

Sunshine Cottage School for Deaf Children

2017 Letter of Inquiry to The Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation

Project Title:

The purpose of this grant is to update the technology used in classrooms by installing new ClearTouch Interactive Smart Panels. These panels will enrich our students' learning experiences and decrease daily interruptions in classroom instruction due to outdated technology and software.

Amount of funding request: \$57,000.00

Brief statement of the organization's purpose and history:

Sunshine Cottage is a listening and spoken language school with clinical areas of audiology and speech-language pathology, and serves children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing from birth through high school. It was established in 1974 by Dela and John White whose daughter was born deaf. Sunshine Cottage promotes early identification of hearing impairment and supports intervention services and amplification by the age of six months. Children who are three years of age are eligible to enter the day school program where they are taught in a rich auditory-oral environment in all subject areas. Students attend Sunshine Cottage through the fifth grade. Our goal is to provide an environment where children with hearing loss can develop to their greatest potential through listening, language and speech. The nonprofit has grown from serving seven students in its first class to a world-renown center for hearing and speech, serving 700 children each year.

Project description:

Sunshine Cottage relies heavily on cutting edge technology to provide profoundly deaf children the opportunity to continue their development of listening and spoken language. Our request is to update the current out-of-date smartboards being used in the classrooms. Currently the interactive smartboards in each classroom are approximately 10 years old and provide multiple challenges. Issues with current boards include lack of clarity of print, as well as the poor quality of the software. Promethium updates no longer support our system and getting in touch with someone who can provide technical support causes interruptions to instruction time. Due to poor clarity of print, Sunshine Cottage teachers must turn off classroom lights in order for the children to see the smartboards clearly. Any student with visual impairments needs special accommodations to participate in class when the lights are dimmed. All of these challenges can be alleviated with the new ClearTouch screens. These are 4K ultra-high definition and 20 point touch screens that also have the added benefit of transforming into a horizontal placement (table setting) for children to use as a part of a group collaboration. These cutting edge smart panels are made with gorilla glass in order to protect the children from any accidents. They have the life expectancy of 50,000 hours, which is approximately six years. All children would have the ability to connect their hearing technology as well as learning technology used daily (i.e. iPads) to these new smart panels.

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

Sunshine Cottage appreciates the past generous support of the Najim Foundation. The following support has been given:

- June 27, 2007 - \$43,204 for support of technology used in the Speech and Language Department
- July 23, 2008 - \$250,000 support for the capital campaign and the construction of our playgrounds
- November 5, 2012 - \$39,950 support for the Speech and Language Department
- September 9, 2014 - \$5000 support for the annual Legacy Luncheon
- July 27, 2016 - \$42,000 support for the purchase of loaner hearing aids

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

Sunshine Cottage works to make a difference in the lives of children who are deaf or hard of hearing and focuses on at least two areas that are important to the Najim Foundation – access to medical treatment in the area of audiology and in the area of education. This year Sunshine has adopted a motto, *Every Child, Every Class, Every Day, Make It Count!* Sunshine Cottage’s philosophy aligns with The Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation in the belief that all children deserve the opportunity to live up to their greatest potential and be successful community members. Cutting edge technology is a critical part of Sunshine Cottage and the daily functioning of our day school. All our students are provided technology to prepare them for transitioning to mainstream schools thus allowing them to continue their academic success despite their hearing loss.

Line-item budget for project in which funds are being requested:

Line item description	Total project funds allocation	Najim requested funds allocation
17 ClearTouch Interactive Smart Panels 75inches	\$4,210.00 x 17 = \$71,570.00	\$48,980.00
17 ClearTouch wall mount - adjustable	\$1,349.00 x 17 = \$22,933.00	\$7,000.00
Shipping	\$1,700.00	\$1,020.00
Installation	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
Total:	\$96,203.00	\$57,000.00

Children impacted:

The TOTAL project initiative will impact 152 number of unduplicated children **annually**.*

NFF requested funds will impact 152 number of unduplicated children **annually**.*

* *We anticipate these screens will be used for six years which could impact over 1,000 unduplicated children.*

Organization total revenue and expenses for current fiscal year For FY 2017:

Revenue: \$7,406,405.00

Expenses: \$7,406,405.00

Project timeline: June 1, 2017 – May 31, 2018

Brief project evaluation criteria:

Several tenured teachers were able to use the boards in their classroom the first week of school. They report the ClearTouch Screens provided consistent and problem-free facilitation of student and teacher access to current curriculum. They were able to provide immediate feedback and reinforcement of curriculum objectives to their students and were able to monitor learner response systems (i.e. mobile devices like iPads, laptops). The boards provided fluid and seamless cross curricular and media (from video to google to word processing, etc.) access for both students and teachers. They loved them!

Evaluation of the project will be demonstrated by mainly qualitative measures such as teacher and student reports. This technology would also improve student achievement although a direct connection might be more difficult to measure. Teachers utilize the Cottage Acquisition Scales for Listening, Language, and Speech (CASLLS or the electronic version eCASLLS) to gauge the progress and development of each child in the area of speech and language. With children being able to better see the instructional material, the boards would also enhance student achievement as well as language development. Plus, student interest, confidence and engagement would improve.

List other project funders (pending and committed foundations):

Revenue Pending or Committed – ClearTouch Screens	Status	Amount requested
Myra Stafford Pryor Trust	<i>pending submission</i>	\$15,000.00
Meadows Foundation	<i>pending submission</i>	\$15,000.00
St. Luke’s Lutheran Health Ministries	<i>pending submission</i>	\$10,000.00
Total:		\$40,000.00

Contact information of primary and secondary person within organization (INCLUDE: name, address, phone number, and email address):

Primary Contact: Belinda Pustka, Executive Director, 603 E. Hildebrand Ave, San Antonio, TX 78212, (210) 824-0579, bpustka@sunshinecottage.org

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