

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Wonders & Worries, Inc.		Federal Tax ID#: 74-3012982		501(c)(3) Public Charity 509 (a)(1)	
Address: 9101 Burnet Rd, Ste. 205		City: Austin		State: Texas	
				Zip Code: 78758	
Website: www.wondersandworries.org		Fax: (512) 329-5757		United Way Funded: Yes	

Fiscal Year:

July 01 to June 30

Head Of Organization

Name: Alex Gabbi		Title: Executive Director	
E-Mail Address: alex@wondersandworries.org		Phone: (512) 329-5757	

Application Contact

Name: Donna Bueche		Title: Grant Writer		E-Mail Address: grants@wondersandworries.org		Phone: (512) 329-5757	
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Previous Najim Funding

Year	Funding \$
2020	\$25,000
Total	\$25,000

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

No

Grant Amount Requested \$:	Total Project Budget \$:	Organization's Annual budget \$:
\$25,000	\$202,216	\$1,506,463

Mission Statement:

The mission of Wonders & Worries is to provide free, professional support for children and teenagers through a parent's serious illness.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title:

To support Professional Illness Education and Coping Support for children and teenagers through a parent's serious illness in the San Antonio area.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Start Date	End Date
07/01/2020	06/30/2021

Harvey E. Najim Charitable Foundation Priorities:

Program / Project Description:

Wonders & Worries opened in 2001 in Austin after our co-founder, a child life specialist working in a public hospital, met parents who were facing a serious illness, but who faced uncertainty about what to tell their children. Their worries reflected a gap in healthcare services that Wonders & Worries was created to fill.

Since its founding, Wonders & Worries has impacted the lives of 10,000 individuals and 2,600 families, now providing comprehensive services to families in Central Texas, Greater San Antonio, and Houston.

Our San Antonio location opened in 2017 when The Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas (CBSCT) contracted us to provide therapeutic support to San Antonio families affected by serious parental illness. Requests for our services quickly grew, and we became an independent nonprofit here in early 2020. A grant from the Najim Family Foundation helped us establish a foundation for growth, making it possible for us to serve 205 Greater San Antonio residents last year.

This year, we ask the Najim Family Foundation to consider renewing its \$25,000 grant for our evidence-based Illness Education and Coping Support program in San Antonio. Data from the Texas Cancer Registry, along with nationwide cancer statistics, show us that an estimated 1,500 Bexar County families will face a cancer diagnosis by the end of this year. In addition to providing services for parents or caregivers with cancer (80% of our client families), Wonders & Worries also serves parents diagnosed with other illnesses such as heart disease, diabetes, and ALS. Your grant would help us continue to provide services at no cost to families, a critical factor during these financially challenging times.

Families begin their journey with Wonders & Worries with an intake session. Depending on the family's needs, the child attends individual or group sessions led by a child life specialist, a healthcare professional who is trained to help children and their families understand and manage stressful health care experiences. Child life specialists customize the sessions by incorporating games, crafts, and other activities to help the child understand the parent's illness and learn to constructively process emotions. The sessions are held once per week for six weeks. Services are provided in English or Spanish.

Normally, sessions are conducted face-to-face in our office at the START Center for Cancer Care. The COVID-19 pandemic altered our daily operations, requiring us to modify the curriculum activities so that they could be delivered virtually through our communications platform, RingCentral. Supply kits are mailed to families who need them. After the sessions conclude, children have the option to participate virtually in group check-in sessions.

For families with younger children (ages 2-4) or those who do not have a computer, smartphone, or internet access, the child life specialist consults with the parent over the phone, and the parent facilitates the session. After the session, the child life specialist follows up to provide any additional guidance. For bereaved children who have lost their parent during their time with us and who request on-going grief support, we work in-tandem with the CBCST to gradually transition them from our services to theirs.

Until the pandemic is under control, we will continue to operate virtually, with a few exceptions. Most families we serve are immunocompromised with at least one parent who faces health-related complications if exposed to COVID-19. When we can ensure the safety of our client families and our staff, we will reopen. We anticipate that we will continue to primarily provide telehealth sessions until the end of the summer/beginning of fall.

