



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
FORT WORTH

Project Research and Development (PR&D) 2021-2022 Overview and Committee Selections

SUMMARY

Funding Allotment
\$560,000

Process by the Numbers

37 Initial Project applications received from 30 Nonprofit agencies
19 Projects from 18 Nonprofit agencies asked to complete Full Application
14 Nonprofit agencies interviewed
9 Projects recommended utilizing 65 volunteers

Guiding Principles

JLFW Community Impact Areas

- Arts and Culture
- Basic Human Needs
- Education
- Physical & Mental Health
- Supports Fort Worth

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.*

Project Criteria

- Meaningful influence within the current Community Impact Areas
- Compliance with Standing Rules
- Volunteer component matching membership preferences including flexible hours or time of day conducive to women balancing multiple responsibilities

Other Factors Considered

- Projects with flexibility to incorporate virtual volunteer opportunities either due to COVID or based on volunteer preference
- Expansion to multi-year relationship for Projects potentially facing funding challenges in post-COVID environment
- Balancing the desire to maintain historic relationships with the need to cultivate relationships with new nonprofit agencies
- Prioritizing a desire to fund new or expanded services over programmatic funding

PROJECT SELECTIONS

Nine (9) Projects are recommended for the 2021-2022 year.

Justin's Place*

The Nest Community Kitchen Project
\$100,000 10 volunteers

Unbound Fort Worth

Drop-in Center for Trafficked Youth
Empowerment Project
\$75,000 5 volunteers

Breakthrough Fort Worth

Increasing Breakthrough Access to
East Fort Worth II Project
\$45,000 12 volunteers

Tarrant Area Food Bank

Junior MINTS School Pantry Project
\$100,000 6 volunteers

Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County

Doorstep Pantry Project
\$50,000 5 volunteers

The Welman Project*

The Ultimate Teacher's Lounge &
Makerspace Project
\$25,000 8 volunteers

Alliance for Children, Inc.*

Supply Cottage Project
\$100,000 5 volunteers

Community Storehouse

Tech Lab Project
\$45,000 4 volunteers

Con Mi MADRE

Out of School Project
\$20,000 10 volunteers

* Denotes building funds designated as a Special Project.

PROJECT #1

Agency: **Justin's Place**

Project: **The Nest Community Kitchen Project**

Justin's Place impacts children's lives by empowering mothers to become self-sufficient and free from the cycle of generational poverty. Through The Nest, a new living facility expected to open in Fall 2021 comprised of 12 duplexes and a community gathering place in south Fort Worth, Justin's Place will provide a stable living environment for up to 24 families led by single moms. Each family may live up to two years at The Nest and, during that time, the Community Kitchen will serve as the living community for all educational and empowering events and programming. As the "gathering place", all Nest families will utilize the Community Kitchen either in small groups or in facility-wide functions for cooking, nutrition and meal-planning classes and to give the children an opportunity to will learn to set the table for dinner, load a dishwasher and other experiences.

Investment Details: \$100,000

Designated as a special Project, these building funds will be used to build a new community kitchen in the community room at The Nest. JLFW will receive naming rights to the community kitchen at The Nest.

Volunteers: Ten (10)

JLFW volunteers will lead weekly classes at The Nest focused on nutrition, cooking skills, exercise, gardening, planning family activities, developing family traditions, computer literacy, interviewing and job development. Additionally, JLFW volunteers may choose to participate in mentoring teams for single mothers or other support services at The Nest such as preparing the homes for new arrivals, providing administrative support at The Nest by welcoming families and guests, purchasing supplies and planning program activities. JLFW volunteer hours will be completed at The Nest (600 Sycamore School Road, Fort Worth, Texas) between 9am-5pm during the week and from 5pm-9pm on Monday and Tuesdays. JLFW volunteers will be subject to a background check.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Basic Human Needs

PROJECT #2

Agency: **Tarrant Area Food Bank**

Project: **Junior MINTS School Pantry Project**

The Tarrant Area Food Bank School Pantry Program was established in 2018 to provide food to children in need while reducing the barriers to access that many families face. This program aims to support the educational and social development of students by providing a reliable source of food outside of the school day. Prior to COVID-19, the School Pantry program was operating at 22 schools with each pantry serving approximately 300-400 families per month.

