

Project Description

This is a General description of the Grant project. Outline in detail the humanitarian need your project will address, the intent of the project, how the project will be implemented, and how Rotarians will be directly involved in the project. Note that the Estimated budget is only the initial grant request amount; to outline details on the various budget items, including those from other funding sources, go to the Budget tab.

Grant Project: Easing the Pain for Abused Children in Hidalgo County

Primary Sponsoring Club: Rotary Club of McAllen South

Contact: Wingard, Michael

Date Submitted: Jul 29, 2014 at 9:09 PM

Project Total Budget: \$10,500.00

Grant Budget: \$10,500.00

Project Expected Income: \$10,500.00

Grant Expected Income: \$4,000.00

General Description

Describe the project and the problem or need it will address, including the intended beneficiaries and how the project will benefit the community in need. Provide the estimated length of time needed to complete the project.

The investigation of child abuse can be difficult for all involved. Families must contend with both the civil and criminal justice systems, which can be complex, confusing and often re-traumatizing. Civil and criminal investigators face challenges as they try to collect information and evidence while working under different mandates, timelines and expertise. Investigators need a system that coordinates information sharing and effective fact finding. One of the critical services provided by the CAC (Child Advocacy Center) is forensic interviewing. The audio/video recording of these interviews eliminates the need for multiple interviews of the child, thus reducing trauma to the abused child.

Although the CAC will house, use and maintain to equipment to be provided by the proposed grant, the intended beneficiaries of our proposed grant will be abused children in their time of need. We intend to reduce/eliminate the need for these children to re-tell their horrific experience.

Community Assessment & Impact

Describe how the benefiting community has been determined and what impact will be made by this project after grant funding has been fully expended.

The benefiting community was determined using historical data (2013) provided by the Children's Advocacy Center of Hidalgo County. On average 80-85 children receive services from the CAC on a monthly basis. In 2013, the CAC served 964 new victims which range from 2 to 17 years in age. We anticipate that over 7,000 abused children and their families will benefit over the course of our proposed grant. Interviews of child victims are conducted for allegations of sexual abuse and/or physical abuse; allegations of neglect; or as witnesses to a violent crime. 70-75% of interviews are child victims of sexual abuse.

Sustainability

Please explain the plan on how to maintain this project for a long period of time.

The proposed grant will fund the much needed audio/ video equipment to be housed, used and maintained by the Children's Advocacy Center of Hidalgo County. We estimate the useful life of this equipment to be 7-10 years. Given the statistical information provided, we believe the beneficiaries of this grant will be roughly 7,000 abused children and their families. The proposed grant includes a budgeted line item for training and proper use of equipment. The Rotary Club of McAllen South will conduct annual inspections of equipment to ensure proper maintenance and require immediate notification from CAC in the event of equipment malfunction.

Implementation Plan

Describe specific activities of the sponsoring club and any partners in implementing the project. What will the Rotarians who are members of the partner clubs do during the project? Please note that financial support is not considered active involvement.

Proposed audio/video equipment will be delivered to the CAC during a Rotary sponsored "open house" event where Rotarians will volunteer in planning, coordinating and event hosting. A Rotary plaque will be presented by the Child Advocacy Center of Hidalgo County and the plaque will be displayed outside of the 2 interview rooms listing Rotary as the benefactor. Rotary will be recognized at the CAC's annual gala and Rotarians will volunteer at the event. The CAC has committed to bring awareness to our contribution through local media.

Expected Expenses

List all anticipated expenses for this project, including those that will be funded outside of the District grant portion.

Description	Supplier	Currency	Total	Amount
2 Desktops and 2 Monitors	TBD	USD	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Audio/Video Equipment (4 HD cameras, 4 wall microphones, 2 audio/video mixers, 1 switch network, camera/micophone wiring & software)	TBD	USD	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Equipment Installation and Training	TBD	USD	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
			Total:	\$10,500.00

Expected Income

List all anticipated income for this project, including funds that will be contributed by the club, other partners and the District grant portion.

Description	Funding Source	Amount	%
Pharr Rotary Club	Club/Other	\$500.00	4.76 %
McAllen Rotary Club	Club/Other	\$500.00	4.76 %
McAllen North Rotary Club	Club/Other	\$500.00	4.76 %
Edinburg Rotary Club	Club/Other	\$1,000.00	9.52 %
McAllen South Rotary Club	Club/Other	\$1,000.00	9.52 %
The Children's Advocacy Center of Hidalgo County	Club/Other	\$3,000.00	28.57 %
District Grant Request	District Grant	\$4,000.00	38.10 %
Total:		\$10,500.00	100.00 %

Local Club Partners

List any partnering clubs within the District. Note that only one grant application needs to be made by the main sponsoring club.

Club	Contact Name	Contribution
Rotary Club of McAllen South	John King	1,000.00
Rotary Club of Pharr	Fred Garza	500.00
Rotary Club of Edinburg	Fred Perez	1,000.00

Club	Contact Name	Contribution
Rotary Club of McAllen	Cesar Suarez	500.00
Rotary Club of McAllen North	Michael McLarty	500.00

Cooperating Organizations

Explanation: Cooperating Organizations are any other groups or organizations (other than partnering Rotary clubs) that are working with the sponsoring club in either funding or implementing the project.

Operating as a 501c.3 non-profit organization, the Children's Advocacy Center of Hidalgo County also known as Estrella's House is a child friendly, physically and psychologically safe environment where child victims of abuse can come to tell their story. One of 68 CACs in the state, it is the only one regionally serving Hidalgo and Starr Counties. Partner agencies in service between both counties include two district attorney's offices, thirteen CPS units and thirty-one law enforcement agencies.