When we reopen, we will continue to offer telehealth sessions as an option for families. We have found that some families prefer telehealth sessions, especially those who live far from the START Center, because virtual appointments remove transportation barriers, and they provide the convenience of attending the session from the comfort of the family's home.

In the year of your grant, we anticipate providing approximately 900 therapeutic sessions and consultations for 226 individuals in Greater San Antonio. By participating in our six-session Illness Education and Coping program, children and teens can expect to gain:

- 1) Age-appropriate understanding of illness, treatments and side effects;
- 2) Strategies for identifying and expressing feelings related to changes in the family;
- 3) Skills for coping with stress, anger, sadness and fear; and
- 4) Connections to peers sharing similar experiences.

Their child life specialist works with them to provide the behavioral health support that they need to prevent psychosocial problems such as "anxiety, confusion, sadness, anger and feelings of uncertainty". Professional support is necessary to help children navigate the trauma of their parent's serious illness (F. Phillips, 2016, Psycho-Oncology). As Amy McGeady, former Wonders & Worries Board President notes, "I wish that this service had existed during my childhood, when my mother had ovarian cancer in the 1980s. I've spent many years healing the emotional scars of that time."

Because a parent's serious illness has a negative effect on a family's income, Wonders & Worries is committed to providing our services free-of-charge. This is even more important now considering the devastating economic impact of the pandemic, particularly in communities of color. With the continued support of the Najim Family Foundation, we can ensure that we can reach families throughout Bexar County during the pandemic and beyond.

Evaluation Plan:

Internally, to measure the success of our Illness Education and Coping program, we distribute electronic surveys (email and text) twice per year to parents or caregivers whose children have completed the program at least three months ago. Surveys are in Spanish and English. Success is reached when 80% or more of survey respondents show improvements in their ability to parent around the illness; their ability to manage stress; and their overall satisfaction. We also anticipate that at least 70% of survey respondents will report that the anxiety of their child has been reduced after receiving services.

Initial results from our most recent survey, distributed in February, are promising. This is the first group of clients surveyed who have only been able to receive virtual services. They all started the program after the pandemic started. The results indicate that, overall, the telehealth sessions are as effective for families as face-to-face sessions.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

Wonders & Worries has a comprehensive development plan which provides a diversified, stable, and sustaining source of revenue. Through this diversification, we provide opportunities for donors to contribute in a variety of ways and giving levels. Our development plan includes a planned giving program, an endowment, monthly giving options, grants, and corporate sponsorships. Further, we have launched programs that generate revenue from non-traditional fundraising sources, such as our Registered Wonders & Worries Provider program, a training program whereby professionals pay a reoccurring fee to deliver the Wonders & Worries curriculum in their community.

This year, like many other nonprofits, our fundraising events were impacted by COVID-19. To offset these losses, we received a PPP loan in the summer and applied for another one in January. We also received several COVID-19 relief grants, and we ran specific COVID-19-relief campaigns. Although we were unable to host in-person fundraising events in San Antonio this past year, we anticipate that we will host one in the fall and one next spring.

Children Impacted:

How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?	How many unduplicated children will NCF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?
147	80

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)	5%	African American	2%
Children (6-13)	69%	Asian American	2%
Young Adults (14-18)	26%	Caucasian	29%
TOTAL:	100%	Hispanic/Latino	62%
		Native American	0%
		Other and Define	5%
		TOTAL:	100%

City Council District for Which Children are Being Served:

District1, District6, District7, District8, District9

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Funds Allocation
Child Life Staff	\$94,780	\$20,000
PRN Flex	\$12,480	\$0
Development/Event Planner	\$21,000	\$0
Central Office Overhead	\$23,000	\$2,500
Insperty (PEO)	\$18,956	\$2,500
General Supplies	\$10,000	\$0
Marketing / Event Management	\$12,000	\$0
Infrastructure/IT/Misc	\$10,000	\$0
TOTAL:	\$202,216	\$25,000

