



SAN MARCOS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT FUNDING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, November 12, 2025 – 6:00 PM

San Marcos Room – 2nd Floor

Cell Phones: As a courtesy to others, please silence your cell phone or pager during the meeting and engage in conversations outside the meeting room.

Americans with Disabilities Act: If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Board Secretary at (760) 744-1050, ext. 3137. Notification 48 hours in advance will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. Assisted listening devices are available for the hearing impaired. Please see the Board Secretary if you wish to use this device.

Public Comment: If you wish to address the Board on any agenda item, please complete a “Request to Speak” form. Be sure to indicate which item number you wish to address. Comments are limited to FIVE minutes.

The Oral Communication segment of the agenda is for the purpose of allowing the public to address the Board on any matter NOT listed on the agenda. The Board is prohibited by state law from taking action on items NOT listed on the Agenda. However, they may refer the matter to staff for a future report and recommendation. If you wish to speak under “Oral Communications,” please complete a “Request to Speak” form as noted above.

Meeting Schedule: Regular San Marcos Community Foundation Board meetings are generally held on the third Tuesday in the month of February, May, August and November. The Agenda’s are posted on the City website at: www.san-marcos.net.

Agendas: Agenda packets are available for public inspection 72 hours prior to scheduled meetings at the Administration Department located on the second floor of City Hall, 1 Civic Center Drive, San Marcos, during normal business hours. Any agenda-related writings or documents provided to a majority of the San Marcos Community Foundation after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the same time at the Administration Department.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

NEW BUSINESS

1. **MINI GRANT APPLICATION PROPOSALS**
2. **REGULAR GRANT APPLICATION PROPOSALS**

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS –

Speakers are limited to five minutes.

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

NEXT MEETING DATE –The next meeting of the SMCF Board is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, 2025.



San Marcos Community Foundation

1 Civic Center Drive
San Marcos, CA 92069

SMCF GRANT FUNDING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA
November 12, 2025
Page 2 of 2

MISCELLANEOUS

ADJOURNMENT

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO) ss.
CITY OF SAN MARCOS)

I, Phil Scollick, hereby certify that I caused the posting of this Agenda in the glass display case at the north entrance of City Hall and on the City website on Thursday, November 6, 2025, prior to 5:30 pm.



Phil Scollick, Recording Secretary

SUMMER Quarter Grant Requests 2025-26

Asset Balance on 7/1/2025: \$1,383,702

Total Available for Distribution for FY 2025-26: \$55,348 - \$69,185

Total FY 2025-26 Distributions Year to Date: \$14,000

Total Funds Available for Quarter if Awarding Grants at 4% of Assets: \$13,837

Total Funds Available for Quarter if Awarding Grants at 5% of Assets: \$17,296

Nonprofit	Program	# San Marcos Residents Served	Summary	Lead	Request	Recommend	Approved
4 Paws 4 Patriots	4 Paws 4 Patriots Operation Battle Buddy	10	Provide medical service dogs and training to Disabled American Veterans and First Responders at no cost to them.		\$10,000		
Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation	Academy for Environmental Stewardship	180	Expand access to the Academy for Environmental Stewardship (AES)—a dynamic, standards-aligned, STEAM-based outdoor education program designed for 3rd grade students across San Diego County. AES is delivered as a four-hour, in-person field trip to AHLF’s Discovery Campus in Carlsbad.		\$3,000		
Autism Society San Diego	Spring 2026 Current Topics in Autism Lecture Series	100	Support the delivery of a four-part educational lecture series on current topics in autism, targeted at parents, caregivers, and local professionals in the San Marcos area.		\$6,000		
Best Buddies International Inc.	Best Buddies in San Diego Friendship Program - Expansion into San Marcos Schools	0	Provide inclusive opportunities for students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to connect, grow, and thrive together. Operating in elementary, middle, and high schools across the county, these programs foster one-to-one friendships, peer mentoring, and school-wide inclusion activities that create a culture of acceptance and belonging. With funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation, we will expand these efforts by opening school-based friendship chapters in San Marcos schools.		\$5,000		
Bithiah’s Family Services	Food Pantry and Nutrition Education for At-Risk Youth	350	To strengthen the Food Pantry and Nutrition Education program in San Marcos, which ensures that foster youth and low-income families have reliable access to healthy food. The pantry distributes fresh produce and shelf-stable groceries so children do not go without meals. Alongside food distribution, the program provides engaging nutrition workshops and simple cooking lessons.		\$5,000		
Breast Cancer Angels	One Family at a Time	200	Providing critical financial assistance to San Marcos residents undergoing breast cancer treatment. Program provides: Rent/mortgage assistance, Utility payments, Grocery gift cards, Transportation support (gas cards, car repairs), Medical co-pay coverage.		\$10,000		
Double Peak Parent Teacher Organization	Supporting Innovation & Makerspace Learning at Double Peak School	1,200	This program provides all students — from Transitional Kindergarten to eighth grade — opportunities to engage in coding, robotics, engineering, circuitry, and design thinking. Funding will directly support prototyping materials, engineering tools, and hands on resources that allow students to fully experience 21st-century learning.		\$5,000		
Ivey Ranch Park Association	Therapeutic Riding Scholarships for Vulnerable Populations	25	To fund therapeutic riding scholarships for 25 San Marcos residents, including children with disabilities, youth with mental health issues, and veterans through the Horses for Heroes program. Each scholarship covers 6 sessions at \$60 per session (\$240 total per participant) in our equine-assisted therapy programs.		\$6,000		
Joli Ann Leichtag Elementary School PTA	Joli Ann Youth Orchestra Instrument Care and Repairs	150	We are requesting funding to repair and restore our inventory of musical instruments, many of which have not been serviced in years. These instruments are provided to students free of charge so that financial barriers do not prevent participation in music education. Over time, consistent use without proper maintenance has led to significant wear and tear, limiting both playability and sound quality.		\$500		
Kids’ Turn San Diego	Creating Brighter Futures for Children Project	60	Project includes our Family Workshops for Separated and Divorced Families, Counseling for Children, our high conflict Cooperative Co-Parenting Program and Continue the Conversation Classes. This project offers a continuum of care for families that includes a co-parenting program for parents and children to attend together, a high conflict co-parenting program for parents to attend independently, an advanced refresher class for parent graduates and counseling services for children.		\$5,000		

Luminary Arts Corporation	Richland Elementary After School Holiday Choir and Spring Musical	900	Our company's afterschool performing arts program, which offers both a holiday choir and a spring musical, is facing a funding shortfall for the upcoming 25/26 school year. Recent staff changes mean the school can no longer provide a helper teacher for our growing program, which now serves over 150 students. These funds would be used to hire an additional part-time teacher and to cover the rising costs of production, including sets, props, and costumes for both shows.		\$ 4,000		
Mountain Shadows Support Group	Providing Power Lift Assisted Recliners for Therapeutic Use by Mobility Impaired, Disabled Adults	96	A licensed adult day program, located in San Marcos, California, serving developmentally and intellectually disabled individuals. Requesting funds for two power lift recliners, which will be utilized for therapeutic programs serving these mobility impaired individuals at our San Marcos location.		\$ 719		
National University Foundation	San Marcos Student-Parent Support Program	10	Offering a dedicated co-learning and support space for students—especially those who are also parents. Provide 10 childcare stipends, each valued at \$144, covering 12 childcare visits. These visits allow San Marcos student parents to focus on critical academic tasks—attending class, preparing for exams, or completing research—while their children receive quality care.		\$ 1,500		
North County Health Project, Inc. dba TrueCare	TrueCare San Marcos Health Center Essential Equipment	16,040	Requesting funding to purchase an audiometer, an essential tool for conducting hearing screenings during routine primary care visits, for our San Marcos health center.		\$ 1,191		
Palomar College Foundation	Digital Access for Educational Success: Rising Scholars at Palomar College	10	Funding to provide 10 laptops for Rising Scholars students living in San Marcos.		\$ 2,500		
Palomar Family Counseling Service, Inc.	Elevating Therapist Expertise Through Specialized Workshops for San Marcos Youth Mental Health	100	Deliver four specialized workshops on play therapy, gender-affirming care, somatic processing, and trauma-informed care. These workshops will train up to 50 therapists and practicum students, including those working in San Marcos elementary schools through our Full Service Partnership (FSP) program and at our Escondido clinic.		\$ 10,000		
Reading Legacies	Parent Education Workshops for Underserved Families - Reading Together Strengthens Relationships	450	Parent education workshops for underserved families in North County (San Marcos area). We currently provide monthly Family Story Hour events to children visiting the OSP office with their parent or guardian. We anticipate adding our parent education workshop at this location soon. We provide parent workshops for their registered families at the San Marcos location. Funding received via this grant will go toward covering program material and support costs, including: book inventory, print/copy costs, supplies/equipment, and program management costs.		\$ 10,000		
Rooted in Advocacy Inc.	Project Thanksgiving	25	Funds to support Operation Thanksgiving 2025, a program providing grocery gift cards and holiday support for active-duty service members, veterans, and military families in San Diego County. Funds will be used to purchase grocery gift cards, holiday cards, and packaging for distribution boxes, ensuring families can prepare a traditional Thanksgiving meal.		\$ 1,500		
San Marcos High School Music Boosters	Floor Mat Purchase to Support the Knight Regiment Color Guard and Marching Band Performance safety and artistry	200	Funds to purchase a floor mat for our Knight Regiment Color Guard and Marching Band students, to be used over the next few years. Our program does not currently have a floor mat.		\$ 4,500		
Solutions for Change	Healing & Retreat	60	The first phase of the Solutions program is Healing & Retreat, where new families begin their journey to self-sufficiency. The Healing and Retreat phase includes: group classes in Health & Wellness, beginning process for reunification (if involved with Child Welfare Services), connecting with peer coach and sponsor, and creating a personalized success plan. Funds would be allocated towards: communal live & facilities, case management/empowerment coaching, group classes/workshops, peer support & recovery sponsorship, and therapy /counseling		\$ 5,000		
Students on Stage	2025-2026 Season	200	support the Students on Stage production costs for our 2025-2026 season. Potential expenses covered could include registration fees for families in financial need, facility fees, scenic elements, costumes, wigs, makeup, microphones, props, and storage space.		\$ 1,500		

The Brother Benno Foundation	Providing supportive services to San Marcos residences	50	Provide rental and utility assistance to economically disadvantaged residents of San Marcos and to help cover essential staffing costs necessary to deliver these services. Brother Benno’s serves vulnerable populations such as seniors, low-income families with children, and individuals with disabilities by preventing eviction, homelessness, and utility shutoffs. It also provides motel vouchers to homeless individuals, including those recovering from surgery, while longer-term care arrangements are made.		\$ 10,000		
The San Marcos Promise dba Project Next	Bus Transportation to Offsite College and Career Readiness Events	250	Provide bus transportation for students from Twin Oaks, Mission Hills, and San Marcos High Schools to attend Future Center college and career readiness events.		\$ 5,120		
The Sing Me A Story Foundation	Composition Program	150	Bring a Sing Me a Story Composition Project to San Marcos, connecting a local child in need—such as one facing a serious health challenge—with a student composer and a San Marcos– area school music ensemble. Together, they will create and premiere an original piece of music inspired by the child’s story at a public concert attended by family, friends, and community members.		\$ 2,000		
Yellow Ribbon Fund, Inc.	San Diego County Keystone Program	580	Expand the health, wellness, education and respite programs that we have provided to critically wounded Service members, their caregivers and families. provide peer-to-peer support, nutritional awareness and financial literacy courses to help these families who are living on single, fixed incomes to manage their finances and save for the future.		\$ 10,000		
					\$ 125,030	\$ -	\$ -



Joseph & Lenka Finci
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(858) 279-6105 fax

www.jcfsandiego.org

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*of blessed memory

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Miriam and Jerome Katzin
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Jeremy Pearl

October 1, 2025

San Marcos Community Foundation
City of San Marcos
1 Civic Center Drive
San Marcos, CA 92069

Dear Phil:

Enclosed please find the Fall 2025 grants package, containing 25 full applications for the San Marcos Community Foundation grant opportunity. The applicants include:

4 Paws 4 Patriots – separate document included
Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation
Autism Society San Diego*
Best Buddies International Inc. – separate document included
Bithiah's Family Services
Breast Cancer Angels
Double Peak Parent Teacher Organization*
Ivey Ranch Park Association
Joli Ann Leichtag Elementary School PTA
Kids' Turn San Diego
Luminary Arts Corporation
Mountain Shadows Support Group
National University Foundation
North County Health Project, Inc. dba TrueCare
Palomar College Foundation
Palomar Family Counseling Services, Inc.
Reading Legacies
Rooted in Advocacy Inc.
San Marcos High School Music Boosters
Solutions for Change
Students on Stage
The Brother Benno Foundation
The San Marcos Promise dba Project Next – separate document included
The Sing Me A Story Foundation
Yellow Ribbon Fund, Inc. – separate document included

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jessica Ludwig".

Jessica Ludwig
Grants Officer

Enclosure

*Organization mistakenly entered the EIN for the San Marcos Community Foundation in the application's charity check feature. JCF performed independent charity checks in GuideStar and these organizations have current standing with the IRS. The submitters were also notified so they are more careful in future.

Title	4 PAWS 4 PATRIOTS Operation Battle Buddy	09/26/2025
	by Reta Leblanc in San Marcos Community Foundation on behalf of 4 Paws 4 Patriots	id. 51799870
	reta@4paws4patriots.org	

Original Submission	09/26/2025
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Score	n/a
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General Project Information

Please enter your organization's name and project name.	4 PAWS 4 PATRIOTS Operation Battle Buddy
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Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Regular Grant (\$1,500 - \$10,000)
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Project Name	4 Paws 4 Patriots Operation Battle Buddy
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Project Start Date	10/1/2025
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Project End Date	10/31/2026
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Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	10/31/2026
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Total Number of People Served by this Project	300
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Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	10
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Grant Amount Requested	10000
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Organization Details

Organization Name	4 PAWS 4 PATRIOTS
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Organization Street Address	33260 Buckwheat Road
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Organization City	Menifee
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Organization State	CA
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Organization Zip Code	92584
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Organization Website	https://www.4paws4patriots.org
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Organization's EIN	45-4839296 200 4 Paws 4 Patriots 2e3bfb1c-856f-4118-b066-47cb24ca97c1 33260 Buckwheat Rd. Menifee CA 92584 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2025-09-22T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A public charity (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(1) organization as referred to in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2012 08
Contact Information	
Contact First Name	Reta
Contact Last Name	LeBlanc
Contact Title	CFO
Contact Phone	+19515650849
Contact Email	reta@4paws4patriots.org
Project Details	
Briefly describe your request for funds.	Funds will be used to provide medical service dogs and training to Disabled American Veterans and First Responders at no cost to them
Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.	Our classes are held in Menifee, CA, approximately 45 minutes north of San Marcos. We have several Disabled American Veterans and First Responders that reside in the San Marcos area that need our services. Many of our American Heroes live in the vicinity due to the number of military bases close by.
Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.	We collaborate with local rescues and shelters to obtain dogs that will potentially be service dogs. We also partner with other nonprofit organizations to share resources, ideas and events.

Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.

Please provide a detailed narrative of your organization's mission and impact to the community. Include details such as strategic objectives, milestone achievements, and testimonials.

