

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Epilepsy Foundation Central and South Texas		Federal Tax ID#: 76-0415338		501(c)(3) Public Charity 509 (a)(1)	
Address: 8601 Village Drive, Ste. 220		City: San Antonio		State: TX	
				Zip Code: 78217	
Website: www.EFCST.org		Fax: (210) 653-5353		United Way Funded: No	

Fiscal Year:

September 01 to August 31

Head Of Organization

Name: Sindi J. Rosales		Title: CEO	
E-Mail Address: Sindi@EFCST.org		Phone: (210) 653-5353	

Application Contact

Name: Amber Sizer		Title: Chief Development Officer		E-Mail Address: Development@EFCST.org		Phone: (210) 653-5353	
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Previous Najim Funding

Year	Funding \$
2010	\$6,500
2013	\$10,400
2018	\$15,000
2019	\$18,000
2020	\$15,000
Total	\$64,900

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

Yes
2009, 2017

Grant Amount Requested \$:		Total Project Budget \$:		Organization's Annual budget \$:	
\$36,000		\$74,400		\$1,412,509	

Mission Statement:

To lead the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures, and save lives.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title:

To support 30 children ages 8 to 17 to attend Camp Brainstorm, a five-day and four-night overnight summer camp for children with epilepsy located at Camp Aranzazu, an accredited special needs camp facility in Copano Bay, Texas.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Start Date	End Date
06/21/2021	06/25/2021

Harvey E. Najim Charitable Foundation Priorities:

Camps

Program / Project Description:

The Epilepsy Foundation Central & South Texas (EFCST) is a 501(c)(3) health agency and 1 of 48 National Epilepsy Foundation affiliates. EFCST was founded in 1993 to improve the quality of life of the nearly 160,000 persons with epilepsy residing in 79 Central and South Texas counties. As the only organization dedicated to the health and welfare of individuals with epilepsy living in these areas, EFCST serves as a lifeline for the epilepsy community.

EFCST respectfully requests \$36,000 to provide 30 children with epilepsy in Bexar County and surrounding areas the opportunity to attend Camp Brainstorm 2021. Camp Brainstorm is a five-day, four-night residential summer camp at Camp Aranzazu in Rockport, TX for children aged 8-17 with epilepsy. Families of children with epilepsy spend tens of thousands of dollars on medications and medical treatments each year, which is why camp is provided to every family at NO COST. EFCST relies on support from community partners and other private and corporate gifts to send children to camp. The per-child cost is \$1,200 and includes lodging accommodations, meals, program activities, materials, supplies, equipment, and transportation to camp. Funds provided by The Najim Charitable Foundation will not be used for staff or administrative expenses.

Epilepsy is a chronic disease of the brain that causes seizures, and it is the most common pediatric neurological condition. Children with seizures suffer from psychiatric disorders like anxiety and depression at three times the rate of children with other chronic illnesses and five times that of the general population (Epilepsy Foundation, 2014). The unpredictable consequences of living with a serious medical condition are amplified by the social stigma placed upon epilepsy. Common misconceptions about epilepsy, like the idea that it is contagious, lead to children being bullied and ostracized by their classmates. School staff, while well-intentioned, often add to this by not allowing students with epilepsy to participate in certain recreational activities for fear that the child will be injured if they have a seizure.

The effects of social isolation at this critical developmental stage are staggering. It leads to low self-esteem, negative self-perception, increased stress, anxiety and depression, poor sleep quality, and even negatively affects cardiovascular and immune function. This already vulnerable population is now suffering further as a result of the pandemic. Over the last year, mental health-related emergency department visits for children aged 5-11 years increased by 24% and by 31% for children aged 12-17 years (Rebecca T. Leeb, et al., 2020). COVID-19-related stressors include disrupted schedules, decreased social interactions with friends and family, and loss of perceived security and safety.

Camp Brainstorm was created in 2012 to address the immense social isolation experienced by children with epilepsy and has had great success in improving mental health and quality of life in campers. Lisa, a parent of a 2019 camper, said of her daughter's experience at Camp Brainstorm, "She would cry wondering why she had to be different. Camp helped her see she was not that different after all... It was an experience for her soul... For my daughter, it completely changed the way she thinks about herself and her abilities." The importance of camp for our campers truly cannot be overstated.

The cherished moments and memories created at camp made canceling Camp Brainstorm 2020 devastating to both children and parents. While EFCST quickly mobilized to create and implement a virtual camp - which had high attendance and retention rates, indicating a passion for the program by the campers - the loss of an in-person program heavily affected the campers. Returning campers missed out on seeing friends made in years past. First-time campers did not get to feel the relief of meeting other youth with epilepsy and finally gaining acceptance by their peers. For many campers, this is their only opportunity to participate in recreational activities. Camp offers canoeing, zip-lining, archery, and sailing - activities that schools and other programs exclude children with seizures from participating in due to the false belief that experiences like these are not safe for them.

