

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION			
Organization Information			
Legal Name: Open Trail Ranch Inc.	Federal Tax ID#: 38-3875160	501(c)(3) Public Charity 509 (a)(1)	
Address: 28710 Boerne Stage Rd	City: Boerne	State: TX	Zip Code: 78006
Website: www.opentrailranch.org	Fax: (210) 373-6452	United Way Funded: No	
Fiscal Year: January 01 to December 31			
Head Of Organization			
Name: Kate Vasquez		Title: Executive Director/Founder	
E-Mail Address: kate@opentrailranch.org		Phone: (210) 373-6452	
Application Contact			
Name: Kate Vasquez	Title: Executive Director	E-Mail Address: kate@opentrailranch.org	Phone: (210) 367-8248
Has the organization applied to the Najim Charitable Foundation in the past and been declined? Yes 2020			
Grant Amount Requested \$: \$15,000	Total Project Budget \$: \$88,568	Organization's Annual budget \$: \$266,250	
Mission Statement: Our Therapeutic Horsemanship programs help those with special needs of all kinds reach their highest potential, gain self confidence and self esteem through equine-oriented activities and therapies.			
PROJECT INFORMATION			
Program / Project Title: To support the addition of a metal covering over the horse arena to allow special needs children to have continuous equine therapy during inclement weather.r.			
PROJECT TIMELINE			
Start Date 01/01/2022		End Date 12/31/2022	
Harvey E. Najim Charitable Foundation Priorities: Disabilities/Special Needs			
Program / Project Description: Open T.R.A.I.L. Ranch (OTR) reduces the barriers to opportunities for individuals struggling to meet developmental milestones to practice improving life skills, such as social communication and independence,			

to be a functioning and contributing member of our community. Individuals with mental or physical disabilities are often resistant to talk therapy; as a result, they are severely limited on safe spaces to address emotions and through direct experience and nonverbal communication. Many of our participants lack friends

within their age group & the ability to join typical extracurricular activities, leaving them isolated and at risk for both physical (obesity) and mental health issues. OTR provides opportunities to foster and develop meaningful relationships with their equine, peers and volunteers.

Equine therapy involves more than riding the horse; the therapist/instructor leading the session will set goals specific to the client for the client to complete, such as leading the horse to a designated area. The client

will complete the task to the best of their ability, and then discuss their thought process, ideas and solutions used to complete the task. Not only is there communication between the handler and the instructor, but also between the handler and the horse. Horses are sensitive to movement and emotion, often mirroring a client's behavior or emotions, conveying understanding and connection that allows the client to feel safe. Horses are not biased by client's physical appearance or past mistakes which increases self-esteem and self-confidence. This also allows for clients to maintain a sense of self-awareness, using the horse's behavior and interactions for feedback. We seek to continuously develop and increase our services to provide opportunities for a woefully underserved portion of the population in our community in desperate need of connection and a safe space to practice social skills to flourish and reach their full potential.

The Covered Arena Project would be the addition of a metal roof that will allow us to continue conducting our scheduled riding therapies in inclement weather without halt or cancellations. The roof would be 70' wide

x 120' long x 16' 8" high to fully cover one of our existing arenas and our wheelchair mounting ramp. Total Project Budget is quoted at \$88,568. Included in the budget are the necessary materials, labor and equipment

for the construction of the 70' x 120' x 16'-8" arena cover. These include high grade materials to ensure that the cover will be long lasting and provide the safest environment possible for our riders. Materials will include 13 piers, 26ga galvalume finish roof panels and the structure will withstand wind speeds of up to 115 mph.

We currently offer 4 types of programs and therapies in the arena: Therapeutic Horsemanship, Hippotherapy, Adaptive Fitness and Equine Assisted Learning. We recognize that the key to success for our riders is consistency within their therapies. Most cancellations at our facility are due to rain; interruptions in scheduled therapies are detrimental to our student's treatment and rate of retention. Rain in particular causes damage to our arena by washing away all of the sand necessary for safe horse and volunteer footing. Even after the rain has stopped, riding operations can continue to be closed down for several days due to a wet arena. The arena sand must be completely dry to ensure the safety of our riders, volunteers and horses. Additionally, the Texas heat is of concern to our riders, especially while wearing masks due to COVID-19. The

average temperatures in the summer are in the high 90's, often reaching the low 100's. This project would not only allow us to continue operations in the heat but will also completely eliminate drying time for the arena due to rain, a momentous asset to our programs and facility.

