

RSFWF Annual Grantee Evaluation Report

2020-2021 Grant Cycle



T.E.R.I., Inc. -- \$40,000

Vocational Training for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Program Description: This program teaches essential workplace skills to low-income people with disabilities, helping them to build marketable skills for future employment. Specific program objectives were to provide vocational training to 175 individuals with disabilities, with measured improvement in the training goals set.



Results: Due to COVID-related restrictions, the *Vocational Training Program* was limited on how many vocational students could access the program. The program was only able to accommodate 95 students, instead of the proposed 175. Students learned about different types of careers and how to carry out various vocational tasks, participated in job surveys to learn the importance of choosing jobs that align with their skills and interests, practiced filling out applications and interview skills with professional communication and social scripts. Additionally,

students participated in volunteer projects throughout the year that allowed them to transfer the skills they learned to real scenarios. Although the program served fewer students, the data showed great results for those students who were able to participate, with demonstrated progress shown on 87% of vocational goals developed.

Future Plans: One of the most exciting things to come out of this program is the development of a new internship program that will be funded through the *San Diego Regional Center*. This program will provide paid internships for up to 1 year for up to 12 clients with disabilities. These clients will receive intensive training at a 1:2 ratio 5 days per week, with pay, which will lead to job placement once their training is completed.



ArtReach San Diego -- \$19,120.57

Art for All: Free Visual Arts Program for Title I Schools



Project Description: The *Visual Arts Program* was devised to provide intentional and engaging free visual arts classes and supplies to nurture the creative spirit, academic achievement, and social-emotional well-being for 3,941 kindergarten through fifth-grade students at Title I schools in historically under-served San Diego neighborhoods.

Results: The program's activities and accomplishments closely aligned with the proposed plan, with one significant deviation. We initially proposed a program via distance learning. When schools returned to in-person learning, we pivoted our strategy to also return to schools. The deliverables remained the same, yet we were able to deepen our impact by serving students in person and creating a space for collaboration. As a result, we were able to

increase our original commitment of 2,500 students served to 3,941! In addition, nearly 62% of students reported that, to some degree, the project changed their view of who can be an artist, and 77% report they better understand what a job or career in the arts looks like. There are also strong, positive, and significant results ($p \leq .01$) in creative self-confidence, belief in the interconnectedness among the arts and other subjects in school, and understanding of art vocabulary.

Collaborations/Future Plans: We worked with *San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD)* and *Arts Education Resource Organizations (AERO)* to amplify our work, inviting staff to share student artwork in newsletters, attend art shows, and help us connect to schools where no visual art is taking place. This partnership will continue as we work together to ensure all San Diego Unified schools have access to some form of arts education. *ArtReach* partnered with *The California Center for the Arts, Escondido (CCAIE)* to deliver visual arts programs to North County Title I schools. They help assess their district's needs and coordinate partnerships with new Escondido elementary schools looking for high-quality visual arts residencies. This collaboration will continue, currently slated to connect our services to two new Title I schools this fall. This program is core to our mission, and will continue at a similar scale. We fundraise year-round to support free visual arts education programs for Title I schools all throughout San Diego County.



Travis Manion Foundation -- \$20,000

Serving San Diego Youth Through Character and Leadership Education

Project Description: The purpose of this grant award was to support Travis Manion Foundation's *Character Does Matter (CDM)* program in San Diego, CA. TMF's *Character Does Matter* program is an ongoing veteran-led youth development program that trains military Veteran Mentors to empower youth to become leaders and change agents in their communities. Over the course of this grant period, TMF aimed to impact approximately 3,625 local youth through *Character Does Matter's* character presentations and Character & Leadership Courses.