Our mission is to assist with the daily challenges of everyday life for Disabled American Veterans and First Responders by providing them with a Battle Buddy that is trained specifically to them to mitigate their disabilities. We train approximately 300 dogs per year, 75% of which are rescue or shelter dogs at no cost to the disabled hero. We have been chosen as California Nonprofit of the Year in 2020, recognized by several Assembly and senate people in the State of California, Nonprofit of the Year for the City of Menifee, and nationally by former President George W. Bush. We are the only Disabled Veteran and First Responder charity with a quantitative study by a major University (University of California) that our program works.

Please upload any community letters or media in support of this project.

[Los_Angeles_Kings_have_adorable_Friday_photoshoot_with_a_bunch_of_very_good_dogs.pdf](#)

[Petco_Love_Investments_Help_Heroes_at_Both_Ends_of_the_Leash_This_Veteran's_Day___Petco_Love.pdf](#)
[glendale_elks.pdf](#)

Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization.

[4p4p_budget_2025.docx](#)

Please upload your most recent year-end audited financial statements, including any management letters associated with the audit.

[4_PAWS_-_2023_TAX_RETURN.pdf](#)

Please attach the first two pages of your Federal 990.

[4_PAWS_-_2023_TAX_RETURN.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.

[20250926_091533.jpg](#)

Funding

Budget Worksheet

[San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx](#)

Project Budget Total	74400
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Is this a Challenge or Matching Grant?	No
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Could this be a Challenge or Matching Grant?	No
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Additional Funding

[SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx](#)

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?

Funding sources are obtained by meetings with the funders and based on previous funds received. backup resources, new grants, and events are also in place to ensure success of our program.

Resolution of the Board of Directors of Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation

WHEREAS, the San Marcos Community Foundation provides funding for non-profit corporations for certain specific purposes; and

WHEREAS the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation wants to file an application with the San Marcos Community Foundation funding.

Now, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation:

1. Confirms that the Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation is a non-profit California corporation or a public agency under the laws of the State of California;
2. Approves the filing of an application with the San Marcos Community Foundation funding during San Marcos Community Foundations Fall Quarter and;
3. Authorizes the people listed below sign a grant agreement with the San Marcos Community Foundation funds for the current fiscal year.

Print Name: Lisa Rodman

Title: Chief Executive Officer/ President

Signature:

Print Name: Julie Gibbs

Title: Chairwoman

Signature:

Print Name: Frank Ortega

Title: Vice Chairman

Signature:

Adopted on this 19 day of September, 2025


Secretary, Board of Directors

Title	Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation ~ Academy for Environmental Stewardship	09/19/2025
	by Emily Bonds in San Marcos Community Foundation	id. 51734035
	on behalf of Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation	
	account@aguahedionda.org	

Original Submission

09/19/2025

Score	n/a
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General Project Information

Please enter your organization's name and project name.	Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation ~ Academy for Environmental Stewardship
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Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Regular Grant (\$1,500 - \$10,000)
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Project Name	Academy for Environmental Stewardship
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Project Start Date	9/16/2025
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Project End Date	6/5/2026
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Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	6/5/2026
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Total Number of People Served by this Project	180
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Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	180
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Grant Amount Requested	3000
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Organization Details

Organization Name	Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation
Organization Street Address	1580 Cannon Rd.
Organization City	Carlsbad
Organization State	CA
Organization Zip Code	92008
Organization Website	https://www.aguahedionda.org/
Organization's EIN	33-0411888 200 Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation 8878bea3-920c-4e0d-ac9a-66e521e6ed2d 1580 Cannon Rd Carlsbad CA 92008-4689 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2025-09-15T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A public charity (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(2) organization 2025-09-09T00:00:00 1995 06
Contact Information	
Contact First Name	Emily
Contact Last Name	Bonds
Contact Title	Director of Education
Contact Phone	+17608041969
Contact Email	account@aguahedionda.org
Project Details	

<p>Briefly describe your request for funds.</p>	<p>The Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation (AHLF) is seeking funding to expand access to the Academy for Environmental Stewardship (AES)—a dynamic, standards-aligned, STEAM-based outdoor education program designed for 3rd grade students across San Diego County.</p> <p>AES is delivered as a four-hour, in-person field trip to AHLF’s Discovery Campus in Carlsbad. Upon arrival, students receive a brief program orientation before being divided into small groups. Each group rotates through five interactive stations where trained educators lead hands-on, inquiry-driven lessons rooted in science and environmental literacy. The day concludes with a lively group “edutainer” session that reinforces key concepts and brings the experience full circle.</p> <p>Offered five days a week throughout the academic year (September - June), AES typically serves an entire grade per day. AHLF oversees all aspects of the program, including curriculum delivery, site logistics, and staffing—ensuring a seamless experience for schools, which are only responsible for coordinating transportation. All instructional materials, facilitation, and student supervision are provided by AHLF.</p> <p>In the 2024–2025 school year, AES served 8,526 students, nearly half (47%) attended through grant funding—making this enriching educational experience accessible to students who would not have been able to participate otherwise due to financial barriers.</p>
<p>Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.</p>	<p>This grant would specifically support schools within the San Marcos Unified School District (SMUSD) by subsidizing the cost of participation for the AES field trips. Many SMUSD schools face significant barriers to accessing high-quality, hands-on field experiences due to limited school budgets and rising transportation costs. As a result, meaningful outdoor learning opportunities—especially those focused on environmental science and place-based education—are often out of reach for these students.</p> <p>By targeting underserved schools within the district, this funding directly addresses a pressing equity gap: students living just a few miles from the Agua Hedionda Lagoon rarely have the opportunity to explore or learn about this rich and ecologically significant coastal ecosystem. This program bridges that gap by immersing students in an engaging, STEAM-aligned curriculum that connects classroom learning to the real world around them.</p> <p>Aligned with SMUSD’s mission of <i>“Engaging Students...Inspiring Futures,”</i> AES field trips provide an unparalleled educational experience that challenges and inspires students to excel. Through inquiry-based activities, students gain cultural awareness, environmental literacy, and a deep sense of stewardship. These experiences prepare them with the scientific understanding, critical thinking, and social responsibility needed to thrive in school and beyond.</p>

Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.

We collaborate with Thermo Fisher Scientific, CSUSM, MiraCosta, and Palomar to deliver STEM learning, internships, and projects that directly serve San Marcos students.

Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.

Please provide a detailed narrative of your organization's mission and impact to the community. Include details such as strategic objectives, milestone achievements, and testimonials.

The Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation's (AHLF) mission is to energize people through education and outreach to preserve the Agua Hedionda Lagoon as an accessible and healthy watershed. Our Vision, to be Stewards of the Watershed as we inspire future generations, so we all have access to a healthy lagoon. A safe space in nature, for all.

Founded in 1990 by a group of passionate Carlsbad citizens, AHLF has always prioritized public access, education, and conservation. In 2003, the Foundation received a generous land donation from the Kelly Family and acquired the Discovery Center—donated by the Aviara Planned Community—which now serves as our nature center, headquarters, and hub for robust environmental programming. AHLF also maintains 3.5 miles of public recreational trails surrounding the lagoon, made possible by easements granted through the California Coastal Commission.

Today, AHLF stands as a vital community hub—welcoming visitors, volunteers, students, trail users, nature lovers, families, and cultural enthusiasts. The Discovery Center is open seven days a week, free to the public, and features interactive exhibits, hands-on educational activities, and access to outdoor exploration. Our programs are inclusive and designed to support a wide range of learning styles, with the goal of sparking curiosity, increasing well-being, and encouraging environmental stewardship for all who engage with us.

Among our community offerings is the award-winning Academy for Environmental Stewardship; family festivals, educational events, and kids' camps; a summer adult lecture series; service-learning and volunteer opportunities; restoration and maintenance projects within our ecological reserve; and workforce development partnerships with the California Conservation Corps. These programs provide meaningful exposure to nature, reduce stress, and foster a sense of connection and renewal in our natural environment.

Looking ahead, AHLF has set an ambitious goal: to provide excellent environmental education to 1.3 million people over the next 10 years. This goal underscores our deep commitment to environmental literacy, sustainability, and fostering a lifelong connection to the natural world—beginning right here at the Agua Hedionda Lagoon. To achieve this, we will expand and diversify our programming to reach broader, more inclusive audiences, continue enhancing our AES programming, develop strategic partnerships, build innovative curriculum, and scale our impact without compromising quality or accessibility.

At the heart of our efforts is the AES, which aims to serve at minimum 10,000 K–12 students annually from across San Diego County. This hands-on, place-based program is designed to educate students on the history, ecology, and cultural significance of our coastal and marine environments and awaken a sense of responsibility and appreciation for the lagoon. These experiences aim to inspire the next generation of environmentalists and community leaders—individuals who will not only appreciate the natural world but work actively to protect it.

Program success is measured using two key tools. First, AHLF randomly selects 10% of student participants to complete surveys before and after their visit, assessing their baseline knowledge and attitudes. Teachers are provided with aligned pre-visit curriculum to help prepare students. At the end of the program, the same students complete a post-survey to measure growth in understanding and awareness. Second, we set clear benchmarks for success: at least 75% of students will demonstrate increased knowledge of the natural environment and conservation issues, and 100% of students will be able to describe at least one personal action they can take to help protect and conserve natural resources.

Educators consistently affirm the value and impact of our programming. One second-grade teacher from Twin Oaks Elementary shared, “I love all the hands-on activities and how students can learn relevant information related to our content.” A third-grade teacher from Richland Elementary noted, “The small groups, hands-on activities that go along with the educational content are very beneficial. I would recommend this program to others.” Another teacher from La Mirada Academy added, “I love that our kiddos get outdoors and learn about their environment.”

Through our dedicated work, collaborative partnerships, and a commitment to inclusive, impactful environmental education, AHLF continues to ensure that the Agua Hedionda Lagoon remains a place of learning, healing, and stewardship—now and for generations to come.

Please upload any community letters or media in support of this project.

Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization.

[Budget_2025.2026Grants.pdf](#)

Please upload your most recent year-end audited financial statements, including any management letters associated with the audit.

[Complete2023990Signed.pdf](#)

Please attach the first two pages of your Federal 990.

[990_2023_First_Two_pages.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.

[SignedBoardResolution_25.pdf](#)

Funding

Budget Worksheet

[San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx](#)

Project Budget Total 3099

Is this a Challenge or No
Matching Grant?

Could this be a No
Challenge or
Matching Grant?

Additional Funding

[SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx](#)

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?

A grant of \$3,000 would at its lowest impact, serve 180 students if the full cost of the field trip was covered (\$17). If awarded less, we can still serve a smaller population of students.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2025

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TIM GROBRAN

TERESA
CONTRERAS
Interim Executive
Director

September 24, 2025

San Marcos Community Foundation
1 Civic Center Dr
San Marcos, CA 92069

Dear San Marcos Community Foundation Review Committee,


On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Autism Society San Diego, I am pleased to express our full support for the grant application - Current Topics in Autism Lecture Series.

This initiative aligns seamlessly with our mission to empower individuals with autism and their families through education, advocacy, and community building. By providing targeted workshops on self-determination, crisis readiness, residential services, and healthcare navigation, and other important topics, we aim to equip parents, caregivers, and professionals in San Marcos with the knowledge and tools to foster inclusive, resilient communities where everyone can thrive.

We are committed to addressing the unique challenges faced by the autism community, including sensory sensitivities, communication barriers, and transitions to independence, while promoting forward-thinking strategies that enhance support networks and long-term well-being.

Thank you for considering this vital project. We are confident it will make a meaningful impact in San Marcos and beyond.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

E538A07AC7A84AE...

Kasey Howell
President, Board of Directors
Autism Society San Diego

Title	Autism Society San Diego - Spring 2026 Current Topics in Autism Lecture Series	09/25/2025
	by David Drazenovich in San Marcos Community Foundation on behalf of Autism Society San Diego Inc ddrazenovichconsulting@gmail.com	id. 51788117

Original Submission	09/25/2025
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Score	n/a
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General Project Information

Please enter your organization's name and project name.	Autism Society San Diego - Spring 2026 Current Topics in Autism Lecture Series
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Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Regular Grant (\$1,500 - \$10,000)
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Project Name	Spring 2026 Current Topics in Autism Lecture Series
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Project Start Date	2/2/2026
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Project End Date	6/30/2026
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Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	6/30/2026
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Total Number of People Served by this Project	200
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Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	100
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Grant Amount Requested	6000
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Organization Details

Organization Name	Autism Society San Diego
Organization Street Address	4699 Murphy Canyon Road
Organization City	San Diego
Organization State	CA
Organization Zip Code	92123
Organization Website	www.autismsocietysandiego.org
Organization's EIN	33-0259068 200 San Marcos Community Foundation 920fb359-e83d-4d12-b881-482ae0729755 1 Civic Center Dr San Marcos CA 92069-2918 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2025-09-22T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A supporting organization, unspecified type (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(3) organization 2025-09-09T00:00:00 1991 01
Contact Information	
Contact First Name	Teresa
Contact Last Name	Contreras
Contact Title	Interim Executive Director
Contact Phone	+18587150678
Contact Email	teresa@autismsocietysandiego.org
Project Details	

Briefly describe your request for funds.	The Autism Society San Diego requests \$6,000 to support the delivery of a four-part educational lecture series on current topics in autism, targeted at parents, caregivers, and local professionals in the San Marcos area. Funds will cover essential costs including speaker honoraria, promotional materials to reach underserved families, refreshments for in-person attendees, workshop handouts and resources, facility rental for accessible venues, and professional Spanish interpretation services to ensure inclusivity for diverse communities. This series, spanning late winter to late spring 2026, builds on our successful programming by equipping participants with practical knowledge on self-determination, crisis preparedness, residential options, and healthcare navigation for individuals with autism. By addressing these critical areas, we aim to foster resilient families and informed communities capable of providing meaningful support.
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Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.	This lecture series addresses a vital need in San Marcos, where families and professionals supporting individuals with autism often face barriers to specialized education and resources. Autism affects approximately 1 in 36 children nationwide, with similar prevalence in San Marcos, leading to challenges in daily living, healthcare access, and long-term planning for families. By offering free, accessible workshops with professional Spanish interpretation, we anticipate serving 200 participants overall, including at least 100 from San Marcos—comprising parents navigating early interventions, caregivers preparing for crises, and professionals enhancing inclusive practices. The series will empower attendees to build stronger support networks, reduce isolation, and promote community integration, ultimately creating a more inclusive San Marcos where individuals with autism can thrive and contribute fully.
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Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.	San Diego Regional Center (SDRC), which operates an office in San Marcos to support residents with I/DD. SDSU's Autism Center which benefits San Marcos families through resources and referrals.
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Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.

n/a

Please provide a detailed narrative of your organization's mission and impact to the community. Include details such as strategic objectives, milestone achievements, and testimonials.

The Autism Society San Diego is dedicated to creating connections and empowering everyone in the autism community with the resources needed to live fully. Our mission focuses on supporting and amplifying the voices of autistic individuals, while providing families and professionals with education, advocacy, and inclusive opportunities that address the unique needs of those on the spectrum - such as sensory sensitivities, communication challenges, and transitions to adulthood. We recognize that families often navigate complex systems for diagnosis, education, and support, and we commit to forward-thinking strategies that build resilient, inclusive communities.

Strategically, our objectives include expanding access to innovative programming, fostering policy advocacy for equitable services, and developing housing and wellness initiatives. In addition to ongoing support groups, family support services, recreational groups and summer camps, we host annual events like our "Lights! Camera! Autism" to promote creative expression, and the Autism Social and Mental Health Conference.

