

August 11, 2017

Najim Family Foundation
613 NW Loop 410, Suite 875
San Antonio, TX 78216

Dear Mr. Najim & Review Committee:

Thru Project respectfully submits this letter of inquiry to The Najim Family Foundation in the amount of \$50,000 for the purpose of piloting a Youth Housing Program. Contained in this letter are the responses requested in the Najim Family Foundation Letter of Inquiry guidelines.

Project Title: Youth Housing Pilot Program

Funding Request: \$50,000

Organization History and Purpose:

Co-founded in 2011 by Steve O'Donnell and Elaine Andries Hartle, THRU Project exists to support youth who have aged out of the foster care system in San Antonio and its surrounding areas through mentoring, coaching and education. Since its inception, THRU Project has served 317 youth and is currently working with 112 youth. In addition to mentoring and life skills classes, the program currently provides bus passes, emergency and job-related funding, and cell phone service in order to provide basic resources to young people transitioning into adulthood with little to no support. THRU Project is known for its collaborative efforts. Staff work closely with local public and private entities as well as state agencies to create a network of support that is so critical for our youth as they work towards increased self-sufficiency. A staff of four along with 13 board members and 209 volunteers help to ensure that any youth transitioning out of the foster care system becomes a productive member of society. Our primary goal is to fill critical gaps, so that youth exiting foster care can become successful, productive citizens.

Project Description:

To support those transitioning out of foster care grow into successful independence, THRU Project will offer housing options and mandatory life-skills courses that vetted youth through non-institutionalized living will be unified with the community. The Youth Housing Pilot Program will be an integral component for 5 local former foster youth, in their journey to productive independence. The program is specifically designed as a graduated, systematic approach geared towards one of our community's most vulnerable populations and creates opportunities for individual growth through skill building, practical life skills, support, and ultimately one of our most basic needs; shelter.

Each placement will focus on preparing the youth for living on their own while strengthening future families and breaking the negative cycles of self-destruction. Our participants seeking to be housed will utilize the Casey Family Survey to identify their areas of greatest need and participants will be required to attend all THRU Project life-skills workshops. Life-skills sessions will cover topics such as personal finance, cooking, nutrition, and human trafficking throughout the year and the courses are designed to equip young adults exiting the foster care system with the knowledge and skills needed to enter adulthood with confidence and become productive members of society.

As young children, our participants often entered the foster care system because of neglect and abuse and are then bounced from place to place, so is it no surprise that our most vulnerable youth are floundering, repeating mistakes, and leaving themselves open to those who will take advantage and exploit their naiveté. Our hope is that the workshops and group session will increase their personal capacity, but we also know that these young people often face such dark skeletons, that they need one on one support. A THRU Project case manager will meet with each young person at their residence to ensure consistency, compliance and progression. The actual shelter is a critical piece to this program and we have just been notified that a local rental property owner has agreed to lease to our youth on a month to month basis without raising rent for at least one year. Rent includes utilities and internet!

And, the last component to the program, but certainly not the least important, is establishing financial security. A significant piece of this pilot project is to educate the 5 participants on personal finance and to require each young person to save a percentage of their personal income, to increase on a sliding scale, so that by the end of the year, they have personal savings of at least \$4,000. Additionally, we will require that participants maintain, at all times, steady employment and/or be pursuing their GED or other continuing education courses.

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

THRU Project was honored to receive funding in the amount of \$10,000 from The Najim Family Foundation in 2016 to support its Pass to Success Via program.

How the proposed project relates to the Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation:

The Youth Housing Pilot Program fits with the focus of The Najim Family Foundation in that the program is designed specifically for one of San Antonio's most vulnerable populations; youth and creates opportunities for inclusion, growth, and safe, stable housing.

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

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Requested Funds Allocation
Case Management (.5 FTE)	\$25,000	10,000
Rent (includes deposits & application fees)	\$30,000	30,000
Household Furnishings & Living Expenses	\$7,500	3,500
Life Skills Classes & Workshops	\$1,500	1,500
Administrative Expenses	\$5,000	5,000
TOTAL	\$69,000	50,000

Children Impacted:

The total project initiative will impact 5 unduplicated youth in this initial pilot phase. NFF requested funds will impact 5 unduplicated youth in this initial pilot phase.

Organization total revenue and expenses for current fiscal year:

2017 Revenue: \$188,165.48

2017 Expense: \$113,739.80

Project timeline:

THRU Project expects this pilot project phase to begin January 1, 2018 and end December 31, 2018.

Evaluation Criteria:

- 100% participation in life-skills courses and monthly group meetings.
- 90% attendance at individual case management sessions.
- 80% Participants will have personally saved at least \$4,000 by 12/31/18.
- At least 80% of participants, at program completion, will have maintained independent housing.

List other project funders (pending and committed foundations):

There are no other pending or committed funders at this point.

Primary and Secondary Contact Information:

Primary Contact:

Elaine Andries Hartle, THRU Project Executive Director
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Secondary Contact:

Gabriella Franklin, Resource Procurement Manager
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Once again, we appreciate your consideration and thank you for taking the time to learn more about THRU Project. We are grateful to have a local foundation so focused on the lives of children and youth.

Sincerely,

Elaine Hartle
Executive Director