Results: *Travis Manion Foundation* ultimately reached 869 San Diego youth through in-person *Character Does Matter* engagements over the course of the grant period and approximately 1,000 youth through virtual components of the program. Though the overall number of youth reached is less than originally anticipated, this was due in large part to challenges related to coordinating in-person programming during the COVID-19 pandemic. One unintended benefit of the COVID-19 pandemic and these lower impact numbers is that it enabled our programs team to delve deeper with participating youth through multi-session Character and Leadership Courses, keeping youth engaged during the challenging times of the pandemic and limiting social isolation. These engagements



included collaborations with *Operation Hero After School Program* and the *Armed Services YMCA*, a partnership with the *USO of San Diego*, multiple events with the students of *STAR/PAL* school year and summer program, and college prep projects with *University of San Diego's TRIO Upward Bound* programming for first generation high school students. One of our largest and most successful partnerships in 2021 included the Leadership Academy department from the *USS Midway* as we engaged in Summer and Fall *Character Does Matter* programming with students from the *STAR/PAL* program. We engaged the youth in a beach cleanup, weekly programming during the summer, team building excursions (such as K1 racing and going to SeaWorld). We also had youth participate in

our Back-to-School initiative where Veteran Mentors provided backpacks filled with pens, notebooks, binders, etc. to help their families get them ready for school.

Future Plans: Over the next five years, Travis Manion Foundation aims continue to develop and implement a strategy to incentivize young adults to take action following their participation in *Character Does Matter* and ensure that we are capturing their ongoing community impact.

Armed Services YMCA Camp Pendleton -- \$50,000

Armed Services YMCA Fisher Children's Center



Program Description: *Armed Services YMCA Camp Pendleton Fisher Children's Center* provides quality child care for military children and families by bolstering our staff training and improving our curricula. The specific program objectives were 1) to enable 100% of our staff to be compliant with the educational, professional development and training requirements of National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA); and 2) for at least 75% of the children at our center to reach pre-determined

developmental markers acquiring the necessary social and emotional skills to be ready for kindergarten. We are happy to report that we achieved both goals!

Results: A vast majority of our \$50,000 grant (\$40,000) went towards salaries for training, oversight and implementation of NECPA requirements throughout a six-month period (June 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021). The remainder of the grant was used for office/program supplies (\$9,000), and staff development (\$1,000). One of our biggest obstacles was that we needed a consistent Training Specialist to ensure that all staff were compliant with the continuing education and training requirements of the NECPA. Consequently, we created a position for a part-time childcare Training Specialist position at *Fisher Children's Center*. The Training Specialist is responsible for training the entire center, which has 20 employees at full capacity. Because we strive to hire military spouses and therefore have a higher-than-average turnover rate, this position now supports the training of 34 employees per year. She oversaw the accreditation process, maintained a high quality of care for military families, and ensured that our staff adhered to all NECPA accreditation requirements.

Future Plans: The *Fisher Children's Center* will continue to provide childcare that strengthens military families, reduces inequities, and enables spouses to return to work and support the economic growth of North County San Diego. By offering accredited services at an affordable cost of \$165 dollars per week (approximately half of the average cost of full-time infant childcare in San Diego County), *Fisher Children's Center* supports single and dual active-duty parents, as well as full-time working spouses, all while providing the social, emotional, and academic support that children need to be ready for kindergarten and beyond. In the future, *Fisher Children's Center* will begin offering the Early Learning Matters (ELM) curriculum (this curriculum aligns with NECPA requirements). This curriculum is being implemented in all DoD-sponsored childcare centers throughout the country in order to provide a consistent experience for military families regardless of where they are stationed.



Fresh Start Surgical Gifts -- \$25,000

Surgery Weekend Program

Program Description: Funds were used to provide reconstructive and plastic surgery for disadvantaged children and teens at no cost to the patients or their families. These children/teens have significant afflictions which are affecting their lives, whether congenital or due illness, accidents or abuse. By providing this surgery, *Fresh Start* is dramatically impacting their lives, resulting in improvement in their overall health, increased self-confidence and better school attendance/participation. Our comprehensive, personalized, and long-term medical care empowers our patients to become healthy, confident, and productive adults.