Our impact is evident in testimonials from community members: "The Autism Society San Diego's workshops gave me the tools to advocate for my child's needs in school, turning overwhelming challenges into manageable steps," shares a parent from North County. Another caregiver notes, "Through their partnerships, we connected with local resources that made crisis planning less daunting - it's built a stronger support network for our family." By prioritizing collaboration and innovation, we are committed to a future where San Marcos and greater San Diego become models of autism-inclusive communities, ensuring every individual can lead a dignified, fulfilling life.

Please upload any community letters or media in support of this project.

Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization.

[2025_ASSD_Budget.pdf](#)

Please upload your most recent year-end audited financial statements, including any management letters associated with the audit.

[ASSD._Audit._2024.pdf](#)

Please attach the first two pages of your Federal 990.

[2_pages_2023_990_ASSD.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.

[BOD_Letter_of_Support.pdf](#)

Funding

Budget Worksheet

[San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx](#)

Project Budget Total 6000

Is this a Challenge or No
Matching Grant?

Could this be a No
Challenge or
Matching Grant?

Additional Funding

[SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx](#)

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?	The budget is allocated efficiently to core needs. If partial funding, we can reduce promotion, lower facility fees, and / or shift to virtual,
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San Marcos Community Foundation
1 Civic Center Drive
San Marcos, CA, 92069

09.26.2025

Dear San Marcos Community Foundation,

Best Buddies is the world's largest organization committed to ending the social, physical, and economic isolation faced by the 200 million people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Through our innovative Friendship programs, we empower participants to form meaningful relationships, gain confidence, and build advocacy skills within their schools. The result is not just personal growth, but a cultural shift—one that brings entire communities closer to true inclusion.

In San Diego County, momentum is growing. Interest in our programs is increasing, and the demand for inclusive opportunities in schools continues to rise along. To sustain our impact in San Diego, we respectfully request an investment of **\$5,000** to support our Friendship program, with an emphasis on growing our presence within San Marcos schools. This funding will directly support our current school chapters and help lay the foundation for responsible, intentional growth across the city.

Your support would make a meaningful difference in the lives of students with and without IDD, enabling them to form lasting friendships, discover their voices, and build communities rooted in compassion and respect. Thank you for considering this request and for your commitment to creating a more inclusive world.

In friendship,

Katelyn Quintero
State Director
KatelynQuintero@BestBuddies.org
626.482.0548

Title	Best Buddies in San Diego School Friendship Program – Creating Social Inclusion for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD).	09/28/2025
	by KristinAnn Janishefski in San Marcos Community Foundation on behalf of Best Buddies International Inc kristinannjanishefski@bestbuddies.org	id. 51817660

Original Submission	09/28/2025
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Score	n/a
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General Project Information	
Please enter your organization's name and project name.	Best Buddies in San Diego School Friendship Program – Creating Social Inclusion for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD).
Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Regular Grant (\$1,500 - \$10,000)
Project Name	Best Buddies in San Diego Friendship Program - Expansion into San Marcos Schools
Project Start Date	8/1/2025
Project End Date	6/30/2026
Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	6/30/2026
Total Number of People Served by this Project	623
Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	0

Grant Amount Requested	5000
Organization Details	
Organization Name	Best Buddies in San Diego
Organization Street Address	3517 Camino del Rio S Suite 203
Organization City	San Diego
Organization State	CA
Organization Zip Code	92108
Organization Website	www.bestbuddies.org/california
Organization's EIN	52-1614576 200 Best Buddies International Inc 2dac7047-9f29-4021-ab69-d975c70a24d2 100 SE 2nd St Ste 2200 Miami FL 33131-2151 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2025-09-22T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A public charity (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(2) organization 2025-09-09T00:00:00 1989 03
Contact Information	
Contact First Name	KristinAnn
Contact Last Name	Janishefski
Contact Title	Deputy Director, Development – San Diego
Contact Phone	+13105606258
Contact Email	KristinAnnJanishefski@BestBuddies.org
Project Details	

Briefly describe your request for funds.	<p>We are seeking support for Best Buddies in San Diego’s School-Based Friendship Programs, which provide inclusive opportunities for students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to connect, grow, and thrive together. Operating in elementary, middle, and high schools across the county, these programs foster one-to-one friendships, peer mentoring, and school-wide inclusion activities that create a culture of acceptance and belonging.</p> <p>With funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation, we will expand these efforts by opening school-based friendship chapters in San Marcos schools. This investment will allow us to open Best Buddies chapters, train student leaders, equip teachers with tools and resources, and host inclusive, community-building events that bring students together in meaningful ways. Our programs reach youth from elementary through college, providing students of all abilities the chance to experience the transformative power of authentic friendship.</p> <p>Your support will directly reduce social isolation, strengthen empathy, and empower young people with and without IDD to become leaders and advocates for inclusion. Together, we can nurture a generation that celebrates diversity, leads with compassion, and builds stronger, more connected communities in San Marcos and beyond.</p>
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Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.	<p>Best Buddies International is seeking support to expand our School-Based Friendship Programs in the San Marcos community. These programs create inclusive opportunities for students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to build meaningful friendships, develop leadership skills, and foster a culture of acceptance in their schools.</p> <p>Currently, we serve 23 schools and 623 individuals throughout San Diego County. We want to expand the reach of our program to serve schools in San Marcos. With your support, we will be able to grow our impact, providing training and resources for student leaders and faculty advisors, and delivering our program at new schools in the San Marcos community.</p> <p>With additional funding, the impact in San Marcos would be profound: students with IDD gain social connections and advocacy skills, while their peers develop empathy, leadership, and a lifelong commitment to inclusion. Together, these efforts help reduce isolation, celebrate diversity, and build a stronger, more compassionate San Marcos.</p>
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Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.	<p>We collaborate with local school districts, host sites, and Sanford Harmony to deliver our inclusive friendship program.</p>
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Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.

Please provide a detailed narrative of your organization's mission and impact to the community. Include details such as strategic objectives, milestone achievements, and testimonials.

Best Buddies International is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to ending the social, physical, and economic isolation of the 200 million people worldwide with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Our mission is to create opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, inclusive living, and family support for individuals with IDD. The IDD community includes individuals with Down syndrome, autism, Fragile X, Williams syndrome, cerebral palsy, and other intellectual and developmental disabilities. Too often, people with IDD face barriers to forming social connections, pursuing leadership roles, and being fully included in schools and communities. Best Buddies works to break down these barriers by empowering individuals with and without IDD to form authentic friendships, build confidence, and create a culture of acceptance.

Social isolation remains a critical challenge for individuals with IDD. Research shows that the average person with IDD has a social circle of just three people—one of whom is often a paid caregiver—compared to an average of 125 for individuals without disabilities. This lack of connection frequently leads to loneliness and limited opportunities for social and personal growth. For students, these barriers are magnified in school settings where separate classrooms and limited opportunities for interaction often prevent inclusive friendships from forming. Without structured programs, students with IDD have fewer opportunities to build relationships with their peers. This not only impacts their quality of life but also reduces awareness, empathy, and leadership skills among students without IDD.

The Best Buddies School Friendship Program provides an intentional solution to these challenges. Through our model, students with and without IDD are matched in one-to-one friendships, supported by faculty advisors and trained student leaders. Matches commit to weekly contact and at least two monthly activities, creating opportunities for meaningful relationships to grow. Beyond individual friendships, chapters host group activities that foster a culture of inclusion across the entire school community. Currently, our Friendship Program reaches 623 individuals in San Diego County through 23 active chapters, including three elementary

schools, two middle schools, 16 high schools, and two colleges. These programs create safe spaces where students with IDD are valued, friendships are celebrated, and leadership is cultivated.

Despite this strong foundation, there remain schools and communities in San Diego County—such as San Marcos—where students with IDD do not yet have access to Best Buddies. With additional support, we aim to establish new chapters in San Marcos schools, ensuring that more students can experience the transformative impact of inclusion. Our objectives for the 2025–2026 program year include sustaining 23 active school chapters in San Diego County, establishing at least six new chapters including in San Marcos, growing chapter membership by 17%, increasing one-to-one friendship matches by 35%, supporting leadership development with 70% of chapters led by trained student volunteers, providing opportunities for at least 396 group activities across participating schools, and ensuring that 70% of chapters attend the Best Buddies Leadership Conference to foster sustainability and program excellence.

To evaluate impact, Best Buddies uses a combination of surveys, program data, and direct engagement. The Best Buddies Annual Survey captures participant feedback, while our BB360 Salesforce platform tracks one-to-one friendships and membership data. Attendance and engagement at chapter activities are monitored, and Program Managers provide oversight to ensure program effectiveness. This robust evaluation framework ensures accountability and continuous improvement.

Our achievements to date highlight the strength of this model. In San Diego County, we have established 23 school-based Friendship Chapters, serving 623 students with and without IDD. These chapters facilitate more than 350 inclusive group activities annually and empower student leaders across high schools and colleges to build sustainable inclusion programs. Most importantly, we have created spaces where students with IDD share their voices, build confidence, and take on leadership roles within their chapters and communities.

The impact of the Friendship Program is best illustrated through the voices of our participants. Frances Aguilar, Chapter President at the Academy of Our Lady of Peace, shared, “Inspired by my best friend and brother with Cerebral Palsy, I joined Best Buddies because I believe that all people—no matter ability or disability—deserve to be treated with friendship, equality, and compassion. I started a Best Buddies Chapter at my high school and continue to support the mission of inclusion because it has no limits.” Similarly, Vesna Vasich, a member of the San Diego State University chapter, described, “When I joined Best Buddies, I was given the opportunity to be myself and speak out for what I believed in. I met one of my best buddies, Addie, and we go out to eat, watch movies, and sing to our favorite songs. Addie has a special place in my heart and brings me joy. Best Buddies gave me the confidence to share my story and be a leader with Down syndrome.”

These stories reflect the transformational power of the Friendship Program—for both students with IDD who gain confidence and belonging, and their peers who learn the lifelong value of inclusion. The ultimate goal of our program is to create a world where inclusion is the norm and programs like

Best Buddies are no longer necessary. Until then, we remain committed to fostering environments where every student, regardless of ability, can belong, thrive, and lead. By expanding into San Marcos, we will take a significant step toward closing the gap in access and ensuring that all students in San Diego County have opportunities for connection, confidence, and community.

Please upload any community letters or media in support of this project.

[Best_Buddies_San_Diego_Testimonials.pdf](#)

Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization.

[Best_Buddies_CA_2025_Operating_Budget.pdf](#)

Please upload your most recent year-end audited financial statements, including any management letters associated with the audit.

[2024_Financial_Audit_Report.pdf](#)

Please attach the first two pages of your Federal 990.

[Best-Buddies-International-2024-Form-990-Public-Disclosure-.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.

[Letter_from_State_Director.pdf](#)

Funding

Budget Worksheet

[San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx](#)

Project Budget Total 112762

Is this a Challenge or No
Matching Grant?

Could this be a No
Challenge or
Matching Grant?

Additional Funding

[SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx](#)

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?

Funds support staff, training, and program activities. We combine grants, donations, and events to sustain impact; partial funding still allows us to operate, though at reduced capacity.

BITHIAH'S FAMILY SERVICES

1030 La Bonita Dr. #334 San Marcos CA 92078

San Marcos Community Foundation,

I am the CoFounder and Executive Director of Bithiah's Family Services. I am authorized and fully support the submission of this grant request. Feel free to contact me if you have any follow up questions.



Michelle Thompson
Executive Director
Bithiah's Family Services
mthompson@bithiahs.org

Title	Bithiah's Family Services- Food Pantry and Nutrition Education for At-Risk Youth	09/19/2025
		id. 51737612
	by Dyanna Sousa in San Marcos Community Foundation	
	on behalf of Bithiahs Family Services	
	1030 La Bonita Dr #334	
	San Marcos , California	
	92078	
	United States	
	951 370 5625	
	dsousa@bithiahs.org	

Original Submission

09/19/2025

Score	n/a
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General Project Information	
Please enter your organization's name and project name.	Bithiah's Family Services- Food Pantry and Nutrition Education for At-Risk Youth
Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Regular Grant (\$1,500 - \$10,000)
Project Name	Food Pantry and Nutrition Education for At-Risk Youth
Project Start Date	7/1/2025
Project End Date	7/1/2026
Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	1/1/2026
Total Number of People Served by this Project	350
Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	350

Grant Amount Requested	5000
Organization Details	
Organization Name	Bithiah's Family Services
Organization Street Address	1030 La Bonita Dr #334
Organization City	San Marcos
Organization State	CA
Organization Zip Code	92078
Organization Website	https://bithiahsfamilyservices.org/
Organization's EIN	47-3251661 200 Bithiahs Family Services a4a7e86d-d6ce-4dd2-8eb8-1faa21420c49 12345 Mountain Ave Ste N208 Chino CA 91710 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2025-09-15T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A public charity (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(1) organization as referred to in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2015 05
Contact Information	
Contact First Name	Dyanna
Contact Last Name	Sousa
Contact Title	San Marcos Program Manager
Contact Phone	+19518188033
Contact Email	dsousa@bithiahs.org
Project Details	

Briefly describe your request for funds.	<p>This request is for funding to strengthen the Food Pantry and Nutrition Education program in San Marcos, which ensures that foster youth and low-income families have reliable access to healthy food. The pantry distributes fresh produce and shelf-stable groceries so children do not go without meals. Alongside food distribution, the program provides engaging nutrition workshops and simple cooking lessons that teach youth how to prepare affordable meals and make healthier choices. By addressing immediate hunger while also building essential life skills, the program helps vulnerable young people move toward greater stability, health, and long-term self-sufficiency.</p>
<p>Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.</p>	<p>Food insecurity is a pressing issue in San Marcos, where many foster youth and low-income families face uncertainty about where their next meal will come from. Families served through our resource center have repeatedly reported that groceries are one of their highest necessities and also one of the most difficult needs to consistently meet. In response, we worked to fill this gap by establishing a pantry that not only provides dependable access to nutritious food but also pairs it with practical nutrition education.</p> <p>Through this program, children and families receive fresh produce and shelf-stable groceries that reduce the daily stress of wondering where food will come from. At the same time, youth participate in interactive nutrition workshops and cooking lessons that give them the skills to make healthier choices and stretch limited resources. This combination addresses both the immediate crisis of hunger and the long-term need for education and empowerment.</p> <p>In 2026, the Food Pantry and Nutrition Education program is expected to serve approximately 350 individuals. By ensuring that vulnerable children and families in San Marcos have the nourishment and knowledge they need, this program strengthens the health, stability, and resilience of the community as a whole.</p>
Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.	<p>A grant from the San Diego County District Attorney's Office helped build out our San Marcos pantry and shopping space, providing appliances and stocking the pantry for 6 months.</p>

Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.

Earlier this year we received funding for our weekly tutoring program, which has already served over 60 children with homework help and snacks since the school year began in August.

Please provide a detailed narrative of your organization's mission and impact to the community. Include details such as strategic objectives, milestone achievements, and testimonials.

Bithiah's Family Services serves vulnerable children, youth, and families impacted by the foster care system and other hardships by providing access to food, education, mental health support, and essential resources at no cost. Our mission is to ensure that no child or family in crisis is left without the tools they need to thrive.

Our strategic objectives focus on reducing barriers to stability through three core areas: providing consistent access to food and essentials, expanding educational support for children and transitional-aged youth, and increasing access to trauma-informed mental health services. These goals are grounded in our belief that early intervention, education, and holistic support build resilience and reduce long-term risks such as homelessness, substance abuse, and academic failure.

Among our milestone achievements, we established a community resource center in San Marcos where families can access wraparound services in one place. Earlier this year, with support from the San Marcos Community Foundation, we expanded our tutoring program, which has already served more than 80 children since August. We also built a food pantry and shopping space that now anchors our nutrition education program. Parents have shared that these services ease the burden of care and the cost associated with providing high-quality essential supplies, creating a sense of stability for their families.