Due to the unremitting financial impact created by COVID-19, the certainty of Camp Brainstorm 2021 is at great peril. Typically, by this time of the year, EFCST has raised the funds necessary to meet Camp Brainstorm expenses. This year with camp only 15 weeks away, these funds have not yet been secured. After having their worlds turned upside down, Camp Brainstorm is needed now more than ever before.

Camp Brainstorm can make a lifelong impact on children with epilepsy through its utilization of recreational, social, educational, and developmental activities. Campers' progress is exhibited by the following outcomes:

Improved Self-Worth - indicated by improved self-esteem, self-image, self-efficacy, self-sufficiency, critical thinking skills, problem-solving skills, perceived confidence, and positive personal growth.

Improved Quality of Life - indicated by the development of friendships, gained independence, improved teamwork and responsibility, improved ability to reduce stress and improve physical and mental health, as well as the development of social skills, creative skills, and positive peer to peer interactions.

Improved Knowledge - indicated by an increased understanding of developmental concepts and methods for conflict resolution, emotional wellness, and time management.

Camp offers the children a unique opportunity to reduce social isolation and loneliness while improving the ability to cope with and manage their seizures and mental health. The long-lasting impact camp has on these children is priceless for them and their families. Five days at camp can be a transformational experience with lasting impact.

Evaluation Plan:

Surveys and anecdotal notes will be used for process and outcome evaluations of Camp Brainstorm.

Prior to camp, campers and parents will be asked to complete a survey to collect demographic data that will measure camper's epilepsy self-management skills and emotional and mental health wellness.

While at camp, data is collected through conversations and observations. If necessary, adjustments are made in real-time to ensure a successful camper experience. A post-camp survey will be collected to assess changes in self-worth, quality of life, knowledge, and overall program satisfaction. A comparative pre- and post-camp report will be evaluated by the EFCST staff and medical team. This report will be provided to the funder.

To determine the long-term impact of Camp Brainstorm, EFCST staff will perform parent and child check-ins at months 1, 6, and 9 post-camp. Additional anecdotal data will be collected at other EFCST youth programs regularly attended by campers.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

2021 will be the TENTH year of Camp Brainstorm! Each year, campers anxiously await the comradery and shared delight that camp brings. High attendance and retention rates, including virtual camp in 2020, show the love the children and their parents have for this program. The community support and enthusiasm for Camp Brainstorm is just as high, evidenced by repeat donors and diversified gifts from a wide range of funders.

Though camp is free for all families, many provide financial support through contributions to EFCST fundraisers, monthly donations, and their own fundraising campaigns to ensure camp continues. The families' continued outreach and support are instrumental to Camp Brainstorm's success.

To ensure sustainability, EFCST is continuously seeking new funding sources and improving its marketing, implementation, and evaluation methods for Camp Brainstorm. Our long-term partnership with Camp Aranzazu and their dedication to the camping program offers an unforgettable experience for these precious children.

Children Impacted:

How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?	How many unduplicated children will NCF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?
60	30

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	6%
Children (6-13)	50%	Asian American	0%
Young Adults (14-18)	50%	Caucasian	44%
TOTAL:	100%	Hispanic/Latino	40%
		Native American	4%
		Other and Define	6%
		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
Camp facility rental & support (\$562.50 per child includes food & shelter for youth, doctors, counselors, & staff)	\$34,875	\$36,000
Marketing & promotion	\$1,500	\$0
Equipment & supplies (for health & activities)	\$3,500	\$0
Camp transportation (includes charter bus & gas to & from camp)	\$5,000	\$0
Operating expenses (staff, training, recruiting, postage)	\$29,525	\$0
Camp physicians and medical staff (\$40,000 in-kind)	\$0	\$0

TOTAL:	\$74,400	\$36,000
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OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

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

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Round Rock Women's Club	\$2,000
Chapparral Women's Club	\$1,000
Valero Benefit for Children	\$10,000
TOTAL:	\$13,000

PROJECT - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Valero Benefit for Children (2020 Funded Rollover)	\$10,000
Alamo Kiwanis Club	\$1,000
Mr. Sam Spears (2020 Funded Rollover)	\$5,800
Texas Cavaliers Charitable Foundation	\$425
Texas Youth Development Corporation	\$5,000
Individual Gifts (Under \$500)	\$290
TOTAL:	\$22,515