Results: While the number of children served was slightly below projections due to Covid restrictions which were in place at the hospital, *Fresh Start* was still able to make a significant impact – 38 children received 88 surgeries; 99 children received 428 dental and orthodontic procedures; 24 children received speech therapy and 7 children received laser treatments. In addition, volunteer medical professionals provided over \$2.8 Mil in donated medical care and *Rady Children's Hospital* donated the operating suites. Due to the aforementioned restrictions at the hospital, *Fresh Start* was unable to host the surgical weekends where many of these surgeries are performed on a given weekend. Instead, they were able to adapt by weaving the children's appointments into weekday schedules, thus ensuring the patients did not miss critical care. The \$25,000 grant from the RSFWF enabled Fresh Start Surgical Gifts to provide 172 disadvantaged children with \$216,543 in highly specialized medical care.



Future Plans: This is an ongoing relationship with *Rady Children's Hospital*, and one which we fully expect to continue. Even with the Affordable Care Act, however, thousands of children are still unable to access the highly specialized and long-term medical care *Fresh Start Surgical Gifts* provides. Therefore, we will continue our outreach efforts with traditional and social media as well as in-person presentations to school districts and social service agencies to increase awareness of *Fresh Start* as a resource for children in need. What is unique about our organization is that we were bequeathed a significant trust that allows us to pay for all our administrative expenses with the interest from that trust fund; therefore, 100% of monies we raise go to directly to servicing our patients.

Outdoor Outreach -- \$32,000

Outdoor Outreach Leadership Program

Program Description: *Outdoor Outreach's Leadership Program* provides nature-based job training, early employment, and youth-led advocacy opportunities for young adults from low-income communities and communities that have been historically impacted by social inequities. This program addresses the challenges of youth unemployment, mental health and resilience, and park equity. Our objectives for the 2020-21 year included the following:



- Provide 3,000 hours of job training for 24 new participants, including 2,500+ hours for our Summer 2021 cohort (12 participants) and 500+ hours for our Fall 2021 cohort (12 participants specifically impacted by the foster care system);
- Sustain 16 paid positions at *Outdoor Outreach* for graduates of the Leadership Program as outdoor instructors and peer mentors for at least 600 youth; and
- Provide 6 youth-led civic engagement opportunities for participants and graduates of the program.

Results: Funding from the RSFWF enabled *Outdoor Outreach* to provide 20 young adults with 300+ hours and a combined 20-weeks of nature-based job training, civic engagement, and early-work experience. Participants developed critical career skills, like communication, leadership, advocacy, and decision making. In addition, support from the RSFWF also allowed us to mobilize 35 youth as outdoor champions through 10 advocacy opportunities across California. 80% of our 2021 Leadership Program



participants reported they experienced growth in resilience, with a significant increase in participants' agreements with following statements between pre- and post-surveys: "I feel proud that I have accomplished things in my life." "I am friends with myself." "My life has meaning." We have also recently hired 5 graduates from the intensive Summer cohort, and 2 graduates from the Fall cohort as Instructors at *Outdoor Outreach*, thereby helping us to sustain 20 paid positions at *Outdoor Outreach* for graduates of our Leadership Program.

Future Plans: Based on feedback from participants and the community alike, we have decided to shift the Fall 12-week cohort to align with the full 9-month school year. We believe that extending this program while utilizing an afterschool and weekend schedule will increase our intended impact with youth. Finally, rather than hosting one cohort specifically for system-impacted and/or foster youth, we will open up both cohorts to include this especially vulnerable population, to more effectively promote inclusion and community-building among all of the youth that we serve.

Interfaith Community Services -- \$19,120.37

Transitional Youth Academy (TYA)



Program Description: *Transitional Youth Academy (TYA)* empowers high school youth from low-income households, and their families to close the opportunity gaps by providing intensive student engagement, academic support, and access to comprehensive wrap-around services in the North San Diego County region. With funding from the *Rancho Santa Fe Women's Fund*, TYA committed to empowering approximately 50 youth enrolled in El Camino High School in Oceanside to achieve their academic and career goals, as well as provide families with a pathway toward self-sufficiency. This is accomplished by providing them with access to intensive one-on-one mentoring, case management and peer group support as well as increasing their leadership skills and providing complete workforce development training.

