



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
FORT WORTH

Project Research and Development (PR&D) 2020-2021 Overview and Committee Selections

SUMMARY

Funding Allotment
\$560,000

Process

Project applications were due June 1, 2019
46 Nonprofit agency applications
15 Nonprofit agency interviews
10 Project recommendations utilizing 73 volunteers

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

- Compliance with Standing Rules, including the influence of the project being primarily within the Fort Worth area and no funding of travel expenses or salaries.
- Meaningful influence within the current Community Impact Areas.
- Volunteer component matching membership preferences including safe volunteer environment, satisfying work whether through completing a task or changing lives, and flexible hours or time of day conducive to women balancing multiple responsibilities.

Other Factors Considered

- Did the project address a significant need within the community and its underlying cause?
- 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

Ten (10) Projects have been recommended for the 2020-2021 year.

ACH Child and Family Services*

Residential Treatment Center & Wellness
Program for High Needs Foster Youth Project
\$100,000 6 volunteers

UnBound Fort Worth

Identification, Prevention and Support for
Survivors of Human Trafficking Project
\$70,000 6 volunteers

The Ladder Alliance

Welcome to the Arts Project
\$30,000 4 volunteers

The Net Fort Worth*

The Worthy Co. Job Training Center Project
\$100,000 4 volunteers

Breakthrough Fort Worth

Increasing Breakthrough Access to East
Fort Worth Project
\$50,000 6 volunteers

Tarrant Area Food Bank

Summer Farmers Markets Project
\$25,000 4 volunteers

The Salvation Army

Culinary Arts Training Program Project
\$25,000 4 volunteers

The Women's Center*

Space Redesign to Expand Capacity of
Violence, Crisis & Poverty Services Project
\$100,000 6 volunteers

The Cliburn

Sixteenth Van Cliburn International Piano
Competition Project
\$40,000 20 volunteers

**Big Brothers Big Sisters-Greater
Tarrant County**

Mentor2.0 at Young Women's
Leadership Academy Project
\$20,000 12 volunteers

* Denotes building funds designated as a special Project.

PROJECT #1

Agency: **ACH Child and Family Services**

Project: **Residential Treatment Center and Wellness Program for High Needs Foster Youth Project**

Mental and behavioral health is the largest unmet health need for children and teens in foster care. Coupled with the rapid population growth of North Texas, ACH identified the need for residential treatment services in our area for young people ages 13-17 who require a highly structured setting and who are not able to live safely in a foster family setting due to acute mental or behavioral health concerns. In response to this immediate need, ACH purchased and renovated the former Masonic Student Union Building in April 2018. The new facility provides a safe, stable, and local place for the community's foster youth who require the highest levels of care while allowing access to connections with family and friends, as well as improved access to local resources for a smoother transition to foster family settings. At the Residential Treatment Center, the Wellness Program will offer informational classes and activities to these foster youth focusing on nutrition, exercise, job-skills and other skill-building areas.

Investment Details: \$100,000

Designated as a special Project, these building funds will be applied to the renovation costs of the Residential Treatment Center. The JLFW will be recognized for its funding with naming rights to the classroom located in the girl's residential wing.

Volunteers: Six (6)

Similar to a prior JLFW Project at ACH's Wichita Campus, JLFW volunteers will partner with ACH staff to create and administer a Wellness Program for the youth of the Residential Treatment Center. Existing curriculum can be used as starting point but volunteers are encouraged to make the program their own with the guidance of a full-time recreation coordinator and boundaries set by the ACH staff. Volunteer hours to be completed on weekday evenings.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Life Readiness and Education

PROJECT #2

Agency: **The Net Fort Worth**

Project: **The Worthy Co. Job Training Center Project**

The Net's mission is to develop healthy, restorative relationships with people in the community who need a network of support the most. Whether its clients are experiencing homelessness, are refugee children relocated to the area or are victims of sexual exploitation, The Net believes it's clients' needs are far more than material. The Net builds authentic and healthy relationships so that clients can begin to understand their inherent dignity and self-worth. The Worthy Co. is The Net's non-profit social enterprise whose mission is to empower and employ women survivors of trafficking, prostitution and addiction as they improve their own lives by learning vocational skills, gaining work experience and earning real income.

Investment Details: \$100,000

Designated as a special Project, these building funds will underwrite the build out of The Worthy Co.'s new job training center and merchandising space off Magnolia Avenue in Fort Worth. The JLFW will receive named recognition in the Worthy Co. retail space.