From Jan through Dec of 2018, 371 riding lessons were cancelled due to inclement weather. In March 2019, 190 riding lessons were cancelled due to rain. With the covered arena project we expect a drastic decrease in cancelations due to weather, increasing consistency within therapies for those enrolled in our vital programs. Riders that frequently miss their riding lessons exhibit a delay in progress. This may result in a particular lesson needing to be taught multiple times due to a lack of retention. Many riders also show signs of regression with motor planning, balance and core strength and may continually lose focus throughout their lessons, which can add greater stress to our riders and their families. A parent of one of our participants said, "My boys ask every time it starts raining if it will mean that they cannot ride this week. For them, their sessions play a very important role to their overall decrease in anxiety and ability to function at school and out in the world." Regression for our students can mean taking longer to achieve everyday things that we take for granted. Another mother said, "For my daughter, missing riding means that she doesn't get to stretch her muscles in the very special way that her horse does for her. Each ride provides her easier mobility and increased strength to meet her goal of unassisted walking." Greater consistency in riding lessons will tremendously impact student retention of vital life skills and decreases the risk of regression.

Evaluation Plan:

As each therapy program is created specific to each individual's current stage and abilities, results are varied. However, our general goals are as follows:

- o 80% of our participants will indicate increased confidence, self-esteem, assertiveness, emotional regulation, and resourcefulness
- o 75% of participants will indicate a greater level of self-esteem and increased sense of purpose
- o 70% of participants will have developed a keener awareness of their surroundings, community and peers
- o 80% of participants will feel better prepared to overcome fear and anxiety
- o 75% of participants will indicate their relations and communication have improved with others

Results will be tracked and assessed via an annual survey distributed in December.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

We are seeking additional funding from other foundations/grants in an effort to raise all funds necessary for total completion of the project at the end of this year. Once the project has been completed, the cover will require little to no maintenance expenses and will be fully insured. During last FY we launched the Horse Sponsorship program for 2021, expected to increase income by 15%.

Children Impacted:

<p>How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?</p> <p>60</p>	<p>How many unduplicated children will NCF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?</p> <p>60</p>
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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)	3%	African American	0%
Children (6-13)	62%	Asian American	5%
Young Adults (14-18)	35%	Caucasian	67%
TOTAL:	100%	Hispanic/Latino	17%
		Native American	3%
		Other and Define	8%
		TOTAL:	100%

City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:

District6, Outside San Antonio

Counties applicant is in:

Bexar, Kendall, Medina

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
Covered Arena - Building size: 70' x 120' x 16'-8" Double Slope 1:12	\$88,568	\$15,000
TOTAL:	\$88,568	\$15,000

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

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

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Community Foundation	\$10,000
PEC Foundation	\$5,000
Mays Family Foundation	\$30,000
Judy Calder Foundation	\$10,000
TOTAL:	\$55,000

PROJECT - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
	\$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
	\$0
TOTAL:	\$0

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Wheelers Big Win Fundraiser	\$5,000
Fiesta Medal Fundraiser	\$3,000

Subaru Share The Love 2018	\$5,000
Judy Calder Foundation	\$10,000
Valero 2019	\$10,000
TOTAL:	\$33,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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

How are board members expected to participate in your organization?
OTR's board members are expected to uphold and further OTR's mission by advocating for our organization within their line of work and social communities, while also carrying out their duties required by their listed position. Board members are expected to attend regular board meetings and assist in fundraisers and future planning of the organization. Board members are also expected to continually educate themselves on ways to actively serve OTR as well as bringing forth ideas on ways to increase donation and financial streams. Most importantly, board members are expected to keep continuous and open communication with OTR's executive staff to ensure fiscal responsibility and effective operations.

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Name & Office Held	Corporate Affiliation
Kate Vasquez, President	Executive Director
Lisa M. Reyes, Vice President	Business Owner
Lauren McDonald, Secretary/Treasurer	Small Business Owner
Sherry Rosser-Carroll, Board Member	Advertising & Marketing Specialist
Homer C. Reyes, M.D., Board Member	Medical Director of the Wound Care and Hyperbaric Department at St. Luke's Baptist Hospital
Annick Marshall, Board Member	Business Owner
Kurt Kraus, Advisory Board Member	Program Manager/Triumph Group Aerospace
Margaret Kraus, Advisory Board Member	Retired Vice President/Land America Financial Services
Maureen Concklin, Advisory Board Member	Clinical Research Management
Pam McGonagill, Advisory Board Member	Bookkeeper
Dr. Sara Grose, Advisory Board Member	Equine Veterinarian
Kevin Tate, Advisory Board Member	Equine Farrier

Signature
Kate Vasquez