



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
FORT WORTH

Project Research and Development (PR&D) 2023-2024 Overview and Committee Selections

SUMMARY

Funding Allotment
\$175,000

Process by the Numbers

28 Initial Project applications received from 25 nonprofit agencies
17 Nonprofit agencies completed the full application
9 Nonprofit agencies interviewed
5 Projects recommended utilizing 31 volunteers
4 Previously approved Projects utilizing 24 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 Community Impact Areas
- Meaningful volunteer experience
- Compliance with Standing Rules
- Volunteer component matching membership preferences including flexible hours or time of day conducive to women balancing multiple responsibilities

PROJECT SELECTIONS

Five Projects are recommended for the 2023-2024 year.

ACH Child and Family Services – Transitional Housing Renovation. \$61,700 with 6 volunteers.

Salvation Army – Upgrade to Family Shelter. \$25,000 with 4 volunteers.

Fortress – LEAD Parent Engagement. \$47,485 with 10 volunteers.

Casa Manana – Musical Theatre for Students with Special Needs Project. \$15,815 with 4 volunteers.

Youth Orchestra – Music Education Program. \$25,000 with 7 volunteers.

One project was approved in 2021-2022 and three projects were approved in 2022-2023 as multi-year projects that will continue into 2023-2024.

Daniel Migael – All Eyes on A.L.I.C.E. Project. \$100,000 with 5 volunteers.

Girls on the Run – FWISD Scholarships Project. \$40,000 with 7 volunteers.

Justin's Place – E2 Project. \$75,000 with 6 volunteers.

Tarrant Area Food Bank – Junior MINTS School Pantry Project with 6 volunteers.

PROJECT #1

Agency: **ACH Child and Family Services**

Project: **Transitional Living Program Facility Renovation Project**

ACH Child and Family Services (ACH) brings resources and skills to children and families struggling with life's challenges. Together they develop solutions that create safety, hope, love, and the capacity to thrive. The ACH Transitional Living Program serves youth ages 14-17 (they can stay until their 21 birthdays if needed) who have moderate to intense behavior and mental health issues due to trauma and are preparing to age out of the foster care system. While they are with ACH, they will develop independent living skills so they can stand on their own once they have aged out of the foster care system. These youth come into the program from high-intensity institutional settings, so ACH wants the home to really look like a home and not an institution, which is what they are used to. They are trying to create the home environment so that they can translate the skills they have learned into a real home environment in the real world. This program serves approximately 15 youth annually. The home renovations will last for many years and will impact the lives of dozens of youth over that time.

Investment Details: \$61,700

The agency requested funding for the expansion into a home on their Wedgwood campus which needs furniture, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom upgrades.

Volunteers: Six (6)

JLFW Volunteers will continue to partner with ACH staff to create and administer The Wellness Program for the youth of the Residential Treatment Center at ACH. Each visit to ACH will include planned activities geared toward wellness of children in the Residential Treatment Center. This placement is flexible for volunteers to make it their own, with the guidance of ACH and Residential Treatment Center staff.

Volunteer hours are available Monday-Friday during the evening (5 p.m. - 9 p.m.). Each volunteer will be screened and trained by the ACH Volunteer Services Manager. Volunteers will be required to undergo a drug screen, TB test, criminal background check, show proof of COVID-19 vaccination, submit 3 references, and complete an ACH volunteer application, interview and orientation/training. Training will consist of 3-4 hours of online, self-paced modules, plus 4.5 hours of virtual or in-person training on ACH mission and values, volunteer processes and procedures, and program-specific content. JLFW volunteers will be trained in appropriate interaction with participants in the programs.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Basic Human Needs, Physical and Mental Health

PROJECT #2

Agency: **Casa Mañana**

Project: **Musical Theatre for Students with Special Needs Project**

Casa Mañana strives to create, nurture, and advance live professional theatre unparalleled in artistic excellence for the enrichment and education of our diverse community and its future generations of artists and patrons. Once persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities leave high school, there are very limited extracurricular activities and almost none specific to theatre. The Casa Mañana All-Abilities Classes create equity in the performing arts world with their high-quality weekly class offerings, specially designed to develop cognitive and socialization skills for persons with special needs. Between 14-19 students are enrolled each semester.

Investment Details: \$15,815

Funds will be used to build an indoor ramp into their education building along with theatre curtains for the education room. They will also replace the hearing devices that patrons can check out at performances for those with hearing difficulties.

Volunteers: Six (4)

JLFW volunteers will support the All-Abilities Class through the Casa Manana Shadow Program. Volunteers will assist adults with disabilities on the stage during the class as well as help to facilitate class activities. This class is held one evening per week, specific day not determined yet, for 1-1.5 hours and volunteers would serve September through December 2023 and February through May 2024. There are a number of special events throughout the year, as well as a summer camp, where volunteer assistance could be utilized as well.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

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

PROJECT #3

Agency: **Fortress**

Project: **LEAD Parent Engagement Project**

The family is the foundation of every community, and when families break down, communities break down. Fortress does not seek to band-aid the problem; on the contrary; they are taking a proactive rather than reactive approach to treating the root causes of poverty and addressing other factors that contribute to a destabilized and dysfunctional household.

