

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION			
Organization Information			
Legal Name: Hill Country Youth Ranch	Federal Tax ID#: 74-1907867	501(c)(3) Public Charity 509 (a)(1)	
Address: P. O. Box 67	City: Ingram	State: TX	Zip Code: 78025
Website: www.youth-ranch.org	Fax: (830) 367-2131	United Way Funded: No	
Fiscal Year: January 01 to December 31			
Head Of Organization			
Name: Krystle Ramsay		Title: Executive Director	
E-Mail Address: kramsay@youth-ranch.org		Phone: (830) 367-2131	
Application Contact			
Name: Gary Priour	Title: Director of Financial Management	E-Mail Address: gary@youth-ranch.org	Phone: (830) 367-2131
Previous Najim Funding			
Year	Funding \$		
2007	\$622,500		
2008	\$622,500		
2009	\$338,501		
2012	\$33,500		
2013	\$35,000		
2014	\$35,000		
2015	\$39,500		
2016	\$41,500		
2017	\$41,500		
2018	\$42,500		
2019	\$42,500		
2020	\$42,500		
Total	\$1,937,001		
Has the organization applied to the Najim Charitable Foundation in the past and been declined?			
Yes 2011			
Grant Amount Requested \$:	Total Project Budget \$:	Organization's Annual budget \$:	

\$42,500	\$287,500	\$7,498,127
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Mission Statement:

It is the mission of Hill Country Youth Ranch to provide a safe, loving, and life-enhancing environment for children and youth with special emotional and developmental needs.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title:

To support the 2021 Summer Vocational Education Program providing earnings for youth and funding tools and supplies.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Start Date	End Date
06/14/2021	07/30/2021

Harvey E. Najim Charitable Foundation Priorities:

Education

Education Priorities:

Elementary to High School

Program / Project Description:

Never was there a year in which the Najim Vocational Education grant was more appreciated and vital than 2020. Schools, including our Charter Schools, shut down in March and didn't reopen until August. We had a five-month summer, with all hands on deck to keep our children and youth engaged and active. Once we received the announcement of the Najim gift for 2020, we were able to fund that part of the program starting in May, adding an extra month to summer work crew for our youth, who were all eager to be active, and to earn money while school was out.

And, following the severe winter storm the week of February 15, 2021, a very moving thing happened. Our campus was littered with fallen limbs and trees, and water and supplies had to be carried to several children's houses. Veterans of the Najim Summer Work Program volunteered to help with the cleanup and formed part of the team for carrying supplies and water. The oldest of them, now 18 years old and a senior at Najim High, approached Executive Director Emeritus Gary Priour (me) in the middle of the snowfall on Thursday, February 18, and said, "I'd like to help with the cleanup and tree trimming, even after school resumes on Monday. You don't have to pay me. I just want to help. Remember, I know how to do the things that you need to do to clean up the campus. You trained me well." I wanted to cry.

We'll have our children home again this coming summer, all day long. and that's when we have the best chance to help them discover and develop special gifts and interests outside of the academic setting of the school year. We work hard to make those months productive and educational in their lives, full of successes based on gift-enhancement.

From the second week in June until the end of July, summer is divided into morning and afternoon programs. The vocational work program takes place in the morning hours, while other educational and recreational electives (photography, art, music, swim team, basketball, volleyball, ropes course, cooking, etc) are scheduled after lunch. Participation applications for the work program are provided to all youth in April, with a deadline to submit them by the end of the school year. In the application, youth may indicate vocational preferences, and the HCYR and BSRC leadership teams evaluate the applications and offer positions by June 1.

Qualified residents who elect to participate in the program are then divided into teams, with trained supervisors to help them accomplish projects in landscaping, garden care, yard maintenance, tree trimming, trail building, carpentry, and masonry. Some also work for the Charter School, learning food service and clerical duties. They are paid for their work and are given merit awards and bonuses based on scores that emphasize goal setting and planning, team spirit, problem solving, accomplishment, and individual effort. They meet each morning at 8:00 a.m. sharp, and each team has a planning meeting to set goals for the morning before beginning work. Throughout the morning, supervisors help them resolve problems and create strategies for the challenges, and a primary goal is to learn the value of team, while pursuing individual excellence as well.

One of the most dependable outcomes each summer is the emergence on each team of unexpected leadership or work skills in one or more of the youth, often youth who did not do well in school. This discovery of the gift of work ethic or aptitude for leadership provides a route to awards and recognition at the end of each week at a Friday group meeting where bonuses and acknowledgements are given, and at the end-of-summer awards program. Such success is transformative for many youth, and often results in a better performance in academics in the ensuing year.

The Summer Work Program provides an important component in a child's education while living at HCYR by teaching important life and work skills and offering vocational education to residents, most of whom have big gaps in their awareness of such skills through lack of exposure to role models as well as opportunities to hold basic tools in their hands and accomplish physical tasks. Continuously for 43 years, the Vocational Education Program has proven to be an ideal way to teach youth the benefits of work, while helping them gain employable skills, discover special gifts, start a savings account, learn teamwork and achieve individual success. Every youth who participates in the program meets with our local banker at the end of the session and is walked through creating a savings account.

Many adult alumni, looking back at their time as residents at HCYR, attribute their experience in the summer vocational education program with teaching them how to work, giving them an alternative way to achieve, especially if they were struggling in school, and gaining a sense of purpose through making a contribution to their team and to their home. Most alumni bring their families later in life to show them their childhood home, and frequently, the first place they want to take their spouses and children is to show them where they gardened, or cleared a path, or carved out a shaded picnic area that still serves children because of their efforts years ago.