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

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Valero Energy Foundation	\$7,500
Frost	\$1,200
Total Source	\$1,200
SWBC	\$1,200
Martin Marietta Inc.	\$5,000
Methodist Healthcare	\$1,200
Randy Walker, CPA	\$1,200
Dave & Busters	\$1,200
Capital Aggregates	\$1,200
Bear Ready Mix	\$1,200
PDQ Concrete	\$1,200
Wolfpack	\$1,200
Your Mechanic	\$1,200
Wellmed Charitable Foundation	\$3,000
The Children's Hospital of San Antonio	\$5,000
Bora Materials Technologies	\$1,200
Documation	\$1,200
West Star Alamo Surveyors	\$1,500

Mendez Engineering	\$250
TOTAL:	\$37,850
ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED	
Funder Name	Amount Requested
Department of State Health Services	\$627,177
Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio	\$100,000
City of San Antonio	\$75,000
Epilepsy Foundation of America	\$75,250
UTHealth Houson	\$31,154
Bexar County CARES Act Program	\$25,000
Kronkosky Charitable Foundation	\$18,000
Gordon Hartman Family Foundation	\$12,500
Dell Children's Medical Center	\$10,027
UCB, Inc.	\$10,000
Greenwich Biosciences	\$7,500
CHC Community Health Charities	\$6,156
Lowe's	\$5,000
Valero Energy Foundation	\$5,000
Physicians Plaza, Ltd.	\$14,000
Eisai Inc.	\$3,500
Zogenix, Inc.	\$3,000
Driscoll Health System	\$3,000
Nyle Maxwell Family of Companies	\$3,000
Monahan, Sally & Thom	\$2,639
Child Neurology Consultants Austin	\$2,500
CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Hospital	\$2,500
DHR Health	\$2,500
Fifth Generation	\$2,500
Parallel Brands	\$2,500
UTHealth RGV	\$2,500
Danielle Long	\$2,112
Pfizer Medications Grant	\$2,500
Sindi J. Rosales	\$2,953
L R Coker	\$2,000
Drs. Azreena & John Thomas	\$1,760
LivaNova	\$1,500
Aerojet Center LLC	\$1,500
Angell Plumbing Inc.	\$1,500
Aquestive	\$1,500

Austin Epilepsy Care Center	\$1,500
Austin Infiniti	\$1,500
Compassionate Cultivation	\$1,500
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund	\$1,500
Linda Geary	\$1,500
PhRMA	\$1,500
Pok-e-Jo's Smokehouse Inc.	\$1,500
ETHOS RE	\$1,489
Todd Cione	\$1,365
Sarah A & Victor J Williams	\$1,350
Joshua Davis	\$1,215
Kim Schroepfel	\$1,200
Christine Gorddard	\$1,100
Ronnie & Mary Beth Pinkerton	\$1,042
AGCI Construction Services	\$1,000
Kanga Roof	\$1,000
Amy Oehler	\$1,000
Kristy Owens Covington	\$1,000
Pella Windows & Doors	\$1,000
Randy Walker & Co., P.C.	\$1,000
Packard Law Firm	\$1,000
Individual Gifts (Under \$1,000)	\$83,782
TOTAL:	\$1,179,271

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?

The Epilepsy Foundation Central & South Texas is fortunate to have a very dedicated and engaged board that supports its mission. The board plays a key role in establishing credibility, accountability, and visibility for EFCST. Board members use their experience and talents to guide the strategic direction for the Epilepsy Foundation. Board members set a leadership example by making personal financial contributions, serving on foundation committees, and participating in fundraising events. Board members guide the organization's priorities and enhance its connection to the community. The foundation benefits from the board members' personal and professional relationships and expertise. EFCST's board is directly responsible for nearly \$90,000 in donations in FY20. Their contributions allow for EFCST's continued success and growth.

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Name & Office Held	Corporate Affiliation
Sindi J. Rosales, CEO	Epilepsy Foundation Central & South Texas
Christine Gorddard, President	Greenwich Biosciences

Jeffrey Jung, Vice President	Self-Employed
Robyn Lewis, Treasurer	Maxwell Locke & Ritter
Tracy Biltz, Secretary	Wildrose Avenue Consulting
Traci Smith, Central Texas President	Pure Storage
Marc Salvato, Central Texas President	Texas Senate
Leanna Dando, Central Texas Secretary	Self-Employed
Blake Anderson, Member	LivaNova
Sara Lizzy Aranibar, Member	Chasqui Spine & Orthopedics
Francesca Barajas, Member	Visionworks
Patrice Calomeni, Member	Retired
Michael Girouard, Member	ASR Systems, Inc.
Janine Hornbeak, Member	CHRISTUS Santa Rosa
Travis Meyer, Member	Summit Consulting International
Carl Tex Morgan, Member	FundRocket LLC
Jane Morrison, Member	UCB, Inc.
Joe S. Ochoa III, Member	Martin Marietta Inc.
Alison Packard, Member	Packard Law Firm
Scott Verstuyft, Member	UCB, Inc.
Harry Wright Jr., Member	Valero Energy Corporation
Signature	
Sindi J. Rosales	