Investment Details: \$100,000

Funding will establish 5 new school pantries and maintain those pantries for 3 years. It is estimated that this project will serve 1,500 families each month or approximately 4,350 individuals. Tarrant Area Food Bank has not yet determined which area schools will receive these 5 new school pantries, but the goal will

be to establish them at Junior MINTS schools. There may be an opportunity for name recognition for JLFW at each pantry.

Volunteers: Six (6)

JLFW volunteers will support the School Pantry Program by overseeing JLFW MINTS volunteers staffing and supporting pantries at Fort Worth ISD school campuses. If participating schools are not open to JLFW volunteers serving at the pantries, JLFW volunteers will support the School Pantry Program by serving as Quality Control volunteers at the Tarrant Area Food Bank's Volunteer Center at 2600 Cullen Street, Fort Worth, Texas. JLFW volunteers serving at the School Pantries will be subject to volunteer hours established by the particular school, but opportunities at Tarrant Area Food Bank's Volunteer Center are typically available 1-4pm and 6-9pm on Tuesdays-Fridays and 9am-12pm and 1-4pm on Saturdays. JLFW volunteers will be subject to a background check.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Project Duration/Number of Years: Three (3)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Physical and Mental Health

PROJECT #3

Agency: **Alliance for Children, Inc.**

Project: **Supply Cottage Project**

Alliance For Children is the only Tarrant County non-profit organization involved directly in protecting children from abuse through coordinated and teamed investigations with local law enforcement agencies, hospitals, Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Office, Tarrant County Juvenile Services and the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Through teamed investigations, healing services and community education, its goal is to minimize the trauma of the abuse so that children and families can begin to heal. As part of a capital campaign to expand its physical capacity in advance of Tarrant County's anticipated growth in population, Alliance For Children purchased the 38,000 square foot Cendera Center in Fort Worth to relocate its mental health and frontline services into a combined space, add space for growing community partnerships and increase organizational efficiency.

Investment Details: \$100,000

Designated as a special Project, these building funds will be used to remodel an existing 976 square foot building at the Cendera Center into a new Client Emergency Needs Supply Cottage providing necessary, tangible items to families who need help maintaining the wellbeing and safety of children in their care such as car seats, cribs, beds, clothing, diapers and formula. In addition to demolishing interior walls, installing heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and making necessary updates to the electrical system at the Supply Cottage, funds will be used to purchase an inventory tracking system. JLFW will receive naming rights to the Supply Cottage.

Volunteers: Five (5)

JLFW volunteers will create and maintain an organized and stocked Supply Cottage. JLFW volunteer hours will be completed at the Alliance for Children Fort Worth Center (3600 Benbrook Highway, Fort Worth, Texas) between 8:30am-4:30pm weekdays with the potential for JLFW volunteers to coordinate limited evening or weekend opportunities. JLFW volunteers will be subject to a background check.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Physical and Mental Health

PROJECT #4

Agency: **Unbound Fort Worth**

Project: **Drop-in Center for Trafficked Youth Empowerment Project**

Unbound Fort Worth serves survivors and provides resources to fight human trafficking by mobilizing communities to fight human trafficking through prevention and awareness, professional trainings and survivor advocacy. As an expansion of its survivor advocacy program established in June 2018 with the support of the Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team, Unbound Fort Worth will open a youth drop-in center to be known as The Underground at One Safe Place in Fall 2020. The Underground will provide a place for runaway and trafficked youth to seek around the clock access to a safe environment, showers, laundry, light meals and snacks. By Fall 2021, Unbound Fort Worth will add daytime programming to empower these youth through on-site trauma counseling; educational support; art, music and dance therapy; and career readiness or college prep programs.

Investment Details: \$75,000

Funding will purchase supplies for The Underground and personal items needed by trafficked and exploited youth. These supplies and items may include art, music, and dance supplies; computers, a printer and software; school supplies; food for breakfast, lunch, and snacks; games/activities; outings; clothing, shoes, toiletries, and personal items for youth participating in the program; backpack meal program for weekends as needed; tables and chairs; headphones; and other needed supplies.