Evaluation Plan:

With a 43-year history, this program is well tested, and continual evaluation is a key to its success. The teams meet every morning to self-evaluate and plan the day. Judges and support personnel roam the campuses to visit work sites and provide points of feedback during the morning, coaching teams and individuals on ways to improve and giving encouragement. On Fridays at 10:00 a.m., all the teams gather in the campus cafeterias to receive scores and awards, both individual and team, for the week, and to provide acknowledgements and feedback to one another. At the end of summer, all team leaders, judges, and supervisors gather to evaluate the program and make suggestions for improvements. Perhaps the best evaluation comes from adult alumni on their visits home. Often the highlight of such a visit is sharing memories with their spouses and children about work crew.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

The summer vocational education program is the oldest program at HCYR, dating to 1979 when the first group of children living at HCYR planted a vegetable garden, painted barn fences, stacked a log cabin, and milked the cow. For essential programs like vocational education, HCYR is committed to ensuring continuation, and thus seeks designated donations. For example, the Ranch is able to sustain its horse program because donors who believe in putting kids with horses donate annually to protect the program. The same is the case with the Summer Enrichment Program, including vocational education. Last year, the Najim Family Foundation, the Cailloux Foundation, and the Majestic Ranch Arts Foundation joined the HCYR Auxiliary and the Charter School to fund all aspects of the summer program. We count on the generosity of regular partners, and we are constantly looking for others to join the team.

Children Impacted:			
How many unduplicated children will the TOTAL PROJECT INITIATIVE impact?		How many unduplicated children will NCF REQUESTED FUNDS impact?	
145		100	
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	15%
Children (6-13)	50%	Asian American	1%
Young Adults (14-18)	50%	Caucasian	37%
TOTAL:	100%	Hispanic/Latino	47%
		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	
Earnings for Youth Participants in Vocational Education Program	\$31,000	\$31,000	
Morning Workcrew Tools & Supplies	\$11,500	\$11,500	
Educational & Recreational Program Supplies	\$18,000	\$0	
Educational Trips with Matching Funds earned by each of 18 children's houses	\$6,000	\$0	
Salaries for Educational & Recreational Program Teachers & Supervisors	\$70,000	\$0	
Salaries for Summer Academic Education at Charter School	\$45,000	\$0	
Salaries for Workcrew Trainers and Supervisors	\$38,000	\$0	
Federal Summer Lunch Program	\$43,000	\$0	
Alumni Internship Program (HCYR & BSRC graduates & college students)	\$25,000	\$0	
TOTAL:	\$287,500	\$42,500	
OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES			
For Project being Requested: Funding sources and amounts, pending and committed.			
PROJECT - PENDING			

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Donor appeal in May to match HCYR Fund	\$22,000
TOTAL:	\$22,000

PROJECT - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Cailloux Foundation	\$25,000
HCYR Auxiliary	\$88,000
Brune/Najim Charter Schools & TEA	\$45,000
HCYR Children's Fund	\$22,000
NSLP/Charter School Lunch Program	\$43,000
TOTAL:	\$223,000

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

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - PENDING

Funder Name	Amount Requested
Perry & Ruby Stevens Foundation	\$250,000
Heavin Family Foundation	\$125,000
Cailloux Foundation	\$250,000
Sterling Turner Foundation	\$25,000
TOTAL:	\$650,000

ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION REQUESTS - COMMITTED

Funder Name	Amount Requested
HCYR Auxiliary	\$554,242
Valerie VonBerg	\$50,000
Hal and Charlie Peterson Foundation	\$250,000
Heavin Family Foundation	\$51,000
Wolf Mountain Foundation	\$126,000
The Porter Company	\$175,000
Herman Keller	\$25,000
Louis Herbert Stumberg, Jr. Fund	\$22,000
David and Theresa Gregory	\$20,000
Louis Strohacker	\$20,000
Spencer Foundation	\$50,000
Brian & Elizabeth Oehler	\$30,000
Glori Ball	\$30,893
Ernst Development Corporation	\$20,837
Will & Liz Franklin	\$40,000
TOTAL:	\$1,464,972

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?

Board members are very active. They mentor children, They speak on behalf of HCYR at civic clubs and churches, and they answer questions in the community. They travel to represent the Ranch at conferences. They organize fund-raising events and donate to sponsor them. They volunteer time to help at the thrift stores. They contact and recruit potential donors and volunteers, and meet with persons interested in the program. They help with traditional events like Thanksgiving and Christmas to surround children and staff with support. They meet monthly to oversee the budget and take action on important issues. They attend annual trainings to qualify them to continue overseeing the Ranch's Charter School system. They serve on various standing committees, and give time and resources in response to needs that arise.

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Name & Office Held	Corporate Affiliation
Judy Wilson, President	Community Leader
Jeeper Ragsdale, Vice President	Business Owner, Camps Stewart & Heart of the Hills Camp
Kelly Conley, Secretary	Community Leader
Brian Bowers, Treasurer	Vice President, Happy Bank
Catherine Stumberg	Community Leader
John Stuart Lohmeyer	Attorney
Cheryl Sieker	Community Leader
Pamela Harte	Ranch Owner
Stephanie Miller	Business Owner, Perfect Surroundings
Philip Capps	IBM Marketing Representative
Jack Cremin	USAF Colonel, Retired
Harold Buell	Owner, Fitness First Sports
Jay Kelley, Foundation Chairman	Attorney, Investment Advisor
Harold Wilson, Foundation Vice Chair	Bank President Retired
John Bakke III, Foundation 2nd Vice Chair	Estate Attorney
Jerry Oliver, Foundation Secretary Treasurer	CPA, President Pressler, Thompson & Co.
Dr. Karen Brune, Foundation Trustee	Dentist, Business Owner
Herb Stumberg, Foundation Trustee	Investment Advisor, Owner Air Measurement Technologies

Signature

Gary Priour