

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: CASA of Central Texas, Inc.		Federal Tax ID#: 74-2403373		501(c)(3) Public Charity	
Address: 1619 E Common St Ste 301		City: New Braunfels		State: Texas	
				Zip Code: 78130	
Website: www.casacentex.org		Fax: (830) 626-2272		United Way Funded: Yes	

Fiscal Year:

July 01 to June 30

Head Of Organization

Name: Norma Castilla-Blackwell		Title: Executive Director	
E-Mail Address: nblackwell@casacentex.org		Phone: (830) 626-2272	

Application Contact

Name: Tricia Schneider	Title: Development Director	E-Mail Address: bhuff@casacentex.org	Phone: (830) 626-2272
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Previous Najim Funding

Year	Funding \$
2008	\$20,000
2009	\$25,000
2010	\$25,000
2011	\$25,000
2012	\$25,000
2013	\$30,000
2014	\$35,000
2015	\$35,000
2016	\$40,000
2017	\$40,000
2018	\$45,000
2019	\$45,000
Total	\$390,000

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 \$:
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\$75,000	\$366,905	\$1,957,837
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Mission Statement:

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Central Texas envisions a world where every child thrives in a safe, stable and loving home.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title:

To support General operations to recruit, train and support community volunteers and staff for Comal and Guadalupe Counties.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Start Date	End Date
10/01/2020	09/30/2021

Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation Priorities:

Child Abuse & Child Neglect

Program / Project Description:

Formed in 1985 as the third CASA program in Texas, CASA of Central Texas is the only court-appointed organization that provides child abuse awareness and prevention services in Comal and Guadalupe Counties. CASACenTex advocates for abused and neglected children by empowering dedicated and highly trained community volunteers who represent the children in the courts, schools and child welfare system where individual attention is often scarce. Today, following the original model of volunteer representation, CASACenTex is appointed as Guardian ad Litem (GAL) to provide core services of advocacy for the medical, educational, mental health, permanency, and placement for children who are currently in foster care. Trained volunteers are available for newborns, children, and youth up 17 years: male/female/transgender/non-binary, of all races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic statuses. We also serve young adults 18+ who are transitioning out of foster care into independent living. CASACenTex has a non-discrimination policy, and we strive to recruit volunteers of diverse backgrounds and experiences, so that they can reflect the diversity of children we serve in this community.

As the COVID-19 virus rages in a time of unprecedented uncertainty for us all, it is critical that the most vulnerable among us - children who have experienced abuse and neglect - are not forgotten and that their well-being is protected. While the doors shut out the virus, the reality is the majority of children that experience various types of abuse and neglect suffer from someone in their own family unit. The challenge to protect our kids has never been greater! CASA of Central Texas respectfully requests \$75,000 for the 2020-2021 funding cycle to be allocated for operations in Comal and Guadalupe Counties, specifically to recruit, train and supervise citizen volunteers who provide direct services to abused and neglected children placed in temporary and permanent conservatorship (foster care) with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Should we be fortunate to again merit your confidence, your gift will complement and/or provide matching funds to other grants, such as VOCA (Victims of Crime Act), OVAG (Other Victims Assistance Grant), and CVC (Crime Victims Compensation).

The counties in our service area have experienced explosive growth accompanied by a disturbing increase in child abuse as a community presence. According to the US Census "Quick Facts," from 2010-2019, the population in Comal County increased by 48.4% and Guadalupe County by 26.9%. With growth comes great prosperity for some, desperation for others. For single parents and families who battle poverty and may be in the throes of addiction, unable or unwilling to offer their children a stable environment in which to thrive, CASA can be a lifeline. These children have already experienced multiple traumas in their lives, and CASA is committed to ensuring their trauma is not compounded by abandonment when their need is greatest. During 2019, there were 332 confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect in Comal County and 349 children in TDFPS care: CASACenTex was privileged to serve 224 children, but that left 125 without a CASA advocate. Also during 2019, there were 366 confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect in Guadalupe County and 312 who were in the protective custody of the state: CASACenTex served 75 of these children, which left 237 without an advocate to be their "voice." Our goal is to serve 100% of the children need us!

CASACenTex offers one type of service: to advocate for children who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned and placed in protective care of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Our overarching focus is the safety, permanency and well-being of children and youth. Because CASA volunteers are knowledgeable about every facet of each child's life - family, school, friends, prior foster placements, successes and challenges in their lives - courts have detailed information about a child's situation and can make more informed recommendations and decisions.

CASA volunteers bring three critical qualities to their work: they focus on one case at a time; they bring a unique perspective to the court case; and their sole objective is to represent the best interests of the child. Sworn-in volunteers each provide 100+ donated casework hours (per year), including monthly (now virtual) face-to-face visits with children, written court reports, and court testimony; phone calls and meetings with CPS caseworkers, school professionals, medical and mental health professionals. Advocacy for older youth in our transitioning foster youth program aims to improve confidence and outcomes through mentoring, guidance, and encouragement as they prepare for independent living. They are invited to proactively participate in defining their life goals (e.g., employment, high school/GED completion and higher education) in preparation for the next chapter of their lives as young adults.

In the midst of this pandemic, the Child Protection Courts are swiftly appointing CASACenTex to almost all incoming cases. We follow a scalable model to quickly expand services and are poised to recruit and train volunteers to assist 56 new volunteers to serve 105 (80 Comal, 25 Guadalupe) new children with services detailed in the evaluation plan.

Evaluation Plan:

As we meet myriad challenges presented by COVID-19, we vow to be nimble, flexible and innovative, utilizing a secure Virtual Private Network (VPN) and state-of-the-art digital communication technologies. CASACenTex will recruit, train and support volunteers to provide direct services to children who have been removed from their homes due to physical and sexual abuse, neglect or abandonment and placed in temporary protective care with TDFPS.

