**Magdalena House Letter of Inquiry**

**For Consideration by The Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation, August 14, 2017**

**Project Title: Magdalena House Programming Support**

To support children and their mothers by providing shelter, food, clothing, transportation, safety, educational support and counseling in a transitional home.

**Amount of funding request:** $20,000

**Brief statement of the organization's purpose and history**

Magdalena House opened its doors in 2007 to provide a safe, nurturing transitional home for women and their children in San Antonio escaping abusive and dangerous situations. We provide transformation through education, nurturing community and programming. We serve mothers with up to 2 children whose ages are 7 years or younger upon entry. We offer 24/7 support to create a home-like environment, full of hope and accountability, for these families. Children have a stable home so they a strong foundation for success in school and life. Mothers must participate in accredited education such as ESL, GED, or college. Families participate in parental coaching, life enrichment classes and counseling. Families stay with us until mothers have completed their educational goals. Over 75% of mothers who have participated in our program for over 6 months have completed significant educational milestones, such as their GED or Associate’s Degree. These mothers leave able to earn a living wage and with confidence in themselves and their parenting. We employ 10 staff, and rely on 250 volunteers, many with professional skills, who in 2016 contributed over 4,000 hours. In 2016, we served 17 mothers and children. We plan to build 6 more homes on our 5 acre site to support 28 families and up to 56 children at a time. We anticipate accepting families for our second home in spring 2018 and our third home in summer 2018.

**Project description**

This project provides a safe, stable, supportive home for up to three years and the ability for children and their mothers to attend school full-time with the best probabilities of success and without interruption. We cover unmet needs of food, clothing, childcare and transportation. We coordinate counseling, legal services, and supportive community resources for each family. All families participate in weekly Life Enrichment workshops; school age children participate in CBSG’s “Kids Connection Too” classes designed to prevent risk for future behavioral and health problems including substance abuse, delinquency and violence. Our 24-7 staff offers love, encouragement, and accountability.

**Brief statement of any previous funding received from The Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation**

Magdalena House received $15,000 in 2015 and $20,000 in 2016 from The Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation.

**How the proposed project relates to The Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation's funding priorities**

While children live at Magdalena House, they receive the shelter, safety, stability and nurturing necessary to heal, flourish and develop physically, mentally and emotionally. Through extensive case management, we ensure that the specific needs of a child and the child’s family are met. We ensure that children feel special and loved by surrounding these families with supportive staff and volunteers who act as extended family and offer these children additional secure caregiver relationships. During their 2-3 year stay, their mothers develop protective factors shown to strengthen families: resilience and crisis management skills, parenting skills, and the ability to nurture and love their children as they heal themselves. Our educational component both empowers these moms to secure a living wage and improves their children’s educational success. Our program allows mothers, their children and subsequent generations to permanently escape a life of violence, exploitation and poverty. Children are ready for academic success, emotional well-being and a hopeful future.

**Project Line-item Budget 2018**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Line Item description** | **Total Project Funds Allocation** | **Najim requested funds allocation** |
| **Shelter Facilities and Equipment** |  | - |
| Repairs/Maintenance/Equipment | $20,000 |  |
| Shelter Mortgage | $36,000 | 12,000 |
| Property and Auto Insurance | $11,800 | 1,000 |
| Shelter Utilities (incl. phone/internet) | $28,029 | 3,000 |
| Security gate and panic button | $1,200 |  |
| **Other Expenses – Print/copy, staff development** | $1,270 |  |
| **Personnel Expenses - Program** |  |  |
| Personnel to staff house 24/7,   provide individual family support | $78,770 |  |
| Personnel providing formal case management,   counseling | $122,382 |  |
| Contract labor fees – on-site counseling and   play therapy | $16,200 |  |
| **Programming Supplies** |  |  |
| Assessments/Program Evaluations | $4,110 |  |
| Special Events – Families | $900 |  |
| Health and Wellness | $13,110 |  |
| Childcare (while mothers attend school) | $20,118 |  |
| Education (mothers) | $15,000 |  |
| Food, Household Supplies, Diapers | $9,600 | $4,000 |
| Transportation | $5,244 |  |
| Resident Legal Fees | $5,400 |  |
| Electronic Notes | $3,708 |  |
| In-Kind Donations | $15,000 |  |
| Miscellaneous | $1,500 |  |
| **TOTAL** | **$409,341** | **$20,000** |

**The total project initiative will impact 20 unduplicated children.**

**NFF requested funds will impact 20 unduplicated children.**

**Organization total Revenue and expenses for FY2016:** Total Revenue: $679,866, Total Expenses: $358,242

**For FY2017 through June 2017:** Total Revenue:$165,335, Total Expenses:$147,050

**Project timeline *(beginning and ending dates)***

January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

**Brief project evaluation criteria**

We evaluate the ability to shelter children and their families by the number of families served. We review the performance of moms and their children in school. We use entrance and exit surveys and periodic inventories, such as the **5 Factor Wellness Inventory**, to evaluate program success and individual growth and wellness. Each mother establishes a covenant of academic, personal and parenting goals for their time at Magdalena House. We review their achievement against their covenants multiple times a year to evaluate how well the family is flourishing physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. We track number of hours spent in evidence based parenting programs.

**List other project funders (pending and committed foundations)**

San Antonio Area Foundation: $25,000 committed

Valero Energy Benefit for Children: $20,000 pending

State of TX GVA grant: $198,853 pending

Methodist Healthcare Ministries: $43,000 pending

The majority of our funding comes from individuals and our annual gala at the end of September.

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