

**Project Research and Development (PR&D)**

**2019-2020 Overview and Committee Selections**

**SUMMARY**

Funding Allotment Process

$490,000 Project applications were due June 1, 2018

49 agency applications

16 agency interviews

11 project recommendations

84 volunteers needed

Guiding Principles

JLFW Mission

*…an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.*

JLFW Community Impact Areas

* Arts and Culture
* Education
* Health and Nutrition
* Life Readiness
* Supports Fort Worth

Project Criteria

* The impact of the project is primarily within the Fort Worth area.
* The impact is meaningful.
* The project fits within membership preferences for volunteer opportunities.

**PROJECT SELECTIONS**

Eleven (11) Projects have been recommended for the 2019-2020 year.

1. **Cook Children’s Health Foundation**

Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Project\*

$90,000 10 volunteers

1. **Historic Fort Worth**

Ball-Eddleman-McFarland House Accessibility Project\*

$90,000 6 volunteers

1. **JPS Foundation**

NICU Supplemental Nutrition Project\*

$90,000 6 volunteers

1. **Fort Worth Youth Orchestra**

Orchestra Season Support Project

$50,000 7 volunteers

1. **Community Storehouse**

Dignity Closet Project

$40,000 6 volunteers

1. **Fort Worth Drowning Prevention Coalition**

Swim Safe Community Expansion Project

$30,000 12 volunteers

1. **ACH Child and Family Services**

Wichita Campus Wellness Program Project

$20,000 8 volunteers

1. **MHMR Visions**

Be Strong Families Parent Café Project

$20,000 5 volunteers

1. **NewDay Services for Children & Families**

FOCUS (Families Offering Children Unfailing Success) for Mothers Project

$20,000 6 volunteers

1. **Recovery Resource Council**

Girls Teen Retreat Project

$20,000 6 volunteers

1. **The Cliburn**

Eighth International Amateur Piano Competition Project

$20,000 12 volunteers

*\*Denotes 90th Anniversary Project*

**Project #1:**

Agency: **Cook Children’s Health Foundation**

Project: **Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Project\***

Cook Children’s has experienced exponential growth in the demand for Behavioral Health Services, and in particular, suicide prevention. Recently, Cook has seen a 48% increase in the number of pediatric patients who have attempted suicide and are admitted to medical units awaiting stabilization before being treated for mental health. Many of these high-risk patients are seen in Cook’s Emergency Department for medical stabilization prior to inpatient psychiatric treatment. This equates to 7,500 patients annually that are presenting at Cook in crisis due to either a psychotic episode or suicide attempt. The Junior League is partnering with Cook Children’s in support of families in need and so the medical center can continue a high standard of care in our region in Behavioral Health Services.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Volunteers: Ten (10)

Investment Details: $90,000

Funding will be used to create five “Psych Safe” rooms in the medical center; these rooms are free of all ligature (i.e., anything from which a person can seek to injure themselves) as well as the purchase of kevlar gloves, sleeves and protective shields for clinicians to use to prevent contact with open wounds, stab wounds or biting. Additionally, this Junior League of Fort Worth grant will assist with a behavioral health/play therapy room program development need, and the purchase of comfort cart items such as blankets, snacks, water, phone chargers, large-scale sensory impact developmental toys and therapeutic incentives. Funds will allow for hard wiring of an Educational Parenting Video screening area and purchase of a video system where educational parenting and trauma informed videos can be shown to families. Additional books, parenting literature/DVDs and developmental toys and resources will be purchased as part of program and training needs. The grant will assist with care for Lulu, one of Cook Children’s therapy dogs, and hospital staff and community training highlighting risk factors, warning signs and appropriate intermediate interventions.

Volunteer Details:

Please Note: For 2019-2020, this Project will replace the JLFW’s Cook - General Volunteer placement.

JLFW volunteers will work with patients and families in a variety of ways, including reading books, playing in the playroom, holding and rocking babies, directing visitors, meeting and greeting visitors, helping in the Enchanted Castle Gift Shop, cleaning play areas, helping with clerical duties and educating parents about car seat safety. Volunteers are trained in a variety of ways to help patients and families. Volunteer needs are requested from October 2019 to February 2020. Weekday, weekend and evening hours are all available.

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Education, Health and Nutrition

**Project #2:**

Agency: **Historic Fort Worth, Inc.**

Project: **Ball-Eddleman-McFarland House Accessibility Project\***

The 1899 Ball-Eddleman-McFarland House, the Junior League of Fort Worth’s first headquarters, needs a $444,510 restoration to make the house accessible to all. This project includes replacing the dilapidated back porch deck, replacing the deteriorated stone and south-facing steps currently decked in unsuitable tile, and modifications to the museum floor’s restroom to comply with today’s American with Disabilities Act (ADA). Years ago, while still in the building, the Junior League began the original restoration process and completed several phases under the guidance of dedicated restoration architect John Volz of Austin, the architect still used by Historic Fort Worth today. The League office was located at the House from 1979 until 2004.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Volunteers: Six (6)

Investment Details: $90,000

Funding will be applied to construction expenses including architectural and engineering plans, the demolition of rotted or unsuitable materials, replacement sandstone carving and installation, electrical upgrades, new wood decking and new restroom fixtures.

Volunteer Details:

JLFW volunteers will have a variety of opportunities to work with Historic Fort Worth, including being a board volunteer, assisting the Public Affairs Committee, working in the Preservation Resource Center at McFarland House and serving as volunteer docents. Volunteers may also serve on various event committees assisting with Historic Fort Worth events. Weekday and Sunday hours are available, as well as an occasional weekend event; some projects may be completed from home.

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Arts and Culture, Education, Supports Fort Worth

**Project #3:**

Agency: **JPS Foundation**

Project: **NICU Volunteer and Supplemental Nutrition Project\***

Support from the Junior League of Fort Worth for this project will provide premature babies in JPS’ Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) with two elements critical to their growth: (1) skin-to-skin contact provided by cuddling from volunteers when parents are unable to be there and (2) human-based supplements for babies whose digestive systems struggle to digest feedings. Studies have shown that preemies who are cuddled from birth have better sleep patterns and focus, steadier respiration and heart rate and better stress-management skills as children. Beneficiaries are preemies who will also receive human-based milk to provide necessary nutrition for their bodies and brains to grow at developmentally appropriate rates.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Volunteers: Six (6)

Investment Details: $90,000

Funding will be applied directly to the cost of human-based milk nutritional supplements to meet the needs of premature babies who cannot tolerate formula-based (non-human) supplements.

Volunteer Details:

JLFW volunteers will have the opportunity to hold babies (under supervision of staff), talk to the babies in soothing and stimulating tones, sing to babies in rhymes and lullabies and console babies with positive touch and sensitive comfort. Volunteers will also help with NICU duties such as reading to babies, folding and stocking gowns, stocking carts and drawers, taking out dirty linen, assisting in answering phones, making admission and discharge packets, rounding on patients and guiding parents to a three-minute scrub in. Shifts are available seven (7) days a week, year-round from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Health and Nutrition

**Project #4:**

Agency: **Fort Worth Youth Orchestra (FWYO)**

Project: **Orchestra Season Support Project**

The Junior League of Fort Worth has been asked to be the main supporter of the Fort Worth Youth Orchestra’s 54th Concert Season and special events. Fort Worth Youth Orchestra is the only youth music organization that offers a comprehensive music education program – from Early Childhood Music, Suzuki String and Piano Preparatory, Chamber Music Ensemble and Orchestra programs – providing a continuum for student music education. Currently, FWYO is the only youth music organization in the area that is focused on the future of classical symphonic music.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Volunteers: Seven (7)

Investment Details: $50,000

Funding will be applied directly to the cost of the 54th performance season, helping to encourage musical excellence for young musicians in grades K-12. The organization seeks to make its programs accessible to underserved students and communities through financial assistance and outreach and to inspire the development of young musicians. Season costs include fees for the use of performance halls, costs for the transfer of concert chairs, music stands and musical instruments, charges for production and printing of the concert program books, rental fees for musical instruments and music score, and expenses for photography, videography and rehearsal.

Volunteer Details:

JLFW volunteers will serve as ushers during the FWYO’s performances and special events. Usher responsibilities will include providing patrons with program materials, checking tickets, directing and escorting patrons to seats, guiding patrons with disabilities, being mindful of the safety of patrons, managing flow of patrons in entrances and exits at appropriate times, assisting patrons as necessary, checking assigned section for cleanliness, being aware of and enforcing appropriate house rules, remaining at assigned post throughout the event and other duties as necessary. Using this year as a foundation, the organization hopes to develop a volunteer usher program capable of taking the pressure off of parent volunteer ushers, so they can enjoy their child’s performance. The season begins in July 2019 and performance start times vary from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at locations such as Bass Hall, TCU, Sundance Square, UNT and others.

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Arts and Culture, Education

**Project #5:**

Agency: **Community Storehouse**

Project: **Dignity Closet Project**

Junior League of Fort Worth support will allow Community Storehouse to expand and continue its Dignity Closet Program offering hygiene products to low-income children. Dignity Closet aims to help children improve basic hygiene so that their needs are met, and so they can pursue success in the classroom. Children lacking proper hygiene are teased and are subject to social rejection, which affects their self-esteem, ability to concentrate and desire to attend school. Many low-income families are food stamp recipients. Food stamps, however, do not pay for laundry soap, dishwashing soap, toilet paper and other hygiene necessities that many people take for granted. This project provides basic hygiene products to Title 1 Schools in Keller and Northwest ISDs. Much of the Keller ISD’s boundary is located in far northeast Fort Worth, and the children in this area have limited resources for assistance. More than 1,000 children are expected to be impacted by this program.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Volunteers: Six (6)

Investment Details: $40,000

Funding will be applied directly to the purchase of personal hygiene items for Dignity Closet Pack distribution in Tarrant County.

Volunteer Details:

JLFW volunteers will shop for hygiene items, sort them, package items for delivery and deliver packages to schools. Hours are flexible and available year-round. Toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, combs, soap, deodorant and feminine hygiene products are examples of items packaged for distribution to students through school counselors, nurses and teachers.

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Education, Health and Nutrition

**Project #6:**

Agency: **Fort Worth Drowning Prevention Coalition**

Project: **Swim Safe Community Expansion Project**

The Fort Worth Drowning Prevention Coalition (FWDPC)’s mission is to prevent drowning in Fort Worth, Texas. The organization focuses on equipping non-swimmers with life-saving skills as well as educating adults about water safety. FWDPC has a neighborhood emphasis, meaning that it develops programs specific to neighborhoods within our community. FWDPC is the only grassroots, volunteer-driven community collaboration in the country equipping non-swimmers with self-rescue skills as well as offering water safety education to parents and caregivers. Goals of the program include helping a non-swimmer to overcome their fear of water, to rotate from face in the water to a back float, to tread water and more. Funding by the Junior League of Fort Worth will allow FWDPC to expand its program into the Stop Six neighborhood in southeast Fort Worth.

Type of Placement: Summer Concentrated

Volunteers: Twelve (12)

Investment Details: $30,000

Funding will provide for program expenses including instructional material, volunteer training and continuing education, participant incentives, insurance, parent/caregiver educational materials and student scholarships.

Volunteer Details:

JLFW volunteers will serve as water buddies within the pool environment to greet the students, teach students comfort in the water and self-rescue skills, and communicate with parents about skills achieved during the class. Volunteers will also serve at registration to manage the check-in process and help with record keeping for the classes.

Project Duration/Number of Years: Two (2)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Education, Health and Nutrition

**Project #7:**

Agency: **ACH Child and Family Services**

Project: **Wichita Campus Wellness Program Project**

For more than 100 years, ACH Child and Family Services has sought to prevent child abuse, neglect and family separation, and help heal and treat children already affected by these tragedies. ACH currently offers fifteen residential and community-based services for youth, including counseling, therapeutic residential and respite interventions, foster care and adoption. In 2014, the Junior League of Fort Worth worked with ACH to create a Wellness Program in the Youth Emergency Shelter, developing education classes and learning experiences for the residents. With the help of the League, ACH will be expanding the project to include access to and interaction with arts and culture. At the end of the project year, art projects from the participants will be put on display in a small art gallery exhibit at ACH.

Type of Placement: Year Round

Volunteers: Eight (8)

Investment Details: $20,000

Funding will cover all volunteer screening and training costs, as well as materials needed for orientation and training classes. Funds will also be used for materials for the program and meals needed for nutrition-based classes.

Volunteer Details:

JLFW volunteers will partner with ACH staff to execute the Wellness Program for the youth in the shelter. This is a comprehensive program that includes educational classes and activities focusing on nutrition, exercise, job skills, art projects and other life and social skill-building instruction and experiences. League members are encouraged to make the program their own, with guidance and framework set by ACH staff. Volunteer hours can be completed on weeknights, as youth participants attend school or work during the day.

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Arts and Culture, Education, Health and Nutrition, Life Readiness

**Project #8:**

Agency: **MHMR Visions**

Project: **Be Strong Families Parent Café Project**

MHMR Vision’s mission is to raise funds and foster community support for those with mental health challenges and intellectual disabilities. The organization’s “Be Strong Families” Parent Café program helps to support and strengthen family structure and create a safer environment for parents raising children with developmental delays and disabilities. The Parent Cafés are funded in part by a state grant; however, the state grant does not provide funding for providing a meal, theme and experience at the Cafés. By creating a welcoming environment, MHMR is able to encourage transformative conversations that nurture the spirit of family, promote well-being and prevent violence.

Type of Placement: Year Round

Volunteers: Five (5)

Investment Details: $20,000

Funding will provide program enhancements such as food, beverages, utensils and service items, Café theme decorations and more. By supporting the event with hospitality, and providing the convenience of a meal, MHMR hopes to drive additional attendance and collaboration among families.

Volunteer Details:

JLFW volunteers will be Parent Café hosts, with duties to include ordering, delivery of, set up and clean-up of the Café meal and table decorations in line with a theme. Volunteers will help set up and clean up, greet participants and assist with check-in. Hours are flexible as Cafés take place all over the city throughout the year.

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Health and Nutrition

**Project #9:**

Agency: **NewDay Services for Children & Families**

Project: **FOCUS (Families Offering Children Unfailing Success) for Mothers Project**

NewDay Services impacts children's lives by empowering their parents—offering them hope and inspiration through practical tools and life coaching. Clients come from the Courts, Child Welfare and Community agencies. The FOCUS for its Mothers program is to provide support to mothers who are at risk of losing their children to substitute care or have lost their children and are attempting to get them returned to them. FOCUS for Mothers is a 10-week program (2-hours per week) that helps diminish or reverse the effects of detrimental parental behaviors so mothers can improve the lives, behaviors and attitudes of their children. Youth who experience higher levels of parental involvement and a closer relationship with their parents are less likely to exhibit behavioral problems and engage in risky behaviors. The program has exceeded the available space at the NewDay Services facility, so this project will provide funding to the agency to build out additional space to serve the FOCUS program as well as provide internal training space for the agency. An anticipated 400 mothers will benefit from the 2019-2020 program.

Type of Placement: Year Round

Volunteers: Six (6)

Investment Details: $20,000

Funding will be used to provide space for the FOCUS for Mothers program, supporting the organization with room rent for one year, building preparation (including carpet/flooring, Internet, phone lines and wall paint) and furniture such as work tables, chairs, podium, white board, coffee service, mini-refrigerator and media needs such as a TV.

Volunteer Details:

JLFW volunteers will serve as co-facilitators for the FOCUS for Mothers classes held by NewDay Services and will be assigned different volunteer duties by the lead facilitator for the class each week. Duties may include class set up, assisting the lead facilitator in classroom management duties, preparing to facilitate one or more FOCUS curriculum sections as assigned by lead facilitator, follow up with any participants as requested by the NewDay Coordinator, and helping to clean up and restore the room after a session is over.

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Life Readiness

**Project #10:**

Agency: **Recovery Resource Council**

Project: **Girls Teen Retreat Project**

The mission of the Recovery Resource Council is to promote wellness and recovery from alcohol, addiction and mental health issues. The Girl’s Teen Retreat started as a pilot program for the Council in 2017 after discovering that a retreat provides a unique opportunity for at-risk girls to strengthen life readiness skills and discover new interests that will empower them to seek a healthy future. The Teen Retreat serves at-risk adolescent girls, ages 13-16 years old, with the goal of providing advanced lessons and skills for those living with risk factors including homelessness, substance abuse in the family, physical, emotional or sexual abuse, and incarcerated or deceased parents. Desired outcomes include increased knowledge of self-image, self-worth and personal safety to help each girl reach their full potential and make decisions that promote health and wellness.

Type of Placement: Summer Concentrated

Volunteers: Six (6)

Investment Details: $20,000

Funding will cover the costs associated with transporting teens to retreat activities, supplies, learning materials, awards and incentives, retreat t-shirts, and food/beverages during the four-day retreat. Project funds will allow for an increased number of girls to attend over prior years, as well as an increase in the number and duration of activities. It also covers securing a venue that will create an atmosphere more conducive to fun and relaxation.

Volunteer Details:

JLFW volunteers will assist with the four-day Teen Retreat sessions serving as group/activity leaders, mentors and role models to youth. Volunteers will assist in daily set up and clean up, facilitate education and interactive activities, participate in daily group games, help with life readiness activities and accompany the group on field trips.

Project Duration/Number of Years: Two (2)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Education, Health and Nutrition, Life Readiness

**Project #11:**

**Agency: The Cliburn**

**Project: Eighth International Amateur Piano Competition Project**

The Eighth Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition will be held in the late Spring of 2020 at Van Cliburn Recital Hall and Bass Performance Hall in downtown Fort Worth. First begun in 1999, The Cliburn International Amateur Piano Competition celebrates and promotes active music-making as a part of everyday life and is held every four years. Open to non-professional pianists age 35 and older who do not derive their principal source of income through piano performance or instruction, the competition celebrates classical music and provides a valuable forum in which talented amateur pianists from around the world can come together to perform, learn from each other and showcase their talents on a global stage. More than 70 pianists, chosen from online applications and a video audition, will compete through Preliminary, Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Final Round performances to an anticipated audience of more than 5,000 attendees. An additional 150,000 viewers are expected via simultaneous Internet streaming. All performances are free to the general public and live-streamed free of charge. The Competition is scheduled for May 24-30, 2020.

Type of Placement: Late Spring Concentrated

Volunteers: Twelve (12)

Investment Details: $20,000

Funding will be used to bring the Competition to fruition in Fort Worth and support the organization in their endeavor to improve exposure and support of classical music, as well as help to underwrite the Gift Shop (all proceeds benefit The Cliburn and its community efforts).

Volunteer Details:

JLFW volunteers will serve in a variety of ways including, but not limited to, serving in Competitor Hall, providing hospitality, check-in and welcome services to competitors, family members and press visiting Fort Worth. Additional help is needed in the Gift Shop, working the sales floor and interacting with audience member and competitors. Volunteers may also assist with the assembly of Welcome Bag contents.

The majority of the hours available will be during the week-long competition, with some hours available in the months leading up to the competition.

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Arts and Culture, Supports Fort Worth