Volunteers: Five (5)

JLFW volunteers will support youth at The Underground by working alongside Unbound Fort Worth staff to prepare meals, present programming on life skills and professional development, organize outings and programming, sort donated items, do laundry, check supply stock, care for an emotional support dog and (subject to additional self-paced online training) engage in activities with youth. JLFW volunteer hours will be completed at the drop-in center in the lower level of One Safe Place (1100 Hemphill Street, Fort Worth, Texas) with tremendous flexibility in scheduling as the drop-in center will be open 24/7/365. JLFW volunteers will be subject to a background check.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Basic Human Needs

PROJECT #5

Agency: **Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County**

Project: **Doorstep Pantry Project**

Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County strives to promote the dignity and independence of older adults, persons with disabilities, and other homebound persons by delivering nutritious meals and providing or coordinating needed services. Through the Doorstep Pantry Program currently serving its most isolated

clients, Meals on Wheels delivers monthly bags of toiletries and shelf-stable foods to clients who cannot afford these necessities and find it impossible to make weekly, bi-weekly, or even monthly trips to the food bank.

Investment Details: \$50,000

Funding will expand the Doorstep Pantry by providing physical infrastructure and ensuring pantry bag content consistency throughout the year. Purchases will include shelving, carts, tables and bulk quantities of pantry items from Tarrant Area Food Bank or other suppliers to stock the Doorstep Pantry. There may be an opportunity for name recognition for JLFW at bags distributed from the Doorstep Pantry.

Volunteers: Five (5)

JLFW volunteers will support the Doorstep Pantry by maintaining inventory, sorting foods, packing bags and managing the logistics when dedicated Meals on Wheels volunteers pick up pantry bags for delivery. JLFW volunteer hours will be completed at the headquarters of Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County (5740 Airport Freeway, Fort Worth, Texas) between 10am-Noon and 1-3pm on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Fridays, 4:30-6:30pm on Thursday and 8am-Noon on the second Saturday of the month. Additionally, volunteers may have the opportunity to complete flexible and virtual hours by calling clients to coordinate orders and deliveries from the Doorstep Pantry. JLFW volunteers will be subject to a background check.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Project Duration/Number of Years: Two (2)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Physical and Mental Health

PROJECT #6

Agency: **Community Storehouse**

Project: **Tech Lab Project**

Community Storehouse supports children and families in northwest Tarrant County by providing tutoring, counseling, supply donation, and financial planning with the goal of keeping children in the classroom while going through struggling times. As an expansion of their services, Community Storehouse will convert underutilized space at their site into a new technology center providing the technological component missing from its current children's educational programming and to expand after-school tutoring to combat the digital-divide. Additionally, the Tech Lab will increase digital access to community resources for low-income youth and create opportunities for families in the community to access benefits, jobs, resources, education, support, language, and housing.

Investment Details: \$45,000

Funding will establish a technology center at Community Storehouse including the purchase of desktops, laptops, computer programs, printers, desks, chairs, and IT support. JLFW will receive naming rights to the Tech Lab.

Volunteers: Four (4)

JLFW volunteers will support the Tech Lab by serving as lab monitors, tutors and mentors. Volunteers will work closely either one-on-one or in small groups to support the academic growth of students and Community Storehouse's educational programs. JLFW volunteer hours will be completed at the Tech Lab onsite at Community Storehouse (12001 Katy Road, Fort Worth, Texas) between 9am-7pm weekdays and 10am-1pm on Saturdays. JLFW volunteers will be subject to a background check.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Education

PROJECT #7

Agency: **Breakthrough Fort Worth**

Project: **Increasing Breakthrough Access to East Fort Worth II Project**

Breakthrough Fort Worth is a supplemental, out-of-school enrichment program that advances highly capable, underserved youth from Fort Worth ISD on a progressive, experiential and consistently guided six-year path to college achievement. Beginning in middle school, this program supports students until they graduate from high school and is unique in that it utilizes a college intern teaching program and therefore promotes future educators. With the support of JLFW in 2020-2021, Breakthrough expanded its services to students in East Fort Worth middle schools by establishing a second location targeting additional students from Jaquet MS, Handley MS, YMLA, Forest Oak, McClung, Glencrest 6th, William James and Morningside. This expansion enables Breakthrough to benefit an additional 70-80 students per year that have high academic potential and good conduct. More than 90% of the students will be the first in their family to attend college and most reside in low-income neighborhoods. For more than 40% of these students, English is not the primary language spoken at home.

Investment Details: \$45,000

Funding will be used to support programming costs for the new site in east Fort Worth establishing a second year of 70-80 rising seventh and eighth graders in the Breakthrough program from east Fort Worth ISD schools. Funding uses may include space and furniture rentals, classroom and teacher supplies, as well as Project and activity materials. Additionally, funding will provide training, housing and a stipend for the teaching interns and meals, snacks, field trips and transportation for students to attend the program.

