

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION			
Organization Information			
Legal Name: Achievers Center for Education	Federal Tax ID#: 16-1706043	501(c)(3) Public Charity 509 (a)(2)	
Address: 5084 DeZavala Road	City: San Antonio	State: Texas	Zip Code: 78249
Website: aceschool.org	Fax: (210) 690-7359	United Way Funded: No	
Fiscal Year: July 01 to June 30			
Head Of Organization			
Name: Julie		Title: Hoog	
E-Mail Address: JHoog@universitysatx.org		Phone: (210) 690-7359	
Application Contact			
Name: Julie Hoog	Title: Executive Director	E-Mail Address: brenda@mulberrycanyonassociates.com	Phone: (210) 690-7359
Previous Najim Funding			
Year	Funding \$		
2007	\$23,500		
2008	\$37,500		
2009	\$30,000		
2010	\$1,250		
2016	\$15,000		
2017	\$15,000		
2018	\$20,000		
2019	\$20,000		
Total	\$162,250		
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 \$:	
\$20,000	\$205,580	\$205,580	
Mission Statement: Educate a diverse group of students who are functioning two or more grade levels below age appropriate, in a safe, nurturing environment where attention is given to social/intellectual/physical/spiritual/moral/emotional development.			

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title:

To support general operating costs of educating students grades 5th-12th with special needs and learning disabilities functioning two or more grade levels behind.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Start Date

08/01/2020

End Date

07/30/2021

Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation Priorities:

Disabilities/Special Needs

Program / Project Description:

In order to continue to emphasize the Mission Statement of Achievers Center for Education, a COVID-19 Protocol for Achievers was developed over the summer after review of several protocols developed by other groups, reviewing the guidance from the CDC, along with staff, Board, and parent input. A formal presentation of this protocol was done with all staff, parents, and Board Members present. Sanitation procedures were implemented which include taking the staff and student temperature twice a day, cleaning surfaces after every class period, 6 foot social distances, plexiglass dividers where needed, locker space enhanced, smaller lunch and free time groups, arrival and dismissal procedures that lower incidences of contact, to name a few. Achiever had a "fade into the start of school" with five students each day with a parent over a three day period. During this time, under staff direction, these students and their parents were able to "walk through" the COVID Protocol as it would be implemented throughout a typical "new normal" day at Achievers. We have now fully implemented the protocols and in-person classes with all 15 students present.

We are serving 15 children at this time. Each child receives 1,150 hours of instruction per school year, for a total of 17,250 hours of instruction provided per year by our three teachers. Our teaching strategies have proven to be very effective for students with special needs, including ADHD, autism, dyslexia, Tourette Syndrome, and those with significant anxiety or depressive disorders, and significant learning disabilities. We also accept students who are academically and socially appropriate for ACE who were abused, neglected and/or bullied children.

In addition to our academic program, we partner with Kinetic Kids offers a specialized physical education program to ACE students on Monday and Tuesday each week. Kinetic Kids is an organization that provides sports and recreation programs not typically available to children with special needs. Their mission is to "foster the development of courage, self-esteem, pride and joy so children can achieve new possibilities previously unimaginable." The program is geared towards teaching the students the fundamentals of a variety of sports while allowing them to develop coordination, good sportsmanship and an appreciation for working together as a team. They meet with the students twice a week for 90 minutes. Typical "warm-up" activities take place as soon as the students arrives. Proper social interaction skills and good sportsmanship are emphasized. Sports skills (basketball, floor hockey, etc.) are the main part of every class and are rotated every 3 weeks to keep everyone interested and focused. Since every session is led by at least one licensed occupational therapist or physical therapist, the best quality help is available to assist students in becoming the best athlete possible. In addition, as many as 4-10 OT, PT interns and college students volunteer their time to work with the students during the entire session, earning required hours toward their degree programs. They interact extremely well with our students and are a constant source of encouragement to every student on an individual basis.

Additionally, we offer fine arts classes to our students. These classes are presented by community and school volunteers.

Field trips are also an integral part of our students learning experiences-providing them with opportunities they may not otherwise have. The field trips for 2019-2020 are: Catholic Charities (service project), Natural Bridge Caverns Wilderness Ranch, San Antonio Aquarium, The Tobin Center - "Call of the Wild", and the Cave with No Name (Boerne, TX). By providing these experiences in a group where the students feel safe and accepted, we are able to open a wider world to these special needs students-a world that they may not always feel comfortable in, but that is critical to their future growth and success.