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

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

PROJECT - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Kronkosky Charitable Foundation	\$37,500
Najim Family Foundation	\$25,000
Localized Scavenger Hunt (Special Event) (potential)	\$50,000
Regionalized Clay Sporting Shoot (Special Event)	\$75,000
Millennial Society Parties	\$18,000
General Fundraising	\$15,000
Methodist Healthcare Ministires	\$25,000
Charity Ball Association	\$10,000
TOTAL:	\$255,500

PROJECT - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
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START Center for Cancer Care - In kind gift (rent)	\$50,993
TOTAL:	\$50,993
Other funding sources and amounts, pending and committed not specific to this request.	
ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING	
Funder Name	Amount Requested
The United Way of Williamson County	\$10,000
Lind Family Foundation 5,000	\$5,000
The National Alliance for Grieving Children	\$25,000
Elkins Foundation	\$25,000
The Susan Vaughan Foundation	\$25,000
The Bradshaw Fund	\$5,000
The Lola Wright Foundation	\$12,000
The Moody Foundation	\$30,000
The Donald D. Hammill Foundation	\$10,000
The Lowe Foundation	\$20,000
The ECG Foundation	\$5,000
RCB Foundation	\$5,000
TOTAL:	\$177,000
ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED	
Funder Name	Amount Requested
Austin Community Foundation	\$105,245
Texas Oncology, P.A.	\$60,000
Alice Kleberg Reynolds	\$35,000
Travis County- Health and Human Services Division	\$50,000
Envision 2021 Raffle Anonymous	\$36,618
Baptist Health Foundation	\$35,000
Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation	\$30,000
Moody Foundation	\$25,000
City of Austin	\$20,000
Laurie Weinstein Household	\$20,000
Alpha Painting & Decorating	\$15,000
Ruth and Paul Connor Foundation	\$11,000
Barbara Wallace Household	\$10,000
Fringe Benefit Group	\$10,000
Paul and April Henry Household	\$10,000
Punit and Anu Chadha Household	\$10,000
	\$0
TOTAL:	\$482,863
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 following expectations are set forth for all Board of Directors members during their two-year term:
 Competence - members are expected to serve on standing committees and/or task forces that are complementary to their skill set.

Contacts - members are expected to proactively introduce other members of the community to Wonders & Worries who could help us through volunteerism, funding, committee service, raising awareness or other engagement.

Commitment - members are expected to participate in at least one Wonders & Worries event per year.

Participation in an event also means engaging their community/network of friends and encouraging them to attend as well. This also satisfies their financial commitment.

We currently have a 21-member Board. Most live and work in Travis County but we are recruiting representatives from San Antonio, and once they are confirmed, we will begin rotating the geographic host location for our quarterly Board meetings.

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Name & Office Held	Corporate Affiliation
Brent Metschan, Board President	Director of Sales, Persistent Systems
John Gillis, Vice President	President, Leadership X
Jim Weinstein, Treasurer	Vice President-Finance, Data Foundry
Meredith Bagan	Community Volunteer
Tom Bogardus	Director of Operations, Mulberry Real Estate Partners
Lindsey Boyd	Brand Marketing Manager, Khoros
Ross Buchholtz, CPA	Director-Tax and Accounting , Giordani, Swanger, Ripp & Jetel LLP
Anu Chadha, MD	Physician, Austin Regional Clinic
Kristen Doyle, JD	Deputy Executive Officer and General Counsel, Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, UT
Helen Eshed, MD	Physician, Texas Oncology
Steve Goldsmith	General Manager, Atlassian
Morgan Grigsby, JD	Grigsby Petroleum, Inc
Kevin Hines	Sales Representative, Republic National Distributing Company
Kelly Hyde	Community Volunteer
Nicole Julian	Community Volunteer
John Lebowitz	Community Volunteer
Hillary MacDougall	Senior Marketing Manager, Myriad Women's Health
Meaghan Mooney, RN, BCN, OSN	RN Patient Navigator, Seton Healthcare Family
Sarah Moore	Chief Marketing Officer, SourceDay

Suzanne Soares	Director of Account Management Shelton-Keller Group
Melissa Sykes, JD	Attorney, McGinnis Lochridge
Elizabeth (Liz) Weeks	Palliative Care Program Manager HCA, Central/West Texas Division
Signature Alex Gabbi, Executive Director	