Volunteers: Four (4)

JLFW volunteers will build relationships with survivors as they work alongside them in The Worthy Co.'s Workspace and Merchandising Space. While hours of operation are expected to expand, initial volunteer opportunities will be available weekday afternoons between 12:00 and 6:00 pm and Saturday between 10:00 am and 6:00 pm. Volunteers will be provided in-person and online training to be trauma-informed in their interactions with survivors and to understand safety guidelines. Additionally, JLFW volunteers may plan two small on-site social events to raise awareness about The Worthy Co.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Life Readiness and Health & Nutrition

PROJECT #3

Agency: **The Women's Center of Tarrant County, Inc.**

Project: **Space Redesign to Expand Capacity of Violence, Crisis, & Poverty Services Project**

The Women's Center of Tarrant County operates one of the most comprehensive rape crisis and victim services programs in the country, is a leader in employment programs for the unemployed and underemployed and is a constant source of support for women and families in crisis and transition. The Women's Center currently serves approximately 150,000 women, men and children each year to inspire and empower them to overcome violence, crisis and poverty. With Tarrant County's population increasing more than 15% in the past 8 years, The Women's Center's main facility in Fort Worth struggles in its current configuration to sustain the expanded need for its services. Because the location is landlocked, The Women's Center is undertaking a space redesign of the current facility to expand the capacity of its programs and make more efficient use of the building.

Investment Details: \$100,000

Designated as a special Project, these building funds will be used to redesign the space within the main facility of The Women's Center originally constructed in 2008. The space redesign will increase capacity of Rape Crisis & Victim Services department through construction of additional therapy offices and group counseling rooms, build specific dedicated offices for Rape Crisis & Victims Services Community Education program, create more secure office spaces for staff members working with confidential client information, increase office space for the General Counseling program, maximize volunteer contributions in the Employment Solutions department creating dedicated work spaces for volunteers to work with clients, and improve storage spaces for program related client supplies and materials, as well as client-specific files. The JLFW will be recognized on a donor wall in the newly redesigned space.

Volunteers: Six (6)

JLFW volunteers (3) will plan, organize, and facilitate events and connection opportunities for older adults through the PEARLS (Program to Encourage Active and Rewarding Lives) Connect program designed to encourage the aging generation to build relationships and rebuild their social structure. All of the events will be held at The Women's Center and have flexible hours on Thursday evenings and weekends with some planning work being done virtually.

Additionally, JLFW volunteers (3) will work with The Women Center's Employment Solutions team to continue an employment event series promoting job search services, providing educational workshops and hosting celebration events for participants who obtain employment or other financial goals. Volunteers may also work with participants one-on-one by assisting in the computer lab, conducting mock interviews or conducting follow-up telephone calls with participants and entering the results into a confidential database. These opportunities are available 9am-5pm during the week, Tuesday evenings and some Saturdays with the potential of some hours being completed virtually.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Life Readiness and Health & Nutrition

PROJECT #4

Agency: **UnBound Fort Worth**

Project: **Identification, Prevention and Support for Survivors of Human Trafficking Project**

UnBound Fort Worth's mission is to support survivors and resource the community to fight human trafficking. It works to fulfill this mission in three ways: prevention and awareness, professional specific identification training and 24/7 crisis response and support for survivors. UnBound has served nearly 100 survivors since June 1, 2018, when it launched its survivor advocacy program with the endorsement of the Governor's Child Sex Trafficking Team. UnBound is the only organization in Tarrant County providing 24/7 crisis response for adult survivors – responding to requests from local law enforcement to help meet the immediate needs of victims when they are rescued.

Investment Details: \$70,000

Funding will supply emergency assistance (ex. food, clothing, toiletries and transportation) and special items needed for ongoing support (ex. bedding, bikes and clothes for school or work) for survivors and families, as well as support costs associated with monthly meetings for UnBound's mentor-survivor program (ex. coffee, meals, books, art supplies). A portion of the funds will support youth prevention training taught in Fort Worth schools. Funding will additionally enable nurses to be trained to identify patients who are victims of sex trafficking and refer them to agencies who can properly help.

Volunteers: Six (6)

JLFW volunteers will plan and execute monthly events for survivors with the volunteer time and location being flexible. Most of these events are held the first Thursday of the month in the evenings. Volunteers may also sort and assemble survivor bags and write notes to trafficking survivors, both of which allow flexible scheduling with Saturday mornings as an option.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Life Readiness and Education

PROJECT #5

Agency: **Breakthrough Fort Worth**

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

Breakthrough Fort Worth (Breakthrough) 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. Breakthrough will expand its services to students in East Fort Worth middle schools, which will involve creating a second location targeting additional students from Jaquet MS, Handley MS, YMLA, Forest Oak, McClung, Glencrest 6th, William James and Morningside. This expansion will enable Breakthrough to benefit an additional 70-80 students 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: \$50,000

Funding will be used to support programming costs for the new site in east Fort Worth, which 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: Six (6)

JLFW volunteers will serve at the Fort Worth Country Day (FWCD) site to allow staff and other volunteers to travel to the new East side location. 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.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Education and Life Readiness

PROJECT #6

Agency: **The Cliburn**

Project: **Sixteenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition Project**

The Cliburn's mission is to advance classical piano music throughout the world and is home to the most prestigious classical music contest in the world. Its size, reputation, international visibility, spirit of volunteerism and commitment to artistic excellence make it unique among its peers in the United States. The Sixteenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition will take place on the campus of TCU and at Bass Performance Hall from May 27 to June 12, 2021. The JLFW has been a valued partner of The Cliburn since the first edition of the Competition in 1962.