Results: During the grant period, *Interfaith TYA* program supported 65 youth, 51 of whom completed workforce development training and 20 of whom were seniors. Through student's interactions and participation in the program, they strengthened their sense of identity, belief in the future, self-regulation, and self-efficacy as well as their social, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral competence. When families engaged in the program this ensured that the household was also self-sufficient leading to a stronger, more secure, family unit with a solid foundation for the growth and success of all family members.



Future Plans: *Interfaith Community Services* has a long-standing partnership with the Oceanside Unified School District (OUSD) for the *TYA* program and will continue to do so. *TYA* currently operates



on the El Camino High School campus and will expand to Oceanside High School for the 2022-23 school year. A component of *Interfaith's* Strategic Plan for 2022 through 2025 is to sustain and expand its *TYA* program each school year. *Interfaith* is committed to expanding to one additional school site each school year for the years of 2022 – 2025. *Interfaith* has secured funding for the *TYA* program for the upcoming year from a wide variety of community sources. This will allow *TYA* to serve over 100 students during the 2022-2023 school year. The program has secured funding to continue its workforce development program which will provide paid summer internship for 30 to 60 students throughout the school year and over the summer of 2023. Additionally,

the added locations allow *TYA* to enhance its partnerships with local colleges and universities as now more occupational and behavioral therapy interns may join the program.

Operation HOPE-North County -- \$34,500

HOPE for Youth in Shelter

Program Description: The purpose for the *HOPE for Youth in Shelter Program* is for every child who comes through the program to be able to thrive in a safe and supportive environment. Together, with the support of our staff and community partners, we focus on the key areas of problem-solving abilities, coping skills, communication, and educational opportunities to support their developmental growth while in shelter. The activities, goals and objectives of the program provides every child who enters the program with safe shelter, daily meals, showers, case management, support, tutoring and age-appropriate programming.



Results: COVID-19 has continued to have a great impact on our programming. Anytime there was a positive case either on staff or within the clients in shelter, *OHNC* had to pause all volunteer programming. This impacted both the onsite support available and, at times, the one-on-one tutoring support. To overcome this obstacle, staff worked with our community partners to provide virtual support to all clients and children when shelter was in quarantine. All other services continued with no interruption including providing safe shelter, daily meals, case management services, weekly skill building courses and food distribution through the *Pantry of HOPE*.

Measurable Outcomes for the program included: Total Number of Youth Served = 119. Total Number of Hours of Tutoring Provided = 11,088.

Future Plans: The community greatly supports the *HOPE for Youth in Shelter* program. It continues to amaze us how community members, groups, corporations, foundations, cities and churches all come together to contribute to the mission and success of the program. With the growing number of individuals experiencing homelessness and seeking safe shelter and services, over 50% of those served in our program continue to be children. *Operation HOPE-North County* remains committed to the *HOPE for Youth in Shelter* program and to providing essential services to families with children experiencing homelessness. *OHNC* will continue partnerships with MCC, Palomar, CSUSM Colleges, continue to expand partnerships within the community to provide the best services possible to meet the youth's needs, bring on a permanent Youth Coordinator who, alongside the Director of Programs and Case Managers, will identify the youths' needs, and create, implement and expand the children's programs.



Girls on the Run San Diego (GOTRSD) -- \$13,500

Girls on the Run

Program Description: *Girls on the Run* is a nationwide after-school social/emotional learning program that is made accessible to all girls in grades 3-8 regardless of athletic ability and fitness level. It provides these girls with an opportunity to participate in a life-changing program and gain the confidence, self-esteem, knowledge and skills that they will need to make positive choices, develop healthy relationships and become effective leaders in the future.

The grant from the *Rancho Santa Fe Women's Fund* was used to provide three teams of underserved girls in grades 3-8 from North County San Diego (for a total of 60 girls) with the opportunity to participate in a season of *Girls on the Run*.