During 10/01/20 - 9/30/21, CASACenTex will serve 305 children (105 new appointments) from Comal and Guadalupe Counties.

- 1) We will recruit, train, supervise, and support 169 total volunteer advocates.
- 2) We will offer and facilitate 10 PSVT (Pre-Service Volunteer Training) classes and participate in 380 community engagement activities (social media, street banners, press releases) and information sessions/presentations, which are now all virtual.
- 3) We will provide Continuing Education to staff and volunteers through six local classes (10 hours) and provide volunteer advocates with three appreciation/retention events.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

The financial outlook for CASACenTex is cautiously optimistic. While none of our funding sources is 100% guaranteed beyond 1-2 years, the COVID-19 epidemic has resulted in more volatility and uncertainty than in previous years. Although our largest annual fundraiser and subsequent smaller events were canceled, we are excited about the special 24-hour online BIG GIVE scheduled for 9/10/20 and our annual golf tournament - WHOLE LOTTA LOVE - scheduled for 10/26-27. We continue to work with community agencies and engage new supporters and partnerships to maintain the program's long-term sustainability. As we seek diverse funding from public and private sources, including federal, state, and local governments, foundation grants, and contributions from corporations, churches, civic groups and individuals, we recognize that everyone is facing unprecedented health and financial challenges wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful for all gifts entrusted to us!

Children Impacted:

How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?	How many unduplicated children will NFF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?
305	61

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)	31%	African American	3%
Children (6-13)	43%	Asian American	0%
Young Adults (14-18)	26%	Caucasian	35%
TOTAL:	100%	Hispanic/Latino	54%
		Native American	0%
		Other and Define	8%
		TOTAL:	100%

City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:

Outside San Antonio

Counties applicant is in:

Comal, Guadalupe

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
Executive Director	\$100,225	\$15,000
Development Director	\$83,900	\$11,000
Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator	\$55,000	\$12,500
Development Coordinator	\$46,500	\$13,500
Administrative Coordinator	\$39,000	\$12,500
Program Coordinator	\$34,280	\$7,500
Audit	\$8,000	\$3,000
TOTAL:	\$366,905	\$75,000

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

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

PROJECT - PENDING	
Funder Name	Amount Requested
Najim Family Foundation	\$75,000
United Way Guadalupe County	\$5,000
United Way Comal County	\$6,000
Burdine Johnson Foundation	\$25,000
In-N-Out Burger-Comal County	\$5,000
Valero Foundation	\$5,000
Guadalupe County	\$5,000
Corporate Donations	\$30,000
Fundraising	\$123,905
TOTAL:	\$279,905
PROJECT - COMMITTED	
Funder Name	Amount Requested
Baptist Health Foundation	\$4,000
Kronkosky Charitable Foundation	\$63,000
McKenna Foundation	\$20,000
TOTAL:	\$87,000
Other funding sources and amounts, pending and committed not specific to this request.	
ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING	
Funder Name	Amount Requested
Comal County	\$1,000
County Jury Fees - 4 counties	\$20,000
United Way-Hays County	\$10,000
Designated United Way	\$9,000
Board Member Contributions	\$17,000
Individual Donations	\$107,000
Church/Civic	\$37,500
Comal Cops for Kids	\$5,000
Christus Santa Rosa	\$25,000
GVTC	\$15,000
Meadows Foundation	\$50,000
Tomblin Foundation	\$10,000
TOTAL:	\$306,500
ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED	
Funder Name	Amount Requested
New Braunfels CDBG	\$67,330
San Marcos CDBG	\$106,500
Attorney General-OVAG	\$42,000

Texas CASA-VOCA	\$365,826
Texas CASA-CVC	\$222,106
Caldwell County	\$5,000
Hays County	\$40,000
City of Buda	\$5,000
City of Lockhart	\$4,000
City of San Marcos	\$18,000
Carl C Anderson Charitable Foundation	\$10,000
San Antonio Area Foundation	\$25,000
St. Luke's Lutheran Health Ministries	\$15,000
Texas Bar Foundation	\$10,000
Topfer Family Foundation	\$5,000
Texas CASA -CVC Growth	\$50,000
	\$0
	\$0
TOTAL:	\$990,762

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?

We are blessed with a generous and very active Board of Directors from each of the four counties that we serve. They conduct and record meetings on a monthly basis and are responsible for the oversight of legal, compliance and regulatory issues; personnel policy and procedures; financial affairs and resource development. They were instrumental in the recent capital campaign for our new 6,000sf Training & Support Center in San Marcos, first by leading with their own significant contributions, then by engaging others that spurred additional gifts from individuals, corporations, organizations, and foundations. Expectations include regular attendance at meetings and serving as a voting member; developing organizational policies and procedures; monitoring and evaluating finances, programs and performance; securing and providing meaningful financial support; representing CASACenTex in the community; and evaluating board performance. Members serve a three-year term, with consecutive terms approved by the Board.

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Name & Office Held	Corporate Affiliation
David Pfeifer, President	Constellation Energy
Becky Lake, Vice President	Retired
Frank Pereira, Treasurer	Broadway Bank
Charles	Keboeaux, Hargroder & Associates, LLP
Jo Anne C. Germer, Past President	Farming Manager/Farming Operation
Angela	The Pour Haus and Downtown Social
Seth Worley, Board Member	Cypress Creek Church

Whitney Vaughn, Board Member	Bimbo Bakeries
Hollis W. Burklund, Board Member	Law Office of Hollis W. Burklund
Susan K. Russell, Board Member	Huisache Grill
Jennifer Martin-Rider, Board Member	Guadalupe Family Health, P.A.
Signature	