Together, these programs demonstrate our impact by meeting immediate needs while equipping children and families with the skills and support to achieve lasting stability.

Please upload any community letters or media in support of this project.

[Cooking_Class_for_Kids_Facebook_Post.pdf](#)

Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization.

[BFS.Budget.2025.pdf](#)

Please upload your most recent year-end audited financial statements, including any management letters associated with the audit.

[Final_Audited_FS.pdf](#)

Please attach the first two pages of your Federal 990.

[990-2024.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.

[Authorization_Letter.pdf](#)

Funding

Budget Worksheet

[San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx](#)

Project Budget Total 30000

Is this a Challenge or No
Matching Grant?

Could this be a Yes
Challenge or
Matching Grant?

Additional Funding

[SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx](#)

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?	DA's Office funded initial start-up costs, such as pantry build-out, appliances, and staffing; funds requested from SMCF will fund fully restocking the pantry and materials for nutrition workshops.
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Breast Cancer Angels
15173 Springdale St.
Huntington Beach, CA, 92649

July 4, 2025

Dear San Marcos Community Foundation Board Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors at Breast Cancer Angels, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for the \$1,000 grant you awarded us last year. This generous support enabled us to provide critical assistance to San Marcos families facing financial hardship during breast cancer treatment, directly helping 3-4 local families with rent, utilities, and groceries during their most vulnerable time.

Over the last 25 years, BCA has done tremendous work supporting the breast cancer community in Southern California. We truly believe this work is necessary and important, as many individuals lack adequate financial resources when cancer forces them to leave their jobs. Our hope for Breast Cancer Angels is to continue being the light in the lives of these community members who could easily be our neighbors and loved ones.

Like the San Marcos Community Foundation, Breast Cancer Angels makes a significant impact on San Diego County citizens by serving as a social safety net when families hit rock bottom. Our goal is to provide hope and alleviate suffering so families can regain stability and become thriving, active community members again.

This year, we've expanded our impact significantly. We now serve over 150 families monthly across Southern California, distributing nearly \$50,000 in assistance. In San Diego County alone, we helped 221 individuals in 2023, providing \$133,073 in direct aid. Under new Executive Director Lisa Erickson's leadership, we've strengthened our hospital partnerships and streamlined our response time to under one week—often the difference between stability and crisis for families already battling cancer.

Even with limited resources, we have grown the organization and paved a path for thousands of families through their painful healing journey. While offering financial resources, time, and emotional support, we view Breast Cancer Angels' mission as sacred work, serving with integrity and compassion.

Thank you again for your thorough consideration of our application. We hope that through continued partnership with the San Marcos Community Foundation, we can expand our mission and impact the community in an even more profound way.

Sincerely,

Holli Lienau

Holli Lienau
Board President
Breast Cancer Angels

Title	Breast Cancer Angels - One Family at a Time	07/04/2025
	by Lisa Erickson in San Marcos Community Foundation on behalf of Breast Cancer Angels	id. 50991852
	15173 Springdale St. Huntington Beach, California 92649 United States (714) 898-8900 breastcancerangelsgrants@gmail.com	

Original Submission	07/04/2025
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Score	n/a
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General Project Information

Please enter your organization's name and project name.	Breast Cancer Angels - One Family at a Time
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Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Regular Grant (\$1,500 - \$10,000)
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Project Name	One Family at a Time
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Project Start Date	1/1/2026
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Project End Date	12/31/2026
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Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	6/1/2026
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Total Number of People Served by this Project	1850
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Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	200
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Grant Amount Requested	10000
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Organization Details

Organization Name	Breast Cancer Angels
Organization Street Address	15173 Springdale St.
Organization City	Huntington Beach
Organization State	CA
Organization Zip Code	92649
Organization Website	http://www.breastcancerangels.org
Organization's EIN	33-0937846 200 Breast Cancer Angels a2e12671-8144-448e-a4c9-e539473a64c9 15173 Springdale St Huntington Beach CA 92649-1154 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-06-10T00:00:00 2025-06-30T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A public charity (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(1) organization as referred to in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) 2025-06-10T00:00:00 2001 06

Contact Information

Contact First Name	Angelina
Contact Last Name	Girgis
Contact Title	Grants Coordinator
Contact Phone	+15166614674
Contact Email	breastcancerangelsgrants@gmail.com

Project Details

Briefly describe your request for funds.

Breast Cancer Angels (BCA) requests \$10,000 to support our "One Family at a Time" program, providing critical financial assistance to San Marcos residents undergoing breast cancer treatment. When diagnosed with breast cancer, patients often must quit their jobs to focus on healing, creating devastating financial hardship while medical bills mount.

Our program provides immediate relief through:

- Rent/mortgage assistance
- Utility payments
- Grocery gift cards
- Transportation support (gas cards, car repairs)
- Medical co-pay coverage

We typically provide \$300-\$500 monthly per family for three months during chemotherapy, with our unique hospital partnership model enabling aid delivery within one week of request—crucial for families facing imminent financial crisis. This assistance prevents homelessness, ensures proper nutrition, and allows patients to focus on treatment rather than financial survival.

Building on our successful \$1,000 grant from the San Marcos Community Foundation last year, this increased funding will enable us to serve more San Marcos families and extend support duration, ensuring no local resident must choose between life-saving treatment and basic necessities during their cancer journey.

Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.	<p>BCA's request addresses a critical gap in San Marcos' healthcare support system for cancer patients facing financial crisis. Our program will serve ~200 San Marcos residents annually, including patients and their families who are impacted by the financial devastation of a breast cancer diagnosis.</p> <p>Based on our San Diego County data where we assisted 300 individuals in 2024 (distributing \$180,496) we project providing approximately \$25,000-\$30,000 in direct financial assistance to San Marcos families annually. This support prevents homelessness, food insecurity, and treatment interruptions that could prove life-threatening.</p> <p>Our program's significance lies in its immediate, comprehensive impact. We serve families experiencing sudden financial crisis—not chronic poverty—helping working families who become financially vulnerable due to lost income during treatment. With our unique one-week response time through hospital partnerships, we intervene before families lose housing or utilities.</p> <p>Each family receives \$300-\$500 monthly for three months, covering rent, utilities, groceries, and transportation to treatment centers. This assistance enables 50-60 additional San Marcos families to maintain stability while fighting cancer, supporting approximately 150-200 total family members including children whose well-being depends on family stability.</p> <p>By preventing financial catastrophe, we strengthen San Marcos' community resilience and ensure residents can access life-saving treatment without sacrificing basic needs.</p>
--	---

Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.	We partner with UC San Diego Health and Scripps Health to refer and verify patients. Susan G. Komen provides outreach support for San Marcos residents.
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Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.

Yes, we received \$1,000 in 2024 for our One Family at a Time program. These funds helped 3-4 San Marcos families with rent, utilities, and groceries during breast cancer treatment.

Please provide a detailed narrative of your organization's mission and impact to the community. Include details such as strategic objectives, milestone achievements, and testimonials.

MISSION & IMPACT

Breast Cancer Angels (BCA) is dedicated to providing immediate financial security for individuals undergoing breast cancer treatment, enabling them to focus on healing without devastating financial stress. Our mission is clear: ensure no one chooses between life-saving treatment and basic necessities like food or housing.

Founded in 2000 by Stage IV breast cancer survivor Faye Dietiker, BCA emerged from firsthand understanding of cancer's financial devastation. What began as \$2,000 to help women in Dietiker's chemotherapy room has grown into a robust organization distributing nearly \$50,000 monthly to over 150 families across Southern California.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Immediate Financial Assistance: Our primary objective is swift financial support delivery. We verify needs and provide assistance within one week—unmatched turnaround time crucial for families facing imminent crisis.

Comprehensive Support: We address all financial strain aspects: rent/utilities, groceries, transportation, medical co-pays, second opinions, and palliative care. Our holistic approach ensures families maintain stability throughout treatment.

Extended Care: While typically providing three-month support during chemotherapy, we're expanding to six months, covering more of the treatment journey.

Community Education: We implement breast cancer health education for patients, families, and communities, bridging detection and prevention gaps, especially among underserved populations.

Family Support: Recognizing cancer affects entire families, we assist with children's educational needs and basic necessities.

MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENTS

Over 24 years, BCA has achieved remarkable milestones:

- Served over 21,600 individuals during breast cancer treatment
- Provided over \$6.9 million in financial aid, with 100% of foundation funding going directly to communities
- Expanded service across Southern California counties: Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, and Riverside
- Established partnerships with major healthcare providers including UC San Diego Health, Scripps Health, and Susan G. Komen
- Maintained sustainable giving model with former recipients becoming monthly "Angels" supporting new patients

In San Diego County specifically, we have:

- 2024: Assisted nearly 300 patients, distributing \$180,496 in aid
- 2023: Helped 221 individuals twice each, totaling \$133,073
- 2022: Assisted 266 individuals, distributing \$160,012
- 2021: Provided over \$172,000 in financial support
- Current: Serve 45-60 families monthly, totaling \$18,000+ assistance

COMMUNITY IMPACT

BCA serves as a crucial safety net for families facing sudden treatment-induced financial crisis—not chronic poverty. We prevent homelessness, ensure nutrition access, and eliminate financial stress so patients focus on healing.

Our efficiency distinguishes us from other organizations. Unlike programs with lengthy waiting periods or burdensome paperwork, our streamlined hospital partnership process responds immediately to urgent needs.

Our impact ripples throughout communities. Supporting breast cancer patients maintains family stability, ensuring children's educational continuity and reducing strain on social services.

TESTIMONIALS

Kimberly H., diagnosed before COVID-19, shares: "I had to quit my job. I tried to work as long as possible, but became too weak. I needed time to focus on my primary job: saving my life." Facing a \$1,000 electricity bill: "I made a call and money came in a week. The process was simple. Other programs have 90-day waiting periods requiring hoops and hurdles. I can't do that—I must save energy for testing, labs, and chemo."

Another survivor expressed: "I will always be grateful. You've been so generous as Breast Cancer Angels has been the only real help I've gotten on my cancer journey."

Social worker Kathy McCaleb, LCSW, notes: "Every client I called was so nice and grateful, so happy we could assist. One unique thing about Breast Cancer Angels is clients get help almost immediately. There's no red tape, no lengthy forms or waiting months. When your rent's due in three days or you've received a utility shut-off notice, you can't wait."

FUTURE VISION

BCA aims to expand reach and deepen impact through:

1. Increasing monthly assistance capacity for more families
2. Extending support from three to six months
3. Enhancing educational programs promoting early detection in underserved communities
4. Strengthening healthcare provider partnerships
5. Adapting services to meet evolving patient needs

SAN MARCOS COMMITMENT

For San Marcos specifically, we project serving 200 residents annually, providing \$25,000-\$30,000 in direct assistance. Our established partnerships with UC San Diego Health and Scripps Health ensure seamless referral and verification processes for local residents.

BCA stands as a beacon of hope providing peace of mind, dignity, and healing focus for those facing life's most challenging battles. Our mission transcends financial assistance—we strengthen community fabric through compassion and mutual support, embodying the collaborative spirit that defines effective community care.

Please upload any community letters or media in support of this project.

[BCA_Patient_Testimonial_Video_Links.pdf](#)

[BCA_LOS-merged.pdf](#)

[BCA_Photos_Additional_Attachments-compressed.pdf](#)

Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization.

[BCA_2025_Operational_Budget_Projected.pdf](#)

Please upload your most recent year-end audited financial statements, including any management letters associated with the audit.

[BCA_2024_Monthly_Client_Assistance.pdf](#)

[PL_2024.pdf](#)

[BCA_2024_Balance_Sheet.pdf](#)

Please attach the first two pages of your Federal 990.

[BCA_2024_990_First_Two_Pages.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.

[BCA_SMCF_Board_Authorization_Letter.pdf](#)

Funding

Budget Worksheet

[San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx](#)

Project Budget Total 600000

Is this a Challenge or Matching Grant?

No

Could this be a Challenge or Matching Grant?

No

Additional Funding

[SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx](#)

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?	Our request supports direct client assistance for San Marcos families. Funding comes from individual donors, foundation grants, and corporate sponsors. We can scale project based on funding received.
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Double Peak Parent Teacher Organization

111 San Elijo Road
San Marcos, CA 92078

Kelly Le Roux

President, Double Peak School PTO

September 18, 2025

San Marcos Community Foundation

San Marcos, CA

Dear San Marcos Community Foundation Board Members,

On behalf of the Double Peak School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), I am writing to support Christine Dixon's grant application to enhance our K-8 Innovation Program through much-needed Makerspace and Innovation Lab materials.

At Double Peak School, we believe in the San Marcos Unified School District's "Future Ready" model. True future-ready students require experiences that spark curiosity, foster problem-solving, and encourage resilience. The Innovation Program provides these opportunities for every DPS student, from Transitional Kindergarten through eighth grade. Through coding, robotics, circuitry, engineering, and design thinking, our children learn to take risks, collaborate, and persevere. Students light up when they bring their ideas to life, test them, and then try again. Many of our graduates tell us that Innovation led them to pursue majors that require critical thinking like engineering, biological sciences, and international relations.

However, our students' pursuit of learning is limitless, and our program is constantly in need of updated technology and raw materials to keep up with their creativity. By funding essential prototyping materials, engineering tools, robotics parts, and instructional technology, the San Marcos Community Foundation will directly empower over 1,100 students to fully engage in future-ready, hands-on learning. Your investment will ensure that every child within our school zone, regardless of socioeconomic status or background, has access to the resources needed to imagine, create, and innovate.

Our PTO is committed to supporting this program both today and for the future, and we hope you will join us to support our incredible Innovation program. Thank you for considering this application and for your dedication to enriching the lives of residents across San Marcos.

With gratitude,

Kelly Le Roux

President, Double Peak School PTO

Title	Double Peak K8 Makerspace Program	09/19/2025
	by Christine Dixon in San Marcos Community Foundation	id. 51733998
	on behalf of San Marcos Community Foundation	
	christine.dixon@smusd.org	

Original Submission	09/19/2025
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Score	n/a
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General Project Information

Please enter your organization's name and project name.	Double Peak K8 Makerspace Program
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Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Regular Grant (\$1,500 - \$10,000)
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Project Name	Supporting Innovation & Makerspace Learning at Double Peak School
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Project Start Date	10/1/2025
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Project End Date	6/10/2026
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Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	11/30/2025
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Total Number of People Served by this Project	1200
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Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	1200
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Grant Amount Requested	5000
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Organization Details

Organization Name	Double Peak K8
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Organization Street Address	111 San Elijo Rd
Organization City	San Marcos
Organization State	California
Organization Zip Code	92078-3001
Organization Website	https://doublepeakschool.smusd.org/
Organization's EIN	33-0259068 200 San Marcos Community Foundation 920fb359-e83d-4d12-b881-482ae0729755 1 Civic Center Dr San Marcos CA 92069-2918 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2025-09-15T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A supporting organization, unspecified type (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(3) organization 2025-09-09T00:00:00 1991 01
Contact Information	
Contact First Name	Christine
Contact Last Name	Dixon
Contact Title	Innovation STEAM Coordinator
Contact Phone	+19519704304
Contact Email	christine.dixon@smusd.org
Project Details	

Briefly describe your request for funds.

