

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Project Infinity		Federal Tax ID#: 47-3791716		501(c)(3) Public Charity 509 (a)(1)	
Address: 18503 Sigma Road, Suite 138		City: San Antonio		State: Texas	
				Zip Code: 78252	
Website: www.project-infinity.org		Fax: (210) 995-6918		United Way Funded: No	

Head Of Organization

Name: Jay Doegey		Title: Board Chair	
E-Mail Address: jay@project-infinity.org		Phone: (817) 313-4053	

Application Contact

Name: Brooke Cortez		Title: Co-founder and Co-Executive Director		E-Mail Address: brooke@project-infinity.org		Phone: (210) 995-6918	
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Has the organization applied to the Najim Family Foundation in the past and been declined?

Yes
August 2016

Grant Amount Requested \$: \$10,000	Total Project Budget \$: \$73,428	Organization's Annual budget \$: \$152,420
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Mission Statement:

Mission: To empower individuals in need through specialized therapies that encourage infinite growth and greater quality of life. Vision: To see individuals living life to their fullest potential.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title:

To support Art, Music, Recreation & Dyslexia Language Therapy Sessions for Children with Disabilities.

Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation Priorities:

Disabilities/Special Needs

Program / Project Description:

Children with disabilities are not receiving specialized therapies promptly; underlying reasons can be traced to several issues. The system of services for people with disabilities is difficult to navigate. In the San Antonio area, a study commissioned by a major funder confirms what practitioners have observed there are significant gaps in professional services for individuals with autism. Regardless of income level, parents will pay additional medical and therapeutic costs; their resources will be taxed. For parents with young children, an early diagnosis is essential, yet they might wait up to two years to receive one and then another 14 years to access waiver programs that subsidize specialized therapies. Health insurance policies might cover the needs for the typically developed but are inadequate for disabled. On top of extra costs, they must also find a way to meet neglected health issues since often people with disabilities are not able to tolerate the same physical or environmental stimuli in medical offices that typically developing individuals can. The entire process can bankrupt families financially, emotionally, and physically, while children with disabilities are not reaching their full potential.

Specialized therapy sessions are proven interventions for children with disabilities. High quality, low-cost specialized group therapy sessions fill a community-wide gap in services that exist because of fourteen-year and longer waiting lists for government-subsidized waiver programs and the high cost of private sessions of specialized therapies. Parents have a place to access help for children with disabilities and children receive the tools they need to realize infinite growth and greater quality of life.

Client diagnoses include attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), encephalopathy, autism spectrum disorders (ASD), down syndrome, intellectual disability (IDD), developmental delays, sensory processing disorder, and dyslexia to name a few. Most clients have co-occurring disorders. Project Infinity also serves children whose parents suspect may have a disability, yet do not have an official diagnosis.

Project Infinity is the only nonprofit in San Antonio with a core program focus of specialized therapies. Therapeutic modalities include music, recreation, art, and dyslexia/academic language therapies offered in group and individual sessions. Music and Dyslexia Therapies are evidence-based interventions. Recreation and Art Therapies are recognized research-based mental health interventions. Therapists have earned bachelors or graduate degrees in Music Therapy, Recreation Therapy, Art Therapy, or Education with Dyslexia Therapy from accredited programs and completed supervised internships with between 500 to 1200 hours of practical experience in addition to their coursework. They earn national certification in their field by passing a national or state board. All 14 therapists are credentialed; many are also bilingual.

Parents learn about Project Infinity via word-of-mouth, Facebook, referrals, and community events. Children participate in a comprehensive assessment with a credentialed therapist before service. Service begins after the assessment; individualized treatment plan and registration are complete.

All group sessions are one-hour long and contain no more than six clients per therapist. Music Therapy sessions are held weekly, on Saturday afternoons at The University of the Incarnate Word Luella Bennack Music Center, space that is provided in-kind. In turn, Project Infinity provides training opportunities for students enrolled in the Music Therapy program. As students assist Project Infinity credentialed therapists, they are accruing necessary hours of supervised experience for their degrees. Recreation and art therapy sessions are offered every other week and are also held at UIW. Children attend sessions in multiple modalities each week. Dyslexia/academic language therapy sessions are held four days per week in a different community location. Limited individual sessions in all therapeutic modalities are available for new clients without diagnosis or clients exhibiting disruptive behavior. These are scheduled during the week at the client's home.