Investment Details: \$47,485

Funding will support classes, activities and support groups that empower parents to improve areas of their life to achieve stability and move out of poverty. Fortress enrolls 140 students who represent 84 families. At least one adult/caretaker from each family must participate in LEAD for their children to remain eligible for enrollment. However, often more than one parent/caretaker participates. They realize an 80-90% success rate of parental engagement each year, meaning that year-after-year enrollment allows us to make a deeper impact on each family we work with. Community events see an average of 250-300 people in attendance per event.

Volunteers: Ten (10)

There are multiple options for our members. Option 1: Join their Getting Ahead cohort and engage with Fortress parents as they learn about the hidden rules of poverty, middle class, and wealth; uncover obstacles and barriers to success and stability; create pathways to understanding; and lay strong foundations for goal-achievement. The cohort meets for 3 hours weekly for 16 weeks, plus a graduation ceremony for Fortress parents who complete the class.

Option 2: Helping the parent coordinator plan and execute the annual parent engagement events on their program calendar. Events include: Trunk or Treat, Back to School Bash, Holiday Parties, Parent Prom, just to name a few.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Basic Human Needs, Education

PROJECT #4

Agency: **Salvation Army**

Project: **Mabee Center Family Shelter Renovation Project**

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Helping those in need is at the heart of their mission. They help all people regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination. The Salvation Army helps combat addiction, poverty and homelessness.

Investment Details: \$25,000

Funding would support furniture, fixtures & equipment for their family shelter. The Mabee Center's family shelter serves an average of 1,500 people (unduplicated) each year. This shelter is one of only a few in the area that can accommodate entire family units (whereas many agencies require men to stay in a separate area of the building from their female partners and children). The Salvation Army partners with other community organizations to find resources to move the entire family into more permanent housing.

Volunteers: Four (4)

They would have volunteers to continue serving the female clients of their residential treatment programs by leading job readiness/life skills training. These trainings, including such topics as soft skills, workplace attire, and mock interviews help our clients feel confident and prepared for transitioning to self-sufficiency, empowered with valuable insights and knowledge. They would also like volunteers' help with decorating the Mabee Center's emergency shelter and family rooms once the renovation is complete. Finally, volunteers would provide critical support during the holiday season for our Angel Tree program. Specific duties include helping with donation drop-offs, which typically occur on weekends; sorting donations in their warehouse; and assisting with gift pick-up.

Other volunteer opportunities at The Salvation Army's Mabee Center include helping with community meal service, their choice food pantry where clients can select grocery items, and other life skills classes.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Basic Human Needs

PROJECT #5

Agency: **Youth Orchestra**

Project: **Music Education Program**

To promote and inspire the continuing development of musical talent in qualified area youth through intensive training in classical orchestral music and performance

Investment Details: \$25,000

The Fort Worth Youth Orchestra Music Education Project provides talented students the opportunity to participate in a continuum of music education, which nurtures their musical abilities and helps them develop lifelong skills for future success.

This project is important to the community as we experience times of social isolation and anxiety. Music and playing musical instruments bring communities and generations together, and promote healthy relationships. Early music education nurtures young students' cognitive abilities and helps them develop the qualities and skills for lifelong success. This project is an investment in our youth; to invest in our youth is to invest in our community's success. Tuition represents only one-third of the total cost to educate one child in one project each year. This project will help supplement the remaining two-thirds of the cost to educate one child who participates in this project each year.

Volunteers: Seven (7)

The FWYO operates five (5) musical ensembles, a Suzuki school, and a small 385-seat theater, which hosts local performing arts organizations with around 30 performances a year. Their Operations Associates serve as critical volunteers for a number of roles within the organization. Those include the following: Serve as ushers in venues that do not provide ushers. Duties include stuffing programs; directing patrons to their seats; alerting the box office/front-of-house manager of seating disputes; helping those with wheelchairs; providing directions to facility resources; handling lost items; taking tickets; assisting with evacuations; and helping enforce FWYO and facility policies; distribute concert program books to attendees before the start of each performance; assist parents, staff, and other volunteers in monitoring or directing students from performing groups back-stage and in the audience; help set up and staff front-of-house, box office, and information tables; assist operations staff with weekly rehearsals as-needed, including, but not limited to, preparing materials for upcoming performances, helping monitor and staff student social and recognition events, setting up areas, or checking in members and parents; assist with beautification of Orchestra Hall.

Volunteer opportunities usually center around concerts. Volunteer hours may be limited to ushering only with dates to be determined as the season is booked. Performance days are typically from 2-6 hours, depending on the event. A proposed volunteer schedule will be provided as soon as the performance dates of the FWYO's 2023-2024 Concert Season is determined. Additional opportunities to manage our music library and help care for instrument inventory may be available for those with backgrounds in instrumental music or experience in handling musical scores and parts

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Arts & Culture