Investment Details: \$40,000

Funding will support education and outreach events presented as part of the Sixteenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, which includes a festival of masterclasses, guest artist lectures, panel discussions, public concerts, an educational symposium and simulcasts of competitions and award ceremonies. The purpose of these education and outreach events is to use the excitement and visibility of the Competition to make classical music accessible to community members who may not attend a concert in a traditional venue and to advance knowledge of classical music to attendees. It is estimated that approximately 40,000 individuals will attend Competition performances and events and that the Competition's free global webcast will receive over three million views. In addition to competition attendees, approximately 8,000 individuals are projected to attend the education and outreach events.

Volunteers: Twenty (20)

JLFW volunteers will lead teams of Cliburn volunteers in a variety of areas by serving as the Office Guests Coordinators, Airport and In-Town Transportation Coordinators, Gift Shop Logistic Coordinators, Gift Shop Sales & Shift Coordinators (all proceeds benefit The Cliburn and its efforts), Competitor Performance Technology Coordinators, Welcome Bag Coordinators, Hotel Hospitality Suite Coordinators, Meal Coordinators, Competitor Welcome Suite Coordinators, Screening Jury Green Room Chairmen, Visitor Information Book & Booth Coordinators Daytime and Outdoor Simulcast/Sundance Square Plaza Coordinators. The majority of these positions requires coordination in advance of the Competition but will be completed at TCU and/or Bass Performance Hall during the two week Competition.

Type of Placement: Concentrated

Project Duration/Number of Years: Spring Concentration - but note that this Project extends beyond the 2020-2021 year when it ends in June 2021.

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

PROJECT #7

Agency: **The Ladder Alliance**

Project: **Welcome to the Arts Project**

The Ladder Alliance empowers women victims of domestic violence and low-income women with tools to lead self-reliant, successful and independent lives. In addition to preparing students with training in computer and professional office skills, the organization also provides a Success Store where students can "purchase" appropriate office and interview attire using points earned in the training programs. Because modeling the value of learning is a proven indicator of success for young people, The Ladder Alliance is launching "Welcome to the Arts!," a pilot program designed to showcase the success of its students to their children while exposing both the parent and child to the arts. In this program, The Ladder

Alliance students and their children will spend a day together visiting The Ladder Alliance classrooms, enjoying a “fancy” lunch and attending an art performance.

Investment Details: \$30,000

Funding will cover the cost of three separate “Welcome to the Arts!” days benefiting a total of 180 people. These costs include lunch and decor, transportation costs, admission fees and keepsake mementos. Additionally, \$10,000 will be designated for an “emergency fund” designed to help The Ladder Alliance students avoid an interruption in their Ladder Alliance classes due to unforeseen emergencies. These funds will be distributed by a select group of professionals at The Ladder Alliance with input from the JLFW Project Development Chair. The availability of these funds will not be announced to students and will only be provided to students as a last resort when assistance from other programs is not available.

Volunteers: Four (4)

JLFW volunteers will plan, organize and chaperone the Welcome to the Arts! days to be held on three Saturdays mutually determined by the JLFW volunteers and The Ladder Alliance. Responsibilities include budgeting for the events, planning activities, securing transportation, researching and selecting events to attend, purchasing food and other supplies and selecting an appropriate keepsake memento. Volunteers will be provided with an orientation at One Safe Place and a Lunch and Learn to become more familiar with The Ladder Alliance.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Arts & Culture and Life Readiness

PROJECT #8

Agency: **Tarrant Area Food Bank**

Project: **Summer Farmer’s Markets Project**

The Tarrant Area Food Bank Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program provides locally grown fruits and vegetables during the summer to families in need of healthy foods by utilizing benefits federally funded through the USDA’s WIC program. Traditionally, WIC participants are issued coupons that can be used to buy eligible foods from farmers, markets or roadside stands. However, WIC participants are then usually left on their own to identify farmers approved by the Texas Department of Agriculture to accept the coupons and these coupons frequently go unused. To eliminate this barrier, TAFB brings the WIC participants and farmers together in one location by setting up Summer Farmers Markets. In addition to streamlining the process and increasing accessibility for participants, prenatal vitamins and healthy snacks are provided to each family and any children attending the Summer Farmers Markets are fed breakfast.

Investment Details: \$25,000

Funding will support 15 farmer’s markets during the summer of 2020 that are expected to provide fresh produce, prenatal vitamins and healthy snacks to over 1,500 families. Also included in this funding is the purchase of equipment and supplies that can be reused for markets in future years.

Volunteers: Four (4)

JLFW volunteers will assist with distribution at the farmer's markets from 7:30 until 11:30 am on Tuesday and Thursday mornings during the summer. Each volunteer will serve at a servicing line by distributing food to clients. No training is required beyond a five-minute orientation. This is simple, fulfilling work that will allow JLFW volunteers to see the faces and hear the stories of people who face the challenges of hunger on a daily basis.

Type of Placement: Summer Concentrated

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Health & Nutrition

PROJECT #9

Agency: **The Salvation Army – Mabee Social Services Center**

Project: **Culinary Arts Training Program Project**

The Salvation Army - J.E. & L.E. Mabee Social Services Center (Mabee) serves as the hub of The Salvation Army's Tarrant County operations. Whether an individual or family needs a hot meal, a place to stay or any of the variety of residential programs designed to take a family or individual from homelessness to being a stable and productive member of society, Mabee can provide it. To grow its workforce development initiative, Mabee will add a formal culinary arts training program to provide free training to select clients. Modeled after successful programs at The Salvation Army in Louisville, KY and Boston, MA, Mabee expects to provide the skills and training needed for clients to obtain employment in a commercial kitchen or restaurant upon completion. In each of the 10-week training programs, clients will learn food and kitchen safety, culinary terminology, recipes, knife skills and how to effectively contribute to the workplace with the opportunity to obtain ServSafe certification as a Food Handler or Manager.

Investment Details: \$25,000

Funding will support one year of classes including costs for supplies, food safety training, work clothes, interview attire and equipment for 30 individuals selected for this Culinary Arts Training Program.

Volunteers: Four (4)

JLFW volunteers will prepare a curriculum and teach bi-monthly classes on health and nutrition in the Mabee Center Kitchen for clients residing in The Salvation Army's transitional shelters. Classes are expected to be an hour in length and there is flexibility in scheduling on nights or weekends. Additionally, JLFW volunteers will have the opportunity to coordinate and execute Graduation and Celebration Dinners (one event per semester) for the Culinary Arts Program graduates.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Life Readiness and Health & Nutrition

PROJECT #10

Agency: **Big Brothers Big Sisters Greater Tarrant County**

Project: **Mentor2.0 at Young Women's Leadership Academy Project**

Big Brothers Big Sisters Tarrant County (BBBS) partners with parents and guardians, volunteers and donors to provide children with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-on-one relationships that change lives for the better, forever. Mentor2.0 furthers BBBS's mission by incorporating online mentoring into the school-based curriculum taught weekly by BBBS staff emphasizing college planning and job training programs. Mentors will utilize guided writing prompts on the secure and monitored online platform to follow up with the students and build upon the non-cognitive skills being taught by the BBBS staff each week, with the goal of helping students as they create their post-graduation plan, set goals, apply for college and financial aid, or pursue job certification programs. Mentor2.0 was launched at the Young Women's Leadership Academy (YWLA) in Fort Worth in 2017 and the program is expanding into a "whole-school" model where each incoming freshman will be matched with a mentor, resulting in 100% participation in Mentor2.0 throughout the school. This program is an excellent opportunity for JLFW to expand upon a successful current relationship with YWLA through the Junior MINTS program and provide a mentoring component to YWLA students in a new and proven way while also providing an opportunity for a new nonprofit agency partnership with BBBS.

Investment Details: \$20,000

Funding will expand Mentor2.0 at the Young Women's Leadership Academy and provide the secure platform for online communication between the mentors and mentees, the classroom curriculum, student transportation to once yearly off-site activities, background checks and training for mentors, and materials, fees and refreshments for monthly in-person match events during the school year.

Volunteers: Twelve (12)

JLFW volunteers will serve as mentors to 12 students at the Young Women's Leadership Academy in Fort Worth. Once a week, mentors and mentees will communicate through a secure, monitored online platform following a series of guided writing prompts designed to translate the classroom curriculum into real-life scenarios. This hour is done at a mutually agreeable time for the mentee and mentor and may be done from home. Additionally, monthly meetings are organized during the school year at the Young Women's Leadership Academy lasting 1-2 hours each in a supervised setting. Matches will enjoy dinner, activities and conversations related to the current lesson. Additional opportunities for matches to engage are scheduled throughout the year and include the Teen Conference, Big Picnic and other match events.

Type of Placement: Year-Round

Project Duration/Number of Years: One (1)

JLFW Areas of Impact Addressed: Education and Life Readiness