While maintaining our excellent standards for academic instruction, ACE has expanded our program (in Fall 2018) to include comprehensive social skills training. Each week our guidance counselor diligently works with small groups and individual students to help them learn problem solving techniques, conflict resolution strategies, and works with them to develop the essential social skills required deal with their feelings and generalize appropriate behavior across various situations. This expanded segment of our curriculum has not only equipped our students with valuable skills for future success and aided them in their familial relationships but has proven an asset to their academic progress. As part of this curriculum, ACE also provides ongoing parent and family education to help the student assimilate what they've learned in real-time settings.

Finally, Achievers vocational program continues to evolve, and not only serves University United Methodist Church, but also now serves Lock Hill Elementary. This program allows students to have volunteer "jobs" at various areas on both campuses. This program gives students the opportunity to experience different environments and skill building activities, learn to accept instructions from someone other than the staff at Achievers and their parents, and it gives students insight into what they might want to do (or not do) after graduation.

Evaluation Plan:

Woodcock Johnson III is used as a tool at Achievers to determine growth in academics and areas of stagnation or regression. The test is administered to new students in the fall and to all students in the month of May each year. Individual tests focus on math, reading, reading comprehension, math, and science. Tests are selected for each child based on their abilities not their expected age or grade level. Scores can be reflected as "age" and "grade level" as a comparison to a traditional testing environment. Parents are given copies of the scores with a typed summary from the Guidance Counselor/Test Administrator. Teachers use the information gleaned from the tests as a tool for making their curriculum more appropriate for each student when feasible.

Additionally, through contact with parents, other staff, observation of individuals, quarterly Progress Reports guide the faculty with determining level of progress with each student.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

Approximately 52% of our income is from tuition paid by the students families. Additionally-we have two major fundraisers per year-our Shine Gala! as well as Fall Bake Sale. These two events are 13-15% of our income, however, we were not able to have the Gala in Spring 2020 due to COVID-19, and the Fall Bake Sale is in question, also due to COVID-19. We will continue to seek corporate and foundation grants to complete our yearly funding needs.

Children Impacted:

How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?

15

How many unduplicated children will NFF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?

15

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)	20%	Asian American	0%
Young Adults (14-18)	80%	Caucasian	26%
TOTAL:	100%	Hispanic/Latino	67%
		Native American	0%
		Other and Define	0%
		TOTAL:	100%

City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:

District8

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
Employee Salaries/Taxes and Contract Workers	\$158,730	\$15,000
Extra Curricular and Sports (Kinetic Kids), Special Events/Field Trips	\$8,000	\$0
Accreditation, Continuing Ed., Misc.	\$4,800	\$0
Curriculum/Books, Student Supplies	\$5,000	\$2,500
Facility Lease	\$7,200	\$2,500
Insurance, Bank Fees, Tax Reporting	\$6,600	\$0
IT, Copier, Website Advertising	\$13,250	\$0
Office Supplies	\$2,000	\$0
TOTAL:	\$205,580	\$20,000

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

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

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Rachael and Ben Vaughan Fdtn	\$5,000
McCreless Foundation	\$1,200
Kelso Foundation	\$10,000
DEW Foundation	\$10,000
Grande Cares	\$2,000
Wheeler Foundation	\$10,000
Dixie Starnes Wenger	\$2,000

Sunstate Equipment	\$5,000
TOTAL:	\$45,200
PROJECT - COMMITTED	
Funder Name	Amount Requested
Valero Foundation	\$10,000
Phyllis Schoener Foundation	\$2,000
Mr. and Mrs. Humphrey Atherton	\$10,000
St. Luke's Men's Club	\$1,000
Texas Cavaliers	\$3,000
TOTAL:	\$26,000
Other funding sources and amounts, pending and committed not specific to this request.	
ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING	
Funder Name	Amount Requested
N/A-same as project	\$0
TOTAL:	\$0
ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED	
Funder Name	Amount Requested
N/A-Same as Project	\$0
TOTAL:	\$0
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?	
Board members are expected to attend all Board meetings-Board meetings are held at least once every two months. Board members are expected to give financially to the organization. Board members are expected to attend and participate in the fundraising Gala by purchasing tables, bringing guests and securing live and silent auction items if they are able. Board members are expected to volunteer their time when necessary to meet with potential donors and make calls to donors thanking them for their donation.	
LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS	
Name & Office Held	Corporate Affiliation
Chris D. Rollins, Chair	Advantage Solutions
Kathy J. Ogletree, Secretary	NA
Carrie S. McCravy	NA
Joanne Clyne	NISD Retired Principal
Dr. Danny Trevino	Pediatrician
Kelly Mombower	Math Professor
Sam Kwaitkowski	University UMC-Special Needs Program
Signature	

