

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION			
Organization Information			
Legal Name: San Antonio Youth Literacy	Federal Tax ID#: 74-2325098	501(c)(3) Public Charity 509 (a)(1)	
Address: 1616 E. Commerce, Building 2	City: San Antonio	State: TX	Zip Code: 78205
Website: www.sayl.org	Fax: (210) 299-1533	United Way Funded: No	
Head Of Organization			
Name: Dr. Deborah L. Valdez, Ed.D.		Title: Executive Director	
E-Mail Address: deborah.valdez@sayl.org		Phone: (210) 299-1533	
Application Contact			
Name: Patricia Medina	Title: Development Director	E-Mail Address: pat.medina@sayl.org	Phone: (210) 299-1533
Previous Najim Funding			
Year	Funding \$		
2017	\$30,000.00		
2016	\$20,000.00		
2015	\$15,000.00		
2014	\$15,000.00		
2013	\$10,000.00		
2012	\$15,000.00		
2011	\$15,000.00		
2008	\$15,000.00		
2007	\$10,000.00		
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 \$:	
\$65,000	\$251,015	\$381,431	
Mission Statement:			
To provide individualized support to children in San Antonio by empowering them with the skills needed to "read to learn" while fostering self-confidence and an enjoyment of reading.			
PROJECT INFORMATION			
Program / Project Title:			

To Support and expand the "Reading Buddy" Early Literacy Program, which is designed to utilize volunteer reading tutors to assist elementary students who are struggling to read on grade level for 2018-2019 school year.

Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation Priorities:

Education

Program / Project Description:

Strong literacy skills are essential for children to be able to recognize and retain information and are most closely associated with success in schools. Ongoing studies released by The Annie E. Casey Foundation (2017 Kids Count Data Book-State Trends in Child Well-Being) reveal that the level of reading skills children develop by third grade point toward their likelihood of graduating high school. The study indicates that students who do not read proficiently by third grade are four times more likely to leave school without a diploma when compared to proficient readers. The number rises when those children come from poverty. Donald J. Hernandez, Sociology Professor at Hunter College at the City University of New York indicates that third grade is a pivot point. "We teach reading for the first three grades and then after that children are not so much learning to read but using their reading skills to learn other topics. In that sense if you haven't succeeded by 3rd grade it's more difficult to [remediate] than it would have been if you started before then." (Education Week Blog, Feb. 2018)

SAYL's Reading Buddy Program is designed to address child literacy through providing elementary school-aged children currently reading below grade level, and therefore under achieving when compared to their peers. The organization works with local elementary schools, teachers and reading specialists to identify children at risk of school failure due to poor reading skills. Students in the program attend Title 1 schools. Title 1 is a designation by the federal government given to a school in which at least 40% of the school's students are from low-income families and who qualify under the United States Census's definition of low-income, according to the U.S. Department of Education. The schools currently participating in the program exceed this designation, with a poverty rate of 50%-80% of their households in the low-income category. Schools SAYL serves in the San Antonio Independent School district have an average rate of 80% low-income families and qualify for the Community Eligibility Provision, a provision from the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 that allows schools with high poverty rate to provide breakfast and lunch to all children at no charge.

Children participating in the program are matched with a volunteer Reading Buddy for the entire school year. The guided reading curriculum employed by the volunteers includes sight word recognition activities, reading together, reading by student, and comprehension assessment.

L. E. Berk, Child Development (8th ed.) Pearson Education, Inc., determined through his research that when adults read to children, discussing story content, asking open-ended questions about story events, explaining the meaning of words, and pointing out features of print, they promote increased language development, comprehension of story content, knowledge of story structure, and a better understanding of language - all of which lead to literacy success.

The SAYL Reading Buddy Program is an incredibly valuable asset to the schools it currently serves and requests for program inclusion increases every year. Because over 90% of students participating in the SAYL's Reading Buddy Program are considered economically disadvantaged by federal guidelines, SAYL currently offers the program at no cost to partner school districts. The program quality is insured through ongoing oversight by SAYL program managers who monitor curriculum delivery, train volunteers, coordinate scheduling of volunteer tutors, maintain records on every student, and serve as liaison between the schools and volunteers. Currently SAYL employs two program managers for 67 schools. In order to grow the SAYL program, while maintaining a high level of program integrity, there must be continued growth in financial support to accommodate ratio of school to program managers to ensure consistent program delivery.

With additional funding SAYL will be able to expand its Reading Buddy Program into Title 1 schools in both Edgewood and Harlandale Independent School Districts. According to The Texas Tribune, (2016-2017 school year) both school districts are comprised of large numbers of students who live in economically disadvantaged areas of the San Antonio community (Edgewood 91.1% and Harlandale 89.8%) and are eligible for free or reduced breakfast and lunch. Additionally, both districts have identified through their district enhancement plans that one of their student outcomes goals is reading improvement. SAYL's Reading Buddy Program will bring its expertise in early literacy support to both districts in an effort to address these goals. Leadership of both districts have approached SAYL with the express intent of being included in the Reading Buddy Program.

Evaluation Plan:

Each student is assessed using the Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System to determine the student's reading level. Testing takes place at the beginning of the school year, midyear, and at the end of the school year. In addition to providing a current reading level, this assessment also provides in-depth analysis of each student's reading deficiencies to include issues with comprehension, fluency and sight word retention. SAYL uses this data in partnership with the volunteer tutors to create more personalized tutoring sessions aimed at improving those identified reading deficiencies. Student tracking forms are also used to record the student's progress by recording the date the student and tutor meet, the books that have been read and any other comments the tutor believes need to be shared with the program director.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

Ongoing funding sustainability is currently accomplished through our annual The Big Give fund drive, a special event luncheon, grant requests and contributions from organizations and individuals who share in the belief that San Antonio's future is dependent on the educational levels of success of its youth.

Children Impacted:

How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?	How many unduplicated children will NFF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?
1,150	299

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	7%
Children (6-13)	100%	Asian American	0%
Young Adults (14-18)	0%	Caucasian	3%
TOTAL:	100%	Hispanic/Latino	90%
		Native American	0%
		Other and Define	0%
		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
Program Supplies	\$7,500	\$5,600
Tutor Trainings/Recognitions	\$1,500	\$1,500
Travel/Mileage	\$6,000	\$0
Cell Phones/Internet	\$9,800	\$5,400

Rent/Utilities	\$16,436	\$9,000
Printing	\$6,500	\$3,500
Computer/Web Maintenance	\$6,000	\$0
Salaries	\$191,629	\$35,000
Marketing	\$5,000	\$5,000
Misc. Maintenance	\$650	\$0
TOTAL:	\$251,015.00	\$65,000.00

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

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

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Greehey Family Foundation	\$20,000
Valero Energy Foundation	\$20,000
Grande Communications	\$5,000
Shields Ayres Foundation	\$10,000
San Antonio Area Found.	\$40,000
St. Marks Episcopal Church	\$5,000
TOTAL:	\$100,000.00

PROJECT - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
City of San Antonio	\$50,000
CPS Energy	\$20,000
State Farm	\$5,000
Women of AT&T	\$3,000
Dollar General	\$4,000
Education Forum	\$5,000
McNutt Foundation	\$5,000
Benefit for Children	\$15,000
TOTAL:	\$107,000.00

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

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
The Big Give	\$15,000
Fall Luncheon	\$90,000
Misc. Fundraisers	\$3,500
TOTAL:	\$108,500.00

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Mission Trail Rotary	\$1,500

Frankie Casseb Youth Literacy Club	\$1,400
TOTAL:	\$2,900.00
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
What percentage of your board contributes financially to the organization?	
100%	
How are board members expected to participate in your organization?	
Each board member is expected to attend monthly board meetings (excluding November & December) as well as participate in standing and ad hoc committee meetings. Some of those ad hoc meetings include a yearly staff retreat and strategic planning sessions. Most meetings take approximately 1.5 hours. Board members are also expected to participate in all major fundraising events.	
LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS	
Name	Corporate Affiliation
Sue Agrawal	Community Volunteer
Christy Baumann	Ernst & Young, LLP
Fred Bonewell	CPS Energy
Cedric Fisher	Cedric D. Fisher & Company
Dave Gannon	Retired Master Metrologist
Cesar Garcia	Law Offices of Cesar Garcia, PLLC
Malinda Gaul	Gaul and Dumont
Sara Goodson	AT&T
Greg Houston	Marmon Mok
Donna McIlveen	Aventine Hill Partners, Inc.
Linda Riedel	Independent Consultant
Caleb Sharbono	USAA
Richard W. Shaw	Retired Colonel, U.S. Army
Edward Wayne Smith	First Mark Bank
Harry Wolff, III	Dykema Cox Smit