Double Peak School seeks funding to enhance our **K–8 Innovation Program** through critical **Makerspace and Innovation Lab supplies and resources**. This program provides all students — from Transitional Kindergarten to eighth grade — opportunities to engage in **coding, robotics, engineering, circuitry, and design thinking**. Funding will directly support **prototyping materials, engineering tools, and hands-on resources** that allow students to fully experience 21st-century learning.

Currently, many of our projects are limited by the **availability of consumable prototyping materials and specialized tools**. Students' creativity thrives when they can test, refine, and rebuild — but without sufficient materials, the cycle of innovation is cut short. Support from this grant will remove those barriers, ensuring every child has equal access to **hands-on, future-ready learning**.

Proposed Use of Funds

Grant funding will be used to purchase very needed materials for TK-8 STEAM integration such as:

- **Prototyping materials:** cardboard, wood, foam board, clay, adhesives, fasteners, and craft materials.
 - **Engineering & Maker tools:** hand tools, Laser cutter, circuitry kits, robotics parts, 3D printing filaments, and storage solutions.
 - **Curricular & instructional resources:** iPad for teacher to teach TK-8 Innovation lessons (examples: stopmotion, video editing, green screen, coding, and more)
-

Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.

The **DPS Innovation Program** engages all 1,142 students through two integrated components:

- **Innovation Lab:** All students (TK–8) participate in coding, robotics, circuitry, and 3D printing experiences. Using platforms such as **Tynker**, they learn computational thinking while building communication and teamwork skills.
- **Makerspace & Design Thinking:** Students engage in collaborative **Design Challenges** that encourage them to empathize, brainstorm, prototype, and test solutions. Examples include engineering weather vanes, building mini-golf courses, and designing prototypes that solve real-world problems.

By integrating **STEAM principles with Design Thinking**, we empower students to approach learning with curiosity and perseverance, while also seeing mistakes as opportunities to grow.

Goals & Objectives

1. **Enhance Student Innovation:** Provide students with adequate materials to prototype and test their ideas.
2. **Expand STEAM Opportunities:** Ensure every grade level (TK–8) experiences authentic engineering and design challenges.
3. **Build 21st-Century Skills:** Strengthen students' problem-solving, teamwork, and communication skills through hands-on practice.
4. **Foster Equity & Access:** Guarantee that all students, regardless of grade or background, have access to high-quality makerspace resources.

Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.

I am proud to say I've helped many other schools in San Marcos begin STEM labs or programs at their schools. I am honored to teach future teachers at CSUSM (EDUC 422 course) about STEM and MakerEd.

Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.

Not that I know of. This is my first time applying for a grant from San Marcos Community Foundation.

Please provide a detailed narrative of your organization's mission and impact to the community. Include details such as strategic objectives, milestone achievements, and testimonials.

The mission of the Double Peak School (DPS) Innovation Program is to inspire and equip students with the skills, creativity, and resilience necessary to thrive in the 21st century. Rooted in STEAM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) and anchored by the Design Thinking Process, the program ensures that every student, from Transitional Kindergarten through 8th grade, has the opportunity to engage in hands-on, inquiry-driven learning.

Our Innovation Program is more than just a lab or a Makerspace — it is a mindset. Students are encouraged to view themselves as creators, problem-solvers, and innovators who have the ability to positively impact their world. By integrating the 4Cs of 21st-century learning — critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity — into every project, we prepare students not only for academic success, but for leadership roles in a global economy where adaptability and innovation are key.

Below are 2 videos of students engaging in all of the above. Please take a look.

DPS Innovation Program Overview: bit.ly/DPSInnoVideo

What is Design Thinking (Makerspace focused):
bit.ly/DesignThinkinginMakerspace

Please upload any community letters or media in support of this project.

Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization.

[DPS_Makerspace_Innovation_Needs_-_Amazon.com.pdf](#)

Please upload your most recent year-end audited financial statements, including any management letters associated with the audit.

[2025-26_Annual_Budget_for_Grant_application.docx](#)

Please attach the first two pages of your Federal 990.

[990_2023_DPS_PTO.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.

[SMCF_2025.pdf](#)

Funding

Budget Worksheet

[San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx](#)

Project Budget Total 5000

Is this a Challenge or No
Matching Grant?

Could this be a No
Challenge or
Matching Grant?

Additional Funding

[SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx](#)

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?	Our program is funded solely through the school budget and small-scale fundraising. We do not have additional funding sources designated for these specific supplies and resources.
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Ivey Ranch Park — ASSOCIATION

110 Rancho del Oro Dr • Oceanside, CA 92057 • (760) 722-4839 • (760) 722-6598 Fax

www.iveyranch.com

September 29, 2025

San Marcos Community Foundation
1 Civic Center Drive
San Marcos, CA 92069-2918

Dear San Marcos Community Foundation Grant Committee,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Ivey Ranch Park Association, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for our organization's grant application to the San Marcos Community Foundation. As a longstanding nonprofit dedicated to enhancing the lives of individuals with and without disabilities through equine-assisted programs in North County San Diego, we are seeking \$6,000 in scholarship funding to expand access to therapeutic riding for three key populations: children with disabilities, veterans experiencing PTSD and other mental health challenges, and children and teens facing mental health issues.

Therapeutic riding offers significant benefits for these groups, including improved physical strength, balance, and coordination for children with disabilities; reduced anxiety and better emotional regulation for veterans; and enhanced self-efficacy, coping skills, and mood for youth with mental health concerns.

Ivey Ranch Park Association has served the North County community, including San Marcos residents, for decades from our Oceanside site. This grant would help us provide scholarships to an additional 20-30 riders, empowering underserved individuals and strengthening community inclusivity. As noted by one of our veteran riders, the program allows participants to escape daily struggles and foster personal growth through non-judgmental bonds with horses.

The Board of Directors fully endorses this application and believes it will deliver meaningful results for participants and the San Marcos area. We value the Foundation's support for such initiatives and look forward to potential partnership.

Sincerely,

John Todd, Treasurer
Ivey Ranch Park Association

Programs for Special Needs and Able Bodied Alike

Daycare/Respite Center * In-Home Respite * Equestrian Center * Community Gardening * Camp Ivey

Title	Ivey Ranch Park Association - Therapeutic Riding Scholarships for Vulnerable Populations	09/29/2025
	by David Drazenovich in San Marcos Community Foundation on behalf of Oceanside Ivey Ranch Park Association	id. 51831354
	ddrazenovichconsulting@gmail.com	

Original Submission	09/29/2025
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Score	n/a
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General Project Information

Please enter your organization's name and project name.	Ivey Ranch Park Association - Therapeutic Riding Scholarships for Vulnerable Populations
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Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Regular Grant (\$1,500 - \$10,000)
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Project Name	Therapeutic Riding Scholarships for Vulnerable Populations
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Project Start Date	1/1/2026
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Project End Date	9/30/2026
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Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	9/30/2026
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Total Number of People Served by this Project	25
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Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	25
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Grant Amount Requested	6000
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Organization Details

Organization Name	Ivey Ranch Park Association
Organization Street Address	110 Rancho del Oro Drive
Organization City	Oceanside
Organization State	CA
Organization Zip Code	92057
Organization Website	https://iveyranch.com
Organization's EIN	95-3775136 200 Oceanside Ivey Ranch Park Association 3f752d80-123a-472e-aabb-34861868806f 110 Rancho Del Oro Dr Oceanside CA 92057-7344 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2025-09-29T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A public charity (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(1) organization as referred to in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) 2025-09-09T00:00:00 1983 07

Contact Information

Contact First Name	Tonya
Contact Last Name	Danielly
Contact Title	Executive Director
Contact Phone	+17607224839
Contact Email	iveyranch@yahoo.com

Project Details

Briefly describe your request for funds.	Ivey Ranch Park Association requests \$6,000 to fund therapeutic riding scholarships for 25 San Marcos residents, including children with disabilities, youth with mental health issues, and veterans through the Horses for Heroes program. Each scholarship covers 6 sessions at \$60 per session (\$240 total per participant) in our equine-assisted therapy programs. Therapeutic riding enhances physical strength, balance, and social skills for children with disabilities, improves self-esteem and coping skills for youth, and fosters community and personal growth for veterans. This funding will support all 25 scholarships, removing financial barriers and partially subsidizing the higher costs of Horses for Heroes, enhancing our Oceanside facility's impact on San Marcos.
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Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.	Supporting Ivey Ranch Park enriches the San Marcos community by providing therapeutic riding scholarships for 25 local resident - children with disabilities, youth with mental health issues, and veterans via Horses for Heroes. As a cornerstone since 1981, Ivey Ranch promotes inclusion and resilience in North County San Diego. This 6-week program yields: physical and cognitive gains for children with disabilities, emotional growth for youth, and a sense of purpose for veterans. By funding scholarships, the San Marcos Community Foundation invests in a local hub that reduces isolation, boosts well-being, and supports economic stability. Outcomes include improved quality of life, as seen in James N.'s testimonial about the program's transformative effect.
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Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.	Yes, we partner with mental health professionals, local schools, and veteran organizations for integrated therapy and referrals, serving North County including San Marcos residents.
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Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.	
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Please provide a detailed narrative of your organization's mission and impact to the community. Include details such as strategic objectives, milestone achievements, and testimonials.

Ivey Ranch Park Association's mission is to enable people with and without disabilities to achieve a better quality of life through care, education, and equine-assisted services. Founded in 1981 on the principle of inclusion - "unique together" - we operate an equestrian facility in Oceanside, serving North County San Diego, including San Marcos residents. Our programs emphasize community integration, personal choice, self-respect, competence, and self-reliance, addressing diverse needs.

Strategic objectives include expanding access to equine therapy, integrating community support, and enhancing volunteer engagement. We serve over 300 individuals weekly, with two-thirds facing challenges like disabilities or mental health issues. Key programs include:

- Therapeutic Riding for Children with Disabilities: 6-week sessions improve flexibility, balance, strength, concentration, and social skills, empowering kids with autism or physical impairments.
- Equine Therapy for Youth with Mental Health Issues: 6-week programs enhance self-efficacy, coping skills, and psychological health.
- Horses for Heroes for Veterans: 6-week sessions build camaraderie, personal growth, and resilience through equine interaction.

Milestone achievements: Honored as a 2025 California Nonprofit of the Year; expanded veteran and youth services since 2010; delivered over 10,000 sessions in a decade. Impact: We reduce isolation and healthcare costs, strengthening San Marcos. Testimonials: *I contribute much of my personal growth and success to the relationship I built with my horse. I will forever be grateful to my horse and for the dedication and support she gave to me.*

Please upload any community letters or media in support of this project.

[Assemblywoman_Davies_Announces_Oceanside-Based_Ivey_Ranch_Park_as_Winner_of_Nonprofit_of_the_Year_-_pdf_horses-for-heroes.pdf](#)

Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization.

[FY_25_26_Inc_Exp.pdf](#)

Please upload your most recent year-end audited financial statements, including any management letters associated with the audit.

[2024_AUDIT.pdf](#)

Please attach the first two pages of your Federal 990.

[Pg_1-2_2023_990.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.

[Letter_of_Support_BOD_SMCF_09_25.pdf](#)

San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx

Project Budget Total	6000
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Is this a Challenge or Matching Grant?	No
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Could this be a Challenge or Matching Grant?	Yes
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Additional Funding

SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?	The \$6,000 budget funds 25 scholarships at \$240. If partial funding, we can scale to fewer participants and seek alternative funding.
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HORSES FOR HEROES

An amazing program for America's wounded service personnel and veterans! Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH) certified instructors and various professionals (physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers) strive to physically improve, emotionally empower, and socially enhance the lives of veterans with disabilities.

We seek sponsors for this program. Participants go through 6 one-week sessions. Each 6-week Session costs \$4495 (Psychotherapist, Physical Therapist, Outreach/Program Coordinator, Equine Specialist, PATH Instructor, maintenance of horses.)

Right by the Mission in Oceanside!

Ivey Ranch Park Association

110 Rancho Del Oro Drive

Oceanside, CA 92057

(760) 722-4839 | Fax (760) 722-6598

iveyranch.com

Tax ID 95-3775136

“

I absolutely love the program. When I am at the ranch with my horse I can just be myself. I can go at my own pace. While interacting with my horse, whether riding or grooming, I don't have to think of anything else. For that one-hour time, I can just escape. I enjoy the fact that I can come in and say I am having a bad day and know just being around my horse will make it a little better. I know that my horse will not judge me and we will, ultimately, take care of each other. I contribute much of my personal growth and success to the relationship I built with my horse. I will forever be grateful to my horse and for the dedication and support she gave to me.

- James N.



Title	Joli Ann Youth Orchestra	09/29/2025
	by Melissa John in San Marcos Community Foundation	id. 51833292
	on behalf of Joli Ann Leichtag Elementary School PTA	
	melissasjohn@gmail.com	

Original Submission	09/29/2025
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Score	n/a
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General Project Information

Please enter your organization's name and project name.	Joli Ann Youth Orchestra
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Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Mini Grant (up to \$1,500)
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Project Name	Instrument Care and Repairs
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Project Start Date	11/1/2025
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Project End Date	12/12/2025
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Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	11/30/2025
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Total Number of People Served by this Project	150
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Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	150
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Grant Amount Requested	500
------------------------	-----

Organization Details

Organization Name	Joli Ann Youth Orchestra
-------------------	--------------------------

Organization Street Address	653 Poinsettia Ave
Organization City	Vista
Organization State	CA
Organization Zip Code	92081
Organization Website	92081
Organization's EIN	94-3434482 200 Joli Ann Leichtag Elementary School PTA be3cfd97-5b58-4e4a-9ad3-4d8adc6c2662 653 Poinsettia Ave Vista CA 92081 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2025-09-29T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A public charity (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(2) organization 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2022 07
Contact Information	
Contact First Name	Melissa
Contact Last Name	John
Contact Title	Program Director
Contact Phone	+15625377333
Contact Email	melissasjohn@gmail.com
Project Details	

<p>Briefly describe your request for funds.</p>	<p>We are requesting funding to repair and restore our inventory of musical instruments, many of which have not been serviced in years. These instruments are provided to students free of charge so that financial barriers do not prevent participation in music education. Over time, consistent use without proper maintenance has led to significant wear and tear, limiting both playability and sound quality.</p> <p>Instrument repair is critical to sustaining our program, as students rely on these tools to learn, rehearse, and perform. Without intervention, damaged instruments can discourage participation, create inequities among students, and compromise the overall quality of instruction and performance. With proper repairs, these instruments will not only be brought back to full functionality but will also extend their useful life, maximizing our resources and reducing the need for costly replacements.</p> <p>By funding this project, you will help ensure that every student has access to a reliable instrument, regardless of financial means. This investment supports both equity and excellence in music education, empowering students to fully engage in the joy of making music and to continue building skills that last a lifetime.</p>
<p>Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.</p>	<p>The Joli Ann Leichtag Elementary Youth Orchestra provides free musical instruction to all interested students. This helps students discover and develop their musical talents and build community in a fun and safe environment, contributing significantly to their overall educational experience. The orchestra currently serves 150 current students and hopes to secure additional funding to serve even more students.</p>
<p>Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.</p>	<p>We partner with Palomar College for student teachers in our orchestra and are developing a new partnership with CSUSM to expand support for San Marcos students.</p>

Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.

We received funding for a performance at Knott's Berry Farm, which boosted student engagement in our program and made it possible to welcome new students into the orchestra.

Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization.

[_24-25_JALE_PTO_Budget.xlsx_-_PTO.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.

Funding

Budget Worksheet

[San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx](#)

Project Budget Total 845

Is this a Challenge or Matching Grant? No

Could this be a Challenge or Matching Grant? Yes

Additional Funding

[SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx](#)

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?

We have performances planned to raise money as well as auctions, and raffles. If we don't receive the full amount, we will have to prioritize the instruments in most need of repairs

September 23, 2025

San Marcos Community Foundation
c/o Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego

Dear San Marcos Community Foundation Representative,

Thank you for helping us ensure that children and families residing in San Marcos have equal access to our life-changing programs. During our grant period of May 24 – November 24, 2024, your grant supported 15 San Marcos families and 22 children participated in the program.

During the grant period, the program provided the space for children ages 6-17 to learn about feelings, what they are and how to share them, to see that they are not alone and to realize that their parents' behaviors and divorce are not their fault.

At Kids' Turn San Diego, we believe that our programs are changing lives. We are helping parents gain insight into their words, actions and behaviors. They are changing, healing and forgiving and they are better parents to their children. We believe that by participating in our programs, families are transforming and creating space for children to have happier childhoods and brighter futures.

Your investment in our Creating Brighter Futures for Children Project will ensure that children experiencing family separation will have access to programs that support and stabilize mental health and set the stage for a lifetime of resiliency and happiness.

As the Board President, I fully support the submission of this grant.



Julia Kitts, LCSW
Board President

Title	Kids' Turn San Diego - Providing psychoeducational group programs and counseling services for children and youth residing in San Marcos	09/26/2025
	by Cindy Grossman in San Marcos Community Foundation on behalf of Kids' Turn San Diego cindyg@kidsturnsd.org	id. 51795575

Original Submission

09/26/2025

Score	n/a
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General Project Information	
Please enter your organization's name and project name.	Kids' Turn San Diego - Providing psychoeducational group programs and counseling services for children and youth residing in San Marcos
Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Regular Grant (\$1,500 - \$10,000)
Project Name	Creating Brighter Futures for Children Project
Project Start Date	10/1/2025
Project End Date	9/30/2026
Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	9/30/2026
Total Number of People Served by this Project	750
Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	60
Grant Amount Requested	5000
Organization Details	
Organization Name	Kids' Turn San Diego
Organization Street Address	4909 Murphy Canyon Road, Ste. 515
Organization City	San Diego
Organization State	CA
Organization Zip Code	92123

Organization Website	www.kidsturnsd.org
Organization's EIN	33-0724932 200 Kids' Turn San Diego 5b2406bc-4e82-4641-b616-7ff8d33e1f64 4909 Murphy Canyon Road Suite 515 San Diego CA 92123 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2025-09-22T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A public charity (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(1) organization as referred to in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) 2025-09-09T00:00:00 1996 12
Contact Information	
Contact First Name	Cindy
Contact Last Name	Grossman
Contact Title	Executive Director
Contact Phone	+16196156289
Contact Email	cindyg@kidsturnsd.org
Project Details	
Briefly describe your request for funds.	<p>Kids' Turn San Diego (KTSD) exists to empower children and heal families experiencing family separations and military transitions. Our Creating Brighter Futures for Children Project includes our Family Workshops for Separated and Divorced Families, Counseling for Children, our high conflict Cooperative Co-Parenting Program and Continue the Conversation Classes. This project offers a continuum of care for families that includes a co-parenting program for parents and children to attend together, a high conflict co-parenting program for parents to attend independently, an advanced refresher class for parent graduates and counseling services for children. This continuum creates the space for families to get the specific support they need to move towards a life of less conflict, more balance and happier children. A grant from the San Marcos Community Foundation will ensure that all San Marcos families requesting our programs will have access to the services, regardless of their financial situation. Grant funds will provide Family Workshop Tuition Reduction Scholarships for up to 25 San Marcos parents and their children and will specifically support the salaries of Family Workshop Group Leaders who facilitate the Children's Groups and provide Counseling services to children. Together, we will heal and strengthen parent to parent and parent-child relationships.</p>

<p>Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.</p>	<p>The Founder of KTSD made a commitment to the community that all parents must pay something for our Family Workshop program, and we will never turn anyone away for the inability to pay. The significance of our request is that, over 29 years later, we continue to honor our Founder's legacy by serving lower income families who earn less than 60% of the median income and we will never allow the cost of our programs to be a barrier to attending. In 2024, Family Workshop Scholarships were provided to 32% of San Marcos parents who were struggling financially. Without support of our Tuition Reduction Scholarships, San Marcos parents may not have access to our programs, thus their children may hold onto worries and concerns that are not theirs to hold, such as watching parental conflict and being stuck in the middle. This grant is significant to the San Marcos community because, without our programs, children are at great risk of failing in school, turning to drugs or alcohol to self-medicate, engaging in bullying behaviors or being bullied by others and/or experiencing mental health issues. We anticipate preventing these negative outcomes for 35 children and their 25 parents.</p>
<p>Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.</p>	<p>We collaborate with One Safe Place in San Marcos, Family Law Judges to demystify the judicial process, and supervised visitation providers and con-joint therapists to ensure referral availability.</p>
<p>Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.</p>	<p>Between 5/24/24 – 11/24/24, 15 San Marcos parents with 22 children attended our program. Grant funds covered a portion of the \$1,505 Tuition Reduction Scholarships/Discounts that 9 parents received.</p>
<p>Please provide a detailed narrative of your organization's mission and impact to the community. Include details such as strategic objectives, milestone achievements, and testimonials.</p>	<p>Kids' Turn San Diego (KTSD) empowers children and heals families. With a mission of “promoting, supporting and securing the well-being of children who are experiencing family separation”, we reduce exposure to high parental conflict, domestic violence and child abuse while building resiliency and increasing self-esteem in children. KTSD exists to transform family relationships in positive ways so there is less conflict, more balance, and happier children. Our vision is that every child experiencing family separation will feel safe and secure to express their thoughts and feelings.</p> <p>As an organization with expertise in family separations, your grant will change the trajectory of a child's life course by helping them discover their own voice and by helping their parents interact in different ways. The number one theme we hear from children is that they are scared and sad when they hear their parents fighting. When children experience the breakup of their family, they oftentimes witness parental sadness, conflict or anger, they excessively worry and/or have anxiety or tend to act out aggressively at home, with siblings, or on the playground. When children are exposed to child abuse, domestic violence, high parental conflict and anger, they tend to grow up to be angry adults who victimize others, use drugs or alcohol, and/or have unhealthy relationships. The purpose of the grant is to change family relationships in positive ways, so children have happier childhoods and brighter futures.</p> <p>Our impact in the community is observed during every program graduation when children tell us how the program impacted their family. For example, 14-year-old Lucas</p>

told us, "I have noticed that instead of my dad yelling at me to hurry up so we can do what he wants, he is asking me what I want to do to spend time together. I am less stressed and more calm." At the program graduation, Lucas' dad shared, "I learned how important our children's emotions are and how to help them navigate the changes in their family and how to listen to their feelings."

Also, the impact of family chaos seeps into school, work and community. Our project stops the momentum of this negative path and creates a journey of forgiveness, healing and overall family well-being. Fifteen-year-old Tomas attended the program with his dad. He proudly shared his graduation poster that read, "I learned that divorce is never the kids' fault." And his dad's graduation take-away was, "I learned to communicate better with my co-parent and my, OUR son, I also learned to handle conflict calmly and to always keep our child's best interest in mind. I also learned tools to build a respectful and stable family environment. We have a lot more peace in our home now. Thank you!" We impact the community because we create the space for healing and moving forward with peace in one's heart.

Our strategic objective is to bring happiness back to children who are at risk to suffer emotional difficulties that can last a lifetime; and which impact individuals and communities, as children living in high conflict families have higher incidences of academic failure, unhealthy peer relationships and addictions. The Creating Brighter Futures Project includes a continuum of care that provides opportunities for parental insight, skill building and growth, while empowering children and freeing them up from adult worries.

A milestone achievement in 2024 was when our Executive Director was awarded the Peacemaker of the Year Award by the Downtown San Diego Breakfast Rotary Club. Another achievement is that KTSD turned 29 this past June. We are planning our 30th Anniversary Celebration for June 7, 2026.

Testimonials are most observed during program graduations. For example, a 6–7-year-old Family Workshop group proudly shared this poster, "I learned to share my feelings. I learned it's okay to live in 2 homes. I learned divorce is not my fault. I learned it's ok to have a lot of feelings and they are all important." When young children learn these lessons, they feel better about themselves and their self-esteem increases, and they no longer carry the burden of their parent's behaviors or decisions, thus freeing them up to be children without adult worries.

Testimonials are also heard when a parent shares, "This program gave me a big wake-up call. My co-parent cannot meet my needs, so I can stop trying. I'm not starting the conflict anymore. Thank you!" or "My co-parent cut me from health insurance and since the divorce I have felt like a victim. I had a breakthrough this week. Using unhealthy thinking was fueling the conflict and I realized my words matter, like saying our daughter versus my daughter. She is our child, so now I am sitting in gratitude. I also realized it is empowering to take control of my reactions. I'm stronger now and I can be a positive role model. Thank you!" When parents realize high conflict is a choice and if you don't want it, you have to stop engaging, they shift towards hope. When parents learn skills to propel them forward, they experience emotional relief, are better parents and are more productive.

A grant from the San Marcos Community Foundation will ensure that children feel heard and understood and that families are given opportunities to heal, as they will have access

Please upload any community letters or media in support of this project.

[San_Diego_Veterans_Magazine_April_2025_Month_of_the_Military_Child_Edition.pdf](#)

[Local_Umbrella_article_-_9th_Annual_Night_at_the_Padres_Event_and_Concert_Fundraising_Event.jpg](#)

[Presentation_of_Proclamation_by_Supervisor_Andersons_Representative.png](#)

[Proclamation_presented_by_Supervisor_Anderson_Executive_Director_holding_the_proclamation.png](#)

[Family_Workshop_Graduation_Poster_created_by_Children_called_What_I_Learned.png](#)
[Family_Workshop_Teen_Graduation_Poster_called_I_Learned_How_to_Communicate.png](#)
[Family_Workshop_Teen_Group_Thank_You_Graduation_Poster.png](#)
[Letter_of_Support_from_One_Safe_Place_Palomar_Health.pdf](#)

Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization.

[Kids_Turn_San_Diego_2025_Annual_Operating_Budget.pdf](#)

Please upload your most recent year-end audited financial statements, including any management letters associated with the audit.

[2016_Kids_Turn_San_Diego_Audited_Financials.pdf](#)
[Kids_Turn_San_Diego_Letter_regarding_annual_audits.pdf](#)

Please attach the first two pages of your Federal 990.

[Additional_Information_about_Kids_Turn_San_Diegos_990_Tax_Form_2024.pdf](#)
[Kids_Turn_San_Diego_990_Tax_Form_2023_pages_1-2.pdf](#)
[Kids_Turn_San_Diego_990_Tax_Form_2022_pages_1-2.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.

[Kids_Turn_San_Diego_Board_President_Letter_2025.pdf](#)

Funding

Budget Worksheet
[San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx](#)

Project Budget Total 324316

Is this a Challenge or Matching Grant? No

Could this be a Challenge or Matching Grant? Yes

Additional Funding
[SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx](#)

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?	Funding sources: program tuitions (42%), grants (36%) and donations/events (23%). If we don't receive our full request, we will be able to run our project, but with less scholarship funds available.
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Rebecca Noland, Treasurer, Luminary Arts

FROM: Bruce Blackwell, President, Luminary Arts

DATE: August 27, 2025

SUBJECT: Authorization to File for the [Grant Name] Grant

This memo serves to formally authorize you to prepare and submit an application for the San Marcos Foundation Regular Grant. This grant is critical for funding the Richland Elementary School after school Holiday Choir and Spring Musical.

Please take all necessary steps to complete the application process. I have full confidence in your ability to represent Luminary Arts effectively.

Bruce Blackwell
President
Luminary Arts Corporation

Title	Luminary Arts After School Performing Arts Program- Richland Elementary	09/10/2025
	by Rebecca Noland in San Marcos Community Foundation on behalf of Luminary Arts Corporation rebecca@luminaryarts.org	id. 51641514

Original Submission

09/10/2025

Score	n/a
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General Project Information

Please enter your organization's name and project name.	Luminary Arts After School Performing Arts Program- Richland Elementary
Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Regular Grant (\$1,500 - \$10,000)
Project Name	Richland Elementary After School Holiday Choir and Spring Musical
Project Start Date	10/1/2025
Project End Date	5/31/2026
Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	5/31/2026
Total Number of People Served by this Project	900
Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	900
Grant Amount Requested	4000

Organization Details

Organization Name	Luminary Arts
Organization Street Address	1124 Harwich Dr
Organization City	San Marcos
Organization State	CA
Organization Zip Code	92069
Organization Website	luminaryarts.org
Organization's EIN	47-3301377 200 Luminary Arts Corporation aae6673d-073c-4246-a391-2c8cac9f4476 1124 Harwich Dr San Marcos CA 92069-2063 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-08-12T00:00:00 2025-09-08T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A public charity (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(2) organization 2025-08-12T00:00:00 2015 11
Contact Information	
Contact First Name	Rebecca
Contact Last Name	Noland
Contact Title	Treasurer/Operations Director
Contact Phone	+18577749256
Contact Email	rebecca@luminaryarts.org
Project Details	

Briefly describe your request for funds.

Our company's afterschool performing arts program, which offers both a holiday choir and a spring musical, is facing a funding shortfall for the upcoming 25/26 school year. Recent staff changes mean the school can no longer provide a helper teacher for our growing program, which now serves over 150 students. This additional staffing is essential to ensure the safety and success of our students during rehearsals and performances.

These funds would be used to hire an additional part-time teacher and to cover the rising costs of production, including sets, props, and costumes for both shows. We believe this program provides a vital artistic outlet for the students at Richland Elementary, fostering confidence and teamwork. Your contribution is critical to keeping this program thriving and growing for the students.

Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.

Our program offers two incredible opportunities for students to explore the performing arts. Our **Holiday Choir** is a popular after-school activity that brings together around 120 students. Over 10 weeks, they rehearse twice a week, honing their vocal skills and building a repertoire of festive songs. Their hard work culminates in multiple performances for both our school and the wider community. These shows reach an audience of over 300 students and an additional 300+ family and community members, spreading holiday cheer and showcasing the talent within our student body.

In the spring, our focus shifts to our **Musical Theater Performance**. This intensive program engages about 50 students who rehearse three days a week to bring a full-scale production to life. They learn all aspects of musical theater, including singing, dancing, and acting. Their captivating performances for fellow students, families, and community members are a testament to their dedication and a highlight of the school year. Both programs provide a vibrant creative outlet, fostering teamwork, confidence, and a lifelong love of the arts.

Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.

This program is part of our 9 year collaboration with Richland PTA and 10 years of collaboration with the San Marcos School District

Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.

Yes, we received a grant of \$1500 for a student directed production of the Musical A Boy and A Girl in Nov 2024 and \$1000 in July of 2024 for student scholarships.

Please provide a detailed narrative of your organization's mission and impact to the community. Include details such as strategic objectives, milestone achievements, and testimonials.

Our Mission: Cultivating Community Through the Arts

At Luminary Arts, we believe that the power of theater extends far beyond the stage. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational theater company based in San Marcos, California, our mission is to empower individuals and enrich communities throughout San Diego County. We use the performing arts—music, dance, and theater—as a dynamic vehicle for personal and community growth. Our programs aren't just about teaching people to act or sing; they're about teaching them to communicate, collaborate, and think critically. We serve a diverse population, from young children to adults, and we are dedicated to making the arts accessible to everyone, regardless of their background or ability. Our goal is to ignite a lifelong passion for the arts while providing a safe, nurturing environment where everyone can thrive.

Our Impact: From the Classroom to the Community

Our impact is felt across San Diego County, reaching thousands of individuals each year through our unique and multi-faceted programs. In 2023/2024, we served 6,669 students and reached an additional 4,000 audience members, bringing the magic of live performance to local communities. The age range of those we serve is a testament to our commitment to a holistic, community-wide approach: 70% youth (ages 6-17), 10% young children (ages 0-5), 10% young adults (ages 18-24), and 10% adults (ages 25-64). This broad reach allows us to build a strong, cohesive community that bridges generational divides.

Reaching Every Student in the Classroom

A significant part of our work is done as a subcontractor for multiple school districts. We bring our performing arts programs directly into schools, offering both in-school and after-school classes, concerts, and musical theater productions. Our innovative approach involves a weekly rotation of Luminary Arts teaching artists who become "in residence" at the schools we serve. This model ensures that all students, including those with special

needs, have the opportunity to experience our programs. By working hand-in-hand with teachers and administrators, we seamlessly integrate the arts into the academic environment, making them an essential part of every student's education. This collaboration ensures our programs are not just an extracurricular activity but a foundational part of a student's development.

Our Three-Tiered Approach to Artistic Growth

Our programs are designed to provide a clear pathway for artistic development, catering to a diverse range of ages and skill levels. Each program is a stepping stone, building on the skills learned in the last and providing new opportunities for growth.

Foundations Training (Ages 5-13)

This is where the journey begins. Our **Foundations Training** program is an introduction to the world of performing arts, providing young individuals with foundational training in acting, singing, and movement. While we introduce them to the craft, our primary focus is on developing essential life skills. We see the arts as a powerful tool for building **communication, collaboration, and self-confidence**. The lessons learned in these classes—how to work as a team, how to express oneself clearly, and how to stand tall in front of an audience—are skills that will serve these young people well no matter what path they choose in life.

Pre-Professional Program (Ages 13-20)

For those who are serious about pursuing a career in the arts, our **Pre-Professional Program** provides rigorous, intensive training. Through demanding instruction and high-quality performance opportunities, participants hone their craft, develop a professional discipline, and prepare for a future in the performing arts. This program is an incubator for the next generation of artists. We are actively shaping not only future performers but also the future teachers, arts administrators, and technical theater professionals who will continue to enrich the San Diego arts scene for years to come.

Multi-Generational Program (Ages 15 to Adult)

Our **Multi-Generational Program** is the heart of our community. This unique offering brings together teenagers and adults to learn and create alongside each other. This rich artistic exchange benefits everyone involved, as experienced artists share their wisdom with younger generations, and younger artists bring fresh energy and new perspectives. This program also serves as a vital link for professional artists who are looking to give back. Many of our former students and community members return to our organization as educators, performers, designers, directors, and administrators, creating a cycle of mentorship and artistic enrichment.

Beyond the Stage: Fostering Critical Life Skills

While we are a theater company, our impact goes far beyond producing

plays. Our programs are designed to be incubators for **critical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills**. We believe that a strong arts education empowers individuals with a versatile toolkit that can be applied to any career path. Whether they go on to become a scientist, an engineer, a teacher, or a business leader, our students learn to approach challenges with creativity and an open mind. We are dedicated to building a community where every individual has the opportunity to unlock their full potential.

A Commitment to the Community

At our studio location, we offer a full range of performing arts classes and private lessons, providing a hub for artistic learning. We also produce professional-quality youth theater and inter-generational concerts, plays, and camps at both school and community venues throughout San Diego County. These productions not only give our students a chance to showcase their hard work but also serve as a source of cultural vibrancy for the entire community. By providing these artistic opportunities, we are helping to create a more connected, engaged, and culturally rich San Diego.

Please upload any community letters or media in support of this project.

[Cast_Photo_with_teachers.jpg](#)

[DSC_3990.jpg](#)

[IMG_0807.JPG](#)

Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization.

[_2025_Luminary_Arts_Budget_Projections_-_2024_2025_Budget_Projections.pdf](#)

Please upload your most recent year-end audited financial statements, including any management letters associated with the audit.

[StatementofActivity.pdf](#)

Please attach the first two pages of your Federal 990.

[Luminary_Arts_990_pg_1.jpeg](#)

[Luminary_Arts_990_pg_2.jpeg](#)

Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.

[Grant_Permission.pdf](#)

Funding

Budget Worksheet

[San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx](#)

Project Budget Total 17005.05

Is this a Challenge or Matching Grant?	No
Could this be a Challenge or Matching Grant?	No

Additional Funding

[SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx](#)

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?	We are fully committed to moving forward with this project regardless of funding outcomes. External support would allow us to increase the number of students we can serve. We will continue to serve.
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MOUNTAIN SHADOWS
SUPPORT GROUP

Mountain Shadows Support Group
970 Los Vallecitos Blvd.
San Marcos, CA 92069

September 26, 2025

Dear San Marcos Community Foundation:

This letter confirms my authorization of the submission of this grant application for the Mountain Shadows Support Group (MSSG) project, "Providing Power Lift Assisted Recliners for Therapeutic Use by Mobility Impaired, Disabled Adults".

These power lift recliners will enhance the lives of the 96 intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals we serve in our Mountain Shadows Outreach Services (MSOS) licensed day program in San Marcos. Your grant will not only help improve the mobility of these individuals, but assist in their physical, mental, and emotional healing and wellbeing for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration of this grant application.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions, or need additional information.

With Gratitude,

Stacy Sullivan
Executive Director | "Because I Care"
Mountain Shadows Support Group
Mountain Shadows Ancillary Services
760.533.4607

Title	Mountain Shadows Support Group (MSSG) - Providing Power Lift Assisted Recliners for Therapeutic Use by Mobility Impaired, Disabled Adults	09/29/2025
	by sheryl wilde in San Marcos Community Foundation on behalf of Mountain Shadows Support Group swilde@mtnshadows.org	id. 51833166

Original Submission

09/29/2025

Score	n/a
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General Project Information

Please enter your organization's name and project name.	Mountain Shadows Support Group (MSSG) - Providing Power Lift Assisted Recliners for Therapeutic Use by Mobility Impaired, Disabled Adults
Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Mini Grant (up to \$1,500)
Project Name	Providing Power Lift Assisted Recliners for Therapeutic Use by Mobility Impaired, Disabled Adults
Project Start Date	12/1/2025
Project End Date	12/1/2030
Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	12/31/2025
Total Number of People Served by this Project	96
Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	96

Grant Amount Requested	719.32
Organization Details	
Organization Name	Mountain Shadows Support Group (MSSG)
Organization Street Address	970 Los Vallecitos Blvd.
Organization City	San Marcos
Organization State	CA
Organization Zip Code	92069
Organization Website	https://mtnshadows.org/
Organization's EIN	33-0311012 200 Mountain Shadows Support Group 3bec8739-6593-4759-8563-4f28888da7d3 970 LOS VALLECITOS BLVD SAN MARCOS CA 92069 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2025-09-29T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A public charity (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(1) organization as referred to in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) 2025-09-09T00:00:00 1993 11
Contact Information	
Contact First Name	Mandelyn
Contact Last Name	Huiras
Contact Title	Director of Development
Contact Phone	+19403676120
Contact Email	mhuiras@mtnshadows.org
Project Details	

<p>Briefly describe your request for funds.</p>	<p>Mountain Shadows Outreach Services (MSOS), a part of Mountain Shadows Support Group (MSSG), is a licensed adult day program, located in San Marcos, California, serving developmentally and intellectually disabled individuals.</p> <p>The majority of the individuals we serve are wheelchair-confined and are unable to walk or stand on their own. We are requesting funds for two power lift recliners, which will be utilized for therapeutic programs serving these mobility impaired individuals at our San Marcos location. The recliners employ a stable, power lift assistance system designed to help these individuals stand more easily and safely.</p> <p>The power lift feature will also assist our caretaking staff in transferring these individuals into and out of the recliners, making it easier and safer for staff to lift them from a sitting to standing position while moving them onto the recliner, and back into the wheelchair again.</p> <p>The chairs feature adjustable footrests, seatbacks, and massage vibration modes to accommodate the various and changing needs of the physically, mentally, and behaviorally challenged individuals in our day program. The waterproof, polyurethane leather construction will ensure long-term use and easy cleaning during heavy use.</p> <hr/> <p>Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.</p> <p>Mountain Shadows Outreach Services (MSOS) fuels the growth of the San Marcos community by enhancing the life, leisure and work skills of 96 intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals who are integral members of the community, contributing to the diversity and vibrance of San Marcos.</p> <p>As part of our therapeutic programs, the recliners will help these individuals in many ways. A few real-life examples of individuals served:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mickey L is intellectually disabled, has severe scoliosis, and exhibits aggressive behaviors. A recliner will ease his chronic scoliosis pain and aid in soothing him to help reduce his aggressive tendencies. • Amy D is intellectually disabled and suffers from spastic hemiplegic cerebral palsy. Using the recliner will help reduce her painful, chronic muscle spasms. • Gary W is intellectually disabled and wheelchair bound. A recliner provides therapeutic "Relief Positioning" preventing skin breakdowns, and providing general muscle relaxation, due to sitting in his wheelchair for prolonged periods. <p>The power lift recliners will help all 96 of the individuals we serve in a myriad of ways - physically, mentally, and emotionally. They are all vital members of the community - living, working, participating in recreational activities, shopping, and thriving in San Marcos!</p> <hr/>
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Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.

Our San Marcos collaborations include:

- Biggs Harley Davidson San Marcos Annual Ride
- Catalent Annual Holiday Event
- Amazing Mini Miracles Horse Therapy
- California State Univ. San Marcos Service Projects

Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.

We have not received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past.

Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization.

[MSSG_2025_Annual_Budget.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.

[Grant_letter_2025.pdf](#)

Funding

Budget Worksheet

[San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx](#)

Project Budget Total 719.32

Is this a Challenge or Matching Grant? No

Could this be a Challenge or Matching Grant? No

Additional Funding

[SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx](#)

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?

We are nearly 100% reliant on funds from the State of CA which we are required to use for basic needs: housing-caregivers-food-utilities. It is unlikely recliners will be purchased without this grant.



9388 Lightwave Ave.
San Diego, California 92123
(800) NAT-UNIV
NU.edu

September 26, 2025

Dear Members of the San Marcos Community Foundation,

On behalf of National University, I am pleased to express our strong support for our grant application requesting \$1,500 to provide childcare stipends for our student parents who reside in San Marcos.

As San Diego County's largest private nonprofit university, National University has been dedicated for over 50 years to serving nontraditional students—working adults, military service members, and parents—by providing flexible, accessible, and affordable education. Many of our students balance their studies with the responsibilities of raising children, and childcare is one of the greatest barriers they face in completing their degrees.

With support from the San Marcos Community Foundation, we will be able to provide direct childcare stipends to student parents living in San Marcos, helping them continue their education with less financial strain. This investment will not only support their academic success but will also strengthen their families and contribute to the vitality of the San Marcos community.

National University is proud of its long-standing connection to San Marcos, where our students, faculty, and alumni contribute daily to the economic and social fabric of the city. This grant represents an opportunity to further support families in our community and to advance our shared commitment to educational access and success.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request. We deeply appreciate the San Marcos Community Foundation's dedication to improving the lives of residents, and we look forward to the possibility of partnering with you to support student parents in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Graham'.

Chris Graham, Ed.D.
President, National University Foundation

Title	National University Foundation, San Marcos Student-Parent Support Program	09/27/2025
	by Emily Hill in San Marcos Community Foundation on behalf of National University Foundation ehill3@nu.edu	id. 51805534

Original Submission

09/27/2025

Score	n/a
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General Project Information

Please enter your organization's name and project name.	National University Foundation, San Marcos Student-Parent Support Program
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Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Mini Grant (up to \$1,500)
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Project Name	San Marcos Student-Parent Support Program
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Project Start Date	2/1/2026
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Project End Date	6/30/2026
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Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	6/30/2026
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Total Number of People Served by this Project	10
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Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	10
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Grant Amount Requested	1500
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Organization Details

Organization Name	National University Foundation
Organization Street Address	9388 Lightwave Ave
Organization City	San Diego
Organization State	CA
Organization Zip Code	92123
Organization Website	https://www.nu.edu/nu-foundation/
Organization's EIN	20-1269904 200 National University Foundation 4ccf93f0-f984-4f3a-bd90-e0908aa00cd8 9388 Lightwave Ave San Diego CA 92123 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2025-09-22T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A type 1, type 2 or functionally integrated type 3 supporting organization (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(3) Type I organization 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2007 05
Contact Information	
Contact First Name	Emily
Contact Last Name	Hill
Contact Title	AVP Advancement
Contact Phone	+16198616315
Contact Email	ehill3@nu.edu
Project Details	

<p>Briefly describe your request for funds.</p>	<p>Driven by student input, National University launched its first Nest: Healthy Learning Center in San Diego in May 2025, offering a dedicated co-learning and support space for students—especially those who are also parents. A second Nest will open in spring 2026, just six miles from San Marcos, making it highly accessible to students in the city.</p> <p>The Nest provides a much-needed third space—distinct from the distractions of home or work—where student parents can focus, study, and connect. It offers academic resources, technology-equipped classrooms, support services through the Sanford Harmony Family Clubhouse, and convenient childcare through an adjacent YMCA partner facility.</p> <p>We are requesting \$1,500 to provide 10 childcare stipends, each valued at \$144, covering 12 childcare visits. These visits allow San Marcos student parents to focus on critical academic tasks—attending class, preparing for exams, or completing research—while their children receive quality care.</p> <p>This funding removes one of the greatest barriers to student success, allowing San Marcos families to thrive and demonstrating that their community supports both their education and their children’s well-being.</p>
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<p>Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.</p>	<p>National University, a nonprofit founded in San Diego, has long served as a trusted education partner in the greater San Diego region, including San Marcos. We provide high-quality, accessible education to non-traditional, working, and military-affiliated students.</p> <p>We call our students ANDers™ because they are students AND parents, employees, service members, or veterans. These resilient individuals balance multiple priorities while pursuing degrees that lead to career advancement and economic mobility. When they succeed, their families and the San Marcos community benefit.</p> <p>Today, 44 National University students live in San Marcos, and a significant portion are parents—many single parents—who struggle to find affordable childcare. National research shows that student parents are far more likely to stop out of higher education due to competing responsibilities. This grant directly addresses that challenge by providing childcare stipends that allow parents to access the Nest: Healthy Learning Center and focus on their studies.</p> <p>By supporting this project, the Foundation invests not just in individual students but in the broader San Marcos community. Student parents who persist and graduate contribute to the local workforce, model resilience for their children, and strengthen the fabric of the city. This is a high-impact investment in families, education, and community well-being.</p>
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Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.

Palomar College and California State University in San Marcos have a prominent presence, and we stand with them by offering strong collaboration and transfer pathways with these schools.

Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.

Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization.

[Budget_Activity_Report.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.

[SMCF_Support_Letter.pdf](#)

Funding

Budget Worksheet

[San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx](#)

Project Budget Total 1500

Is this a Challenge or Matching Grant? Yes

Additional Funding

[SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx](#)

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?

Minimal admin is needed; nearly all funds go directly to student stipends. Without this grant, the project cannot be implemented.



San Marcos Community Foundation
1 Civic Center Dr.
San Marcos, CA 92069

September 26, 2025

Dear San Marcos Community Foundation (SMCF):

On behalf of North County Health Project Inc dba TrueCare, I am pleased to extend support for this grant funding request for an audiometer, to be used at our San Marcos Health Center's Family Medicine department to provide hearing screenings during health examinations.

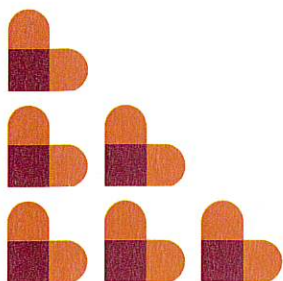
For the last 54 years, TrueCare has dedicated its efforts to achieving whole-person, patient-centered care to further our mission "to improve the health status of our diverse communities by providing quality health care that is comprehensive, affordable, and culturally sensitive." In alignment with—and as previous awardees of—SMCF, TrueCare's leadership fully embraces this opportunity to continue supporting the health and wellness of our vulnerable community members.

We thank you sincerely for the opportunity to better care for our residents in San Marcos. We look forward to working together.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle D. Gonzalez".

Michelle D. Gonzalez, MPA
President & CEO



Title	TrueCare - San Marcos Health Center Essential Equipment	09/29/2025
	by Cindy Burke in San Marcos Community Foundation	id. 51828901
	on behalf of North County Health Project Inc	
	grants@truecare.org	

Original Submission	09/29/2025
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Score	n/a
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General Project Information

Please enter your organization's name and project name.	TrueCare - San Marcos Health Center Essential Equipment
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Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Mini Grant (up to \$1,500)
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Project Name	TrueCare San Marcos Health Center Essential Equipment
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Project Start Date	11/1/2025
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Project End Date	3/1/2026
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Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	3/1/2026
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Total Number of People Served by this Project	16040
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Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	16040
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Grant Amount Requested	1191
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Organization Details

Organization Name	North County Health Project Inc dba TrueCare
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Organization Street Address	150 Valpreda Rd
Organization City	San Marcos
Organization State	CA
Organization Zip Code	92069
Organization Website	https://truecare.org
Organization's EIN	95-2847102 200 North County Health Project, Inc. f79ce3f5-c0c1-4c75-a6af-ae82b1c816c9 150 Valpreda Rd San Marcos CA 92069 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2025-09-22T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A public charity (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(1) organization as referred to in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) 2025-09-09T00:00:00 1973 07
Contact Information	
Contact First Name	Cindy
Contact Last Name	Burke
Contact Title	Director of Grants
Contact Phone	+17607368711
Contact Email	grants@truecare.org
Project Details	

Briefly describe your request for funds.	<p>TrueCare is requesting funding to purchase an audiometer, an essential tool for conducting hearing screenings during routine primary care visits, for our San Marcos health center. This equipment allows providers to quickly and accurately identify patients who may have undiagnosed hearing loss, ensuring timely referral for further evaluation and treatment. Unmanaged hearing loss can lead to issues including decline in cognitive health and mental health and impacts on communication and relationships, as well as physical health risks like balance problems and falls.</p> <p>Currently, our health center has limited audiometers available, and because the equipment is shared across multiple providers and exam rooms, patients often experience delays and longer wait times for what should be a straightforward screening. This grant will enable us to secure a high-quality audiometer that meets the needs of our patients, ensuring timely care. Our immediate priority is to purchase one new unit for San Marcos Family Medicine, which will significantly increase patient access to hearing screenings. If awarded, a generous grant of \$1,191 would cover the cost of one Ambco Electronics 650A Audiometer, reducing bottlenecks in screenings and minimizing wait times. This model is also portable, allowing further flexibility in its use.</p>
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Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.	<p>TrueCare is a 501(c)(3) Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that provides culturally and linguistically appropriate, whole-person, trauma-informed health care to predominately low-income (95% below 200% federal poverty level (FPL) and 64% at or below 100% FPL), uninsured (12%), and underserved patients—those who otherwise would go without affordable care. Our mission is "to improve the health status of our diverse communities by providing quality healthcare that is comprehensive, affordable, and culturally sensitive."</p> <p>The TrueCare San Marcos health center serves over 32,000 patients annually, and of those, half seek essential primary care health services from our Family Medicine department, including regular checkups, preventive screenings, sick visits, and much more. Of note, 16.2% of San Marcos Family Medicine patients in 2024 were aged 65 years and up, and hearing loss is among the most common chronic conditions in older adults. Ensuring enough medical equipment, such audiometers, directly impacts the quality of care we provide. By funding this purchase, the grant will contribute to improved patient access and enhanced diagnostic capacity, leading to better health outcomes for families in our community. This investment supports equitable healthcare access and helps us continue delivering high-quality services to San Marcos residents who depend on our care.</p>
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Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.

We have extensive partnerships with other community organizations, including Palomar College, Casa de Amparo, Interfaith Community Services, Feeding San Diego, and San Marcos Unified School District.

Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.

Yes, in June 2025 we received a mini grant of \$1,296 for the purchase of a clinic exam light, which has been successfully purchased and received. Full outcomes will be shared in our upcoming report.

Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization.

[TrueCare_2025_Operating_Budget.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.

[TrueCare_Signed_Letter_of_Support.pdf](#)

Funding

Budget Worksheet

[San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx](#)

Project Budget Total 2382

Is this a Challenge or Matching Grant? No

Could this be a Challenge or Matching Grant? No

Additional Funding

[SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx](#)

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?

The total project cost is \$2,382. At this time, we do not have additional funding sources secured, and we will continue seeking grant opportunities to support this need and improve patient access.

Title	Palomar College Foundation - Digital Access for Educational Success: Rising Scholars at Palomar College	08/29/2025
	by Cathy Splett in San Marcos Community Foundation on behalf of Palomar College Foundation csplett@palomar.edu	id. 51482490

Original Submission

08/29/2025

Score	n/a
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General Project Information	
Please enter your organization's name and project name.	Palomar College Foundation - Digital Access for Educational Success: Rising Scholars at Palomar College
Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Regular Grant (\$1,500 - \$10,000)
Project Name	Digital Access for Educational Success: Rising Scholars at Palomar College
Project Start Date	8/25/2025
Project End Date	5/22/2026
Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	2/2/2026
Total Number of People Served by this Project	60
Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	10
Grant Amount Requested	2500

Organization Details

Organization Name	Palomar College Foundation
Organization Street Address	1140 West Mission Road
Organization City	San Marcos
Organization State	CA
Organization Zip Code	92069
Organization Website	www.palomar.edu/foundation
Organization's EIN	95-6094128 200 Palomar College Foundation 954ef445-290b-47c3-8578-06a74c2c8af0 1140 W Mission Rd San Marcos CA 92069-1415 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-08-12T00:00:00 2025-08-25T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A public charity (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(1) organization as referred to in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) 2025-08-12T00:00:00 1963 12

Contact Information

Contact First Name	Cathy
Contact Last Name	Splett
Contact Title	Development Officer
Contact Phone	+17607441150
Contact Email	csplett@palomar.edu

Project Details

<p>Briefly describe your request for funds.</p>	<p>The Palomar College Foundation respectfully requests funding to provide 10 laptops for Rising Scholars students living in San Marcos. These laptops are not simply devices—they are lifelines that remove barriers to education by closing the digital divide.</p> <p>The Rising Scholars Program at Palomar College supports formerly incarcerated individuals who are committed to rebuilding their lives and creating brighter futures. Education has been proven to be one of the most effective ways to reduce recidivism; however, without access to technology, students cannot fully participate in today’s learning environment. Many begin their journey without reliable tools for coursework, research, or online support.</p> <p>Providing laptops directly to San Marcos Rising Scholars will ensure they can complete assignments, access digital textbooks, and connect with tutoring, peer mentors, and faculty. Moreover, these laptops symbolize opportunity, giving students the confidence and resources to persist in their studies and earn degrees or certificates.</p> <p>With your support, these students will not only succeed in college but will also become contributors to the San Marcos community as skilled workers, neighbors, and leaders. Your investment creates a ripple effect of transformation, turning second chances into lasting success stories.</p>
<p>Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.</p>	<p>The Rising Scholars Program at Palomar College transforms lives by supporting formerly incarcerated individuals as they rebuild their futures through education and academic support. Approximately one-quarter of Rising Scholars students reside in the San Marcos community, and all attend classes at the Palomar College San Marcos Campus. This campus is their home; a safe and supportive place where they are welcomed, encouraged, and given the tools to succeed.</p> <p>The program addresses one of the root causes of incarceration, lack of education, by equipping students with academic counseling, tutoring, career guidance, and peer support. In addition, Rising Scholars fosters a sense of belonging through team-building activities, guest speakers, and field trips, allowing participants to experience what it means to be part of a healthy and supportive community.</p> <p>Since its inception in 2017, the Rising Scholars Program has served more than 750 students. In the upcoming year, we anticipate serving more than 400 individuals. Each success story creates a ripple effect, strengthening families, inspiring children, and contributing to a safer and more skilled workforce in San Marcos.</p> <p>Funding will ensure students have equitable access to essential resources, such as laptops and online access, so they can thrive in both school and community.</p>

Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.

We partner with SMUSD for dual enrollment and collaborate with CSUSM, the Boys & Girls Club, TERI, Casa de Amparo, One Safe Place, the Chamber of Commerce, and the City of San Marcos

Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.

Yes. Funding upgraded Police Academy radios with new batteries/antennas, improving training reliability for 120 recruits yearly, strengthening communication skills and enhancing regional public safety

Please provide a detailed narrative of your organization's mission and impact to the community. Include details such as strategic objectives, milestone achievements, and testimonials.

The mission of the Palomar College Foundation is to assure equal access to success for all Palomar College students by inspiring individual, business, and foundation philanthropic support that helps remove financial barriers and provides essential educational resources. In addition to direct student support, the foundation's mission includes support of college and faculty initiatives that enhance the educational experience of Palomar College students.

For over 65 years, the Palomar College Foundation has been instrumental in guiding local students toward success and fostering a skilled workforce crucial for economic growth. Through our core programs, including the Textbook Assistance Program, Scholarships, and student emergency grants, we have provided millions of dollars in support, enabling thousands of students to pursue their educational aspirations. Our foundation's impact is evident in the many San Marcos residents now thriving in professions like teaching, welding, entrepreneurship, research, engineering, nursing, programming, and business, thanks to the educational opportunities afforded by Palomar College.

Palomar College is a public community college, one of 116 such colleges in the California Community College system. At Palomar, students can choose from more than 200 associate degree and certificate programs, complete the first two years of a bachelor's degree, or enjoy personal enrichment classes for lifelong learning. The college opened its doors in

1946 at its campus in San Marcos, California, approximately 30 miles north of San Diego. Today, the college serves the region through satellite educational sites located in Escondido, Fallbrook, Rancho Bernardo, and Camp Pendleton.

Palomar College is the gateway to higher education for more than 25,000 students at a time, of which approximately 33% are full-time students and 67% are part-time, often juggling school, work, and family demands. We offer degrees in everything from chemistry and math to information sciences, welding, and nursing. Our graduates are the communities' teachers, nurses, tradespeople, social workers, counselors, technicians, IT specialists, first-responders, artists, and entrepreneurs. Some go on to degrees at four-year colleges; others immediately put their skills to work. Many become successful entrepreneurs, creating jobs and opportunities and being not only employers but also sources of inspiration for the next generation of Palomar students.

We are a college of opportunity. For many of our students, Palomar College is the opportunity to be the first in their families to pursue higher education, and the economic and social advantages it brings. We provide the inspiration for those with aspirations, and we provide a supportive, welcoming environment that recognizes and responds to the unique challenges many Palomar College students face—economic, educational, social, and personal challenges that must be addressed so these students can have their chance at success.

Our students are a rich, diverse population. We hold the federal designation of a Hispanic Serving Institution with about 46 percent of our students Hispanic. Due to our proximity to major military facilities, a substantial percentage of the Palomar College students are military veterans seeking to pick up where they left off before being called upon to put their lives at stake on the country's behalf. Another substantial percentage are working people who for economic and personal reasons had to join the workforce at a young age and now seek to expand their horizons.

The Palomar College Foundation's unwavering commitment to equal access to success for all students has made a lasting impact on the San Marcos community. Through our philanthropic endeavors and strategic initiatives, we continue to be a catalyst for positive change, empowering students to realize their full potential and contribute meaningfully to society.

Sustaining success requires community collaboration. We thank the San Marcos Community Foundation for its long legacy of support, which has made a significant difference in the lives of many San Marcos residents, who typically comprise about 14% of our student body.

Please upload any community letters or media in support of this project.

[2.7.2025_Incarceration_to_Inspiration_•_NR_Spotlight.pdf](#)

Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization.

[2025_PCF_Organizational_Budget.pdf](#)

Please upload your most recent year-end audited financial statements, including any management letters associated with the audit.

[Palomar_College_Foundation_-_Audit_Report_Final_-_December_31_2024_updated.pdf](#)

Please attach the first two pages of your Federal 990.

[2024_PCF_990_first_2_pages.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.

Funding

Budget Worksheet

[San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx](#)

Project Budget Total 15000

Is this a Challenge or Matching Grant? No

Could this be a Challenge or Matching Grant? No

Additional Funding

[SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx](#)

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?	The project budget funds 60 laptops. We request 10 from SMCF and seek support from other grants and donors. With partial funding, we'll scale but still provide vital laptops to students.
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pfcs

Palomar Family Counseling Service, Inc.

September 29, 2025

San Marcos Community Foundation
1 Civic Center Dr
San Marcos, CA 92069

Dear San Marcos Community Foundation Review Committee,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Palomar Family Counseling Service (PFCS), I submit this letter supporting our grant application for the ***Elevating Clinical Capacity for Child and Youth Mental Health initiative***. As Board President, I authorize and endorse this proposal to enhance our community's mental health landscape.

PFCS is submitting this application to provide professional development training that enhances the expertise of our therapists, practicum student trainees, and other local mental health professionals, through a comprehensive series. This will equip them with evidence-based tools to serve North San Diego County children and youth with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and mental/behavioral health challenges, improving outcomes for up to 175 clients annually, including many in San Marcos.

This project is crucial for San Marcos, where children and youth face long waiting lists amid a growing mental health crisis. Training will empower therapists with specialized interventions like Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), reducing wait times and benefiting low-income, underrepresented families. Therapists will gain skills to address youth needs, enhancing community resilience and preventing long-term trauma costs.

PFCS brings decades of experience serving North San Diego County, including strong partnerships with local entities that directly impact San Marcos. We are committed to utilizing these funds to achieve measurable outcomes, such as improved therapist competencies and client progress. Thank you for considering our application

Sincerely,

Dan Engelbrecht, President
Board of Directors

Title	Palomar Family Counseling Service - Elevating Therapist Expertise Through Specialized Workshops for San Marcos Youth Mental Health	09/29/2025
	by David Drazenovich in San Marcos Community Foundation on behalf of Palomar Family Counseling Service, Inc.	id. 51833282
	1002 E. Grand Avenue Escondido, California 92025 United States 760-741-2660 ddrazenovich@pfcs.agency	

Original Submission

09/29/2025

Score	n/a
General Project Information	
Please enter your organization's name and project name.	Palomar Family Counseling Service - Elevating Therapist Expertise Through Specialized Workshops for San Marcos Youth Mental Health
Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Regular Grant (\$1,500 - \$10,000)
Project Name	Elevating Therapist Expertise Through Specialized Workshops for San Marcos Youth Mental Health
Project Start Date	1/1/2026
Project End Date	9/30/2026
Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	9/30/2026
Total Number of People Served by this Project	175

Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	100
Grant Amount Requested	10000
Organization Details	
Organization Name	Palomar Family Counseling Service
Organization