Between June 1, 2018, and March 31, 2019, Project Infinity expects to:

- serve 75 unduplicated children in one hour-long group therapy sessions
- serve 700 duplicated children in one hour-long group therapy sessions
- offer 544 one-hour-long group therapy sessions

Of those children served during the same time frame Project Infinity expects that:

- 90% (67) of children served will attend more than one hour-long group therapy session
- 90% (67) of children served will attend multiple specialized therapy modalities
- 90% (67) of clients will realize a behavioral, neurologic/cognitive, physical, and/or emotional improvement

In the second full year of operations, the response to Project Infinity's approach of group sessions and immediate access for services is strong, and session enrollment continues to grow. From 2016 to 2017, Project Infinity increased the number of children's group sessions in music, recreation, and art therapy by 70% (266) and the number of duplicated clients by 80% (386), serving 62 unduplicated children. In 2018, four music therapy sessions will be added two weekday evenings. In fall 2017, Dyslexia/Academic Language Therapy was added for children with difficulty learning to read. In three months 150 duplicated children participated in 115 sessions of Dyslexia/Academic Language Therapy.

Within the next three to five years, Project Infinity plans to expand programming by offering additional specialized therapeutic modalities for children with disabilities, which would also increase the number of sessions. They also plan to offer services to families of individuals with disabilities with counseling therapy group sessions and informal support groups. To realize their full potential, Project must engage a full-time Executive Director and locate to a larger stand-alone space.

Evaluation Plan:

In specialized therapy sessions, children experience behavioral, neurologic/cognitive, physical, and emotional improvements. After limited (between two and six) specialized therapy sessions, clients will interact more appropriately and communicate more effectively with their peers and family, learn how to manage emotions, understand rules and process and reduce isolation. Additional sessions over time will reinforce behavior and lead to self-sufficiency and produce permanent change.

Credentialed therapists complete a comprehensive assessment to determine client needs and appropriateness for therapy. They establish goals and objectives and formulate an individualized treatment plan. Client improvement is measured against the assessment through progress notes (forms created by the Program Directors) that provide both qualitative and quantitative data. Notes will be reviewed by the therapist with each new client contact and by Program Directors every six weeks.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

To help sustain the financial viability of the program, clients pay a small fee, which commits them to sessions and reduces no-shows. Market rates of \$80/client for group sessions, \$150/client for an individual session, up to \$500 for assessment are discounted by 70%. Each client pays a fee from \$25 to \$50 per client for each session depending upon therapeutic modality and \$100 for an assessment. Clients may purchase packages of multiple sessions for a greater discount. The fee is waived in the case of financial hardship.

Project Infinity leadership will also strengthen the board's fundraising capacity with training, sustain and develop relationships with other local foundations, develop ties with corporations, improve special events, expand our individual donor cultivation, and explore income-generating ideas.

Children Impacted:

How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?	How many unduplicated children will NFF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?
75	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)	34%	African American	7%
Children (6-13)	54%	Asian American	0%

Young Adults (14-18)	12%	Caucasian	27%
TOTAL:	100%	Hispanic/Latino	63%
		Native American	0%
		Other and Define	3%
		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
Part-time Program Coordinator	\$15,000	\$0
14 Credentialed Therapists for a total of 544 sessions	\$41,888	\$10,000
Brochures and fliers (1000 x .50)	\$500	\$0
Facebook boosts (8 x \$50/each)	\$400	\$0
UIW Music Services Center \$1546/month [in-kind]	\$15,640	\$0
TOTAL:	\$73,428.00	\$10,000.00

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

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

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
San Antonio Area Foundation	\$15,000
Alamo Kiwanis Club	\$5,000
Brown Foundation	\$10,000
TOTAL:	\$30,000.00

PROJECT - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
St. Luke's Lutheran Health Ministries	\$5,912
Texas Cavaliers	\$3,500
Sundt Foundation	\$1,500
TOTAL:	\$10,912.00

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

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
St. Susie Charitable Foundation	\$10,000
Greehey Family Foundation	\$5,000
TOTAL:	\$15,000.00

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
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Dixie Starnes Wenger Foundation	\$2,500
TOTAL:	\$2,500.00

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

How are board members expected to participate in your organization?
 Project Infinity is a new nonprofit, whose initial success can be directly attributed to Board Member participation. With only one part-time paid employee, the board is integrally connected to the day-to-day operations, financial, and program implementation as well as oversight. Each co-founder has over 20 years of experience in the field of specialized therapies; they are co-administrators and co-program directors in addition to Vice-President and Treasurer (CFO), plus service on the marketing and development committees. Board members contribute financially (\$1,000 annual minimum), serve on at least one committee, represent the organization at public events, leverage professional and personal connections for in-kind and financial contributions, plan and implement special events, and attend board and committee meetings (monthly). They fulfill the roles an Executive and Development Director will have in the future.

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Name	Corporate Affiliation
Jay Doegey	Texas Coalition for Affordable Power, Retired City Attorney for the City of Arlington, Texas
Leti Gonzalez	Imagine Therapies
Brooke Cortez	Imagine Therapies
Pamela Culbertson	Assessment Technology Services
Robert T. Cox	HVHC, Inc.
Tracy Jackson	Retired Vice President, Tesoro, Community Advocate
Leah Jacobson, M.D., FAAP	Through the Years Pediatrics