Results: Covid-19 continued to provide challenges to *GOTRSD* in terms of both girl and coach recruitment. Constant changing public health guidelines made holding practices and events challenging, and many coaches were not yet comfortable returning to the program. *GOTRSD* mitigated this challenge by partnering with new schools and community organizations, such as housing communities, to reach more girls and coaches who may be interested in participating in the program.

As a result, the grant from the *RSFWF* supported a total of three teams of girls from Fallbrook STEM Academy, Mary Fay Elementary and Beaumont Elementary. Program outcomes included: 97% of girls gained critical life skills through participation in *Girls on the Run*; 85% reported improvement in confidence, competence, caring, character, or connection; and girls who were the least active before participating in *Girls on the Run* increased their physical activity by more than 40%.



Future Plans: The community loves *Girls on the Run*! Families report improved relationships and behavior at home, and feedback from school faculty and administration indicates that *Girls on the Run* has a positive impact on every school community. *GOTRSD* plans to continue to grow the *Girls on the Run* program in the future, and reach as many girls in need as possible. *GOTRSD* maintains a diverse revenue base of individual donations, grants and corporate sponsorships to support program operations. Additionally, *GOTRSD* has a volunteer grant writing team in place, managed by a now full-time Fundraising and Development Manager, that is committed to identifying and securing new and increased sources of funding for the organization.

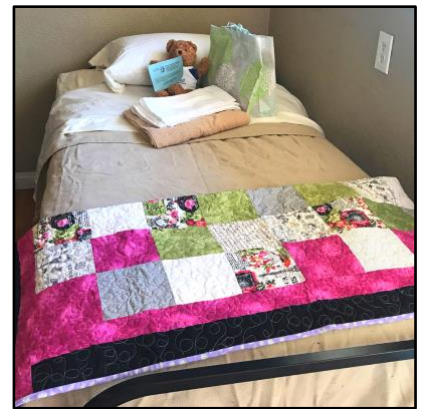
Center for Community Solutions (CCS) -- \$50,000

Supporting Children and Families in Domestic Violence Shelters During a Time of Crisis

Program Description: *Center for Community Solutions'* mission is to end relationship and sexual violence by being a catalyst for caring communities and social justice. We requested funds from the RSFWF to support our two North County shelter programs. These programs ensure safe and continuing services for survivors of relationship violence and their children. At the height of the COVID pandemic, CCS saw a 64% increase in calls to our 24-hr crisis hotline, with most calls relating to domestic violence. The \$50,000 in funds received from RSFWF was specifically requested to allow CCS to add two staff positions and add emergency assistance funds for survivors in order to better address this increase in need at our two North County Shelters.

Results: Over the last year, CCS' Hotline Coordinator, Advocacy Support Facilitators and Certified Volunteers provided trauma-informed response to 5,888 callers to CCS' Hotline.

In addition, CCS' two shelter locations in North County provided safe and confidential shelter for 63 adults and 88 children (151 individuals) for an average of 45 days resulting in 8,897 bed nights. While residing with CCS, all basic needs were supported and clients were provided ongoing advocacy and linkages to CCS' comprehensive wrap-around services (child advocacy, counseling, and legal services). Scores on a self-sufficiency matrix assessment reflected 142.83% increase in relationship and household safety and a 25.8% improvement in support systems for residential clients.



Finally, individual emergency client assistance in the form of \$100 gift cards was provided to shelter clients in need for expenses such as gasoline for their car so they could continue to work and new clothes for children. Whole shelter emergency assistance went toward a critical fence repair and A/C repair of shelters experiencing over 110 degrees internally.

Future Plans: With RSFWF grant investment, CCS received the traction needed to address spikes in calls for help and positioned us to keep survivor residents safe during and beyond the pandemic. CCS remains committed to seeking multiple funding streams to maintain and deepen services. In North County alone, we have grown financial support through both government contracts and private donations. With each successful grant project, CCS also increases its ability to explore growing shelter options, which are lacking to a stunning degree in the San Diego region. Historically, thanks to our expertise, partnerships, and fiscal fortitude, our shelter services have increased or have been enhanced over time, and we project that this will continue.