) 683-9536	No

Fiscal Year:

January 01 to December 31

Head Of Organization

Name:	Title:
Elaine Andries Hartle	CEO
E-Mail Address:	**Phone:**
elainehartle@thruproject.org	(210) 683-9536

Application Contact

Name:	Title:	E-Mail Address:	Phone:
Gabriella Franklin	Fund Development Manager	gabriella@thruproject.org	(210) 618-5132

Previous Najim Funding

Year	Funding $
2016	$11,000
2018	$12,000
Total	$23,000

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

Yes

Grant Amount Requested $:	Total Project Budget $:	Organization's Annual budget $:
$39,950	$114,950	$622,867

Mission Statement:

To help foster youth overcome the challenges of growing up in the foster care system by providing guidance, support and advocacy in order to prepare them for life after foster care.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title:

To support the Fostering Connection program providing technology to youth aging out of foster care attending higher education.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Start Date	End Date

08/01/2020	08/31/2021

Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation Priorities:

Foster Care-Adoption

Program / Project Description:

Every year, over of 20,000 youth exit the foster care system in the United States. Of those, 1,500 enter Texas. According the DFPS site there are currently 1221 foster youth in Bexar County currently, ages 14-23. Sadly, these are not new statistics and while we cannot control the number of youths who age out of the foster care system, we are working hard to improve their lives. THRU Project's goal is that every foster youth who exits care does not do so alone. Without support, these youth face harsh realities with little chance at becoming successful independent adults. At the age of 18 former foster youth are expected to understand the intricacies of finding resources and obtaining vital services they need. Given that many age out of the foster care system without stable housing, little education, or job training, it is no wonder that they often find themselves homeless, unemployed, incarcerated or re-victimized. Youth in the foster care system often face a reality of constant upheaval; moving from placement to placement. This constant state of movement reduces any ability to create a solid foundation as new caseworkers come and go and a new placement often means a new school causing youth to lose touch with friends and other family members. Once a youth ages out of the foster care system they lack long term connections, support system or even a single person to whom they can rely and seek advice and help from. Forced to navigate adulthood alone, youth often struggle to find and acquire the resources they are entitled. A weak educational background and unreliable transportation only further hampers a youth's ability to find and maintain steady employment causing an increased likelihood of experiencing homelessness and incarceration than that of their non-foster care peers. COVID-19 pushed the world online, youth were forced to source resources, continue school, stay informed and updated, keep connected to family and friends, find jobs all while trying to find a way to access the internet; shining a huge light on the digital gap our foster and former foster youth face. In mid 2018, the Rivard Report published a recent study that ranked the top worst connected cities in the US; San Antonio came in 42nd with only 37.49% of households accessing internet services and results from a youth focus group showed that in fact many of our youth lacked consistent access to technology. Given that consistent access to technology is largely determined by socioeconomic status and household makeup it is no wonder that foster youth have sporadic at best access to technology. Among the many barriers that foster youth must overcome, their limited access to technology has a direct effect not only the way that they consume information but also hampers their ability to thrive, by making maintaining connections, finding employment, successfully participate in education, and accessing resources incredibly difficult. Like the rest of the world, we too, moved to remote work, utilized zoom and other meeting platforms to meet "face to face" with our youth. We began hosting life-skills workshops online, allowing youth to continue learn, connect and meet with other foster youth and explore the world virtually. Unfortunately, we know that most of our youth under 18 have not been able to take advantage of these opportunities. We propose an expansion our current program to provide smart phone service to all THRU Project youth, provide those attending higher education with laptops and create a computer lab in our offices, so that any youth who needs access, finally, has it. Of our youth who currently receive cell phone service 100% report improvement in maintaining relationships as well as over 80% increased work and education participation and feeling of increased personal safety. We believe removing this barrier we can level the playing field in which our youth must compete but dramatically improve not only their ability to fully participate in their education by finally being able to utilize tools that are readily available to their non foster peers. Additionally, by maintaining connections with family members and friends, their overall emotional wellbeing will improve. As the statistics improve steadily for this population, our youth find a renewed self-worth, learn life skills, and feel a sense of community and belonging as they solidify foundations and create a social network of friends and family. We not only seek positive change in the individuals with whom we interact, but we believe our young adults, if provided the tools and support services they need to transition into adulthood, have the ability to impact positive generational change for our community.

Evaluation Plan:

To ensure the efficiency of our program, we utilize monthly mentor surveys and regular individual face to face meetings with youth. The indicators we use for determining success are:
*50% increase in mentor and youth match lengths greater than 6 months
*90% high school graduation rate of youth 18 years or younger
*45% enrollment in higher or continuing education courses after graduation
*98% youth participation in life-skills workshops

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

This program element is important, so to ensure the sustainability of this program, we will provide proof of concept along with successful outcomes in order to obtain corporate, community and foundation sponsorship. In addition to seek funding from the before mentioned entities, we will allocate a portion of our operating funds received from individual donors and fundraising events for this program.

Children Impacted:

How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?	How many unduplicated children will NFF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?
181	75

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	17%
Children (6-13)	0%	Asian American	0%
Young Adults (14-18)	100%	Caucasian	15%
TOTAL:	**100%**	Hispanic/Latino	56%
		Native American	1%
		Other and Define	11%
		TOTAL:	**100%**

City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:

District8

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
Personnel	$32,000	$0
Supplies	$2,500	$0
Cell Phone	$61,732	$37,950
Equipment - Laptops, Desktop computers, Printers, Desks	$16,318	$2,000
TOTAL:	**$112,550**	**$39,950**

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

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

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
ImpactSA	$75,000
TOTAL:	**$75,000**

PROJECT - COMMITTED	
Funder Name	**Amount Requested**
None	$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**
San Antonio Area Foundation	$25,000
Bank of America RFP	$50,000
United Way Emergency Food & Shelter Program	$51,194
SARAH YHDP	$443,322
TOTAL:	**$569,516**

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED	
Funder Name	**Amount Requested**
None	$0
TOTAL:	**$0**

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?

THRU Project board members volunteer knowing they are joining a "working" board. They are required participate in at least one committee, foster positive relationships with community members and donors.

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS	
Name & Office Held	**Corporate Affiliation**
Kent Roach	Board Chair
Sha-Rone Reyes	Vice Chair
Tom Martin	Treasurer
Helen Bryan	Former Chair
Steve O'Donnell	
Glenda Raichlen	
Anne Gerber	
Shelly Chance	
Jessica Johnson	
Verina Martin	
Ken Thompson	
Lauren Wert	
Sarah Donahue	

Rachel Moreau Davila	
Erika Specia Anderson	
James Carter	
Signature Elaine Andries Hartle	