Volunteers: Twelve (12)

JLFW volunteers will support educational programming at both Breakthrough locations. Volunteer opportunities to help ready supplies and materials will begin in June and volunteers will attend training in August. During the school year, volunteers will serve as college bound advisers, app lab supervisors, tutors or tutoring supervisors and will lead evening and Saturday shifts normally handled by Breakthrough staff or teaching fellows. JLFW volunteers may complete hours at either the Fort Worth Country Day site (4200 Country Day Lane, Fort Worth, Texas) or the new east Fort Worth site (address to be determined) with most volunteer opportunities scheduled on weekday evenings or Saturdays between 8am and 4pm.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Education

PROJECT #8

Agency: **The Welman Project**

Project: **The Ultimate Teacher's Lounge & Makerspace Project**

The Welman Project connects schools and nonprofits with the community by serving as a free resource to distribute surplus materials from local companies for creative reuse in the classroom and beyond. With its expansion into a new headquarters planned for early 2021, The Welman Project will launch The Ultimate Teacher's Lounge & Makerspace to give educators across Fort Worth a space to be inspired and come together to share ideas, access resources otherwise unavailable to them, and take professional development classes. By providing resources such as a tool lending library to create an engaging learning environment and hands-on projects for their students without budget limitations standing in their way, teacher retention in Fort Worth is expected to improve and ultimately lead to better educational outcomes for students.

Investment Details: \$25,000

Designated as a special Project, these building funds will be used to renovate a portion of The Welman Project's new headquarters into The Ultimate Teacher's Lounge & Makerspace. Funds may be used for renovation costs, furniture, shelving and organization systems, a utility sink, rolling workstations, professional development workshops for teachers, tools and other consumable supplies. JLFW will receive naming rights to the renovated space.

Volunteers: Eight (8)

JLFW volunteers will have their choice of volunteer roles supporting The Welman Project including serving as a Workshop Aide assisting in developing creative reuse and crafting workshops for children and adults, Lounge Attendant engaging with educators as they create in The Ultimate Teacher's Lounge & Makerspace, Retail Maven creating store displays, Organization Master maintaining inventory in the warehouse, Fixer Upper repairing and refurbishing donated items, Reuse Visionary developing curriculum-enhancing reuse projects and Renovation Team Member sourcing materials and executing the renovation of The Ultimate Teacher's Lounge & Makerspace. JLFW volunteer hours will be completed at The Welman Project's headquarters (address to be announced late 2020) between Noon-7pm on Tuesdays-Friday and 9am-5pm on Saturday-Sunday.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Project Duration/Number of Years: Two (2)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Education; Arts & Culture

PROJECT #9

Agency: **Con Mi MADRE**

Project: **Out of School Project**

Con Mi MADRE (Mothers And Daughters Raising Expectations) is a two-generation organization that empowers middle school Latinas and their mothers through education and support services that increase preparedness, participation and success in post-secondary education through out-of-school programming and volunteer projects. Latina adolescents are specifically at-risk of being born into poverty, experiencing teenage pregnancy and facing significant mental health issues, all of which decrease the likelihood of academic success and post-secondary education. Con Mi MADRE began as a successful project of the

Junior League of Austin in 1992, became an independent nonprofit in 2008 and expanded services to Fort Worth in 2018.

Investment Details: \$20,000

Funding will support Con Mi MADRE's out-of-school program including educational conferences, college and career fairs, a leadership summit and college visits.

Volunteers: Ten (10)

JLFW volunteers will support Con Mi MADRE staff and the out-of-school program by serving as Volunteer Project Coordinators securing and leading community service opportunities for the mothers and daughters. JLFW may also serve as Programming Event Volunteers assisting with the preparation of events throughout the year including Orientation (August), Balanced Living Conference (Nov), two college visits (Oct/March), End of Year Ceremony (May), and Leadership Summit (June). JLFW volunteer hours will be completed through a combination of virtual work and event attendance at various locations. It is anticipated that most events will take place on weekends, but preparation and organization for community service opportunities and other events can be completed on a flexible schedule from home with in-person attendance at selected events. JLFW volunteers will be subject to a background check.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Project Duration/Number of Years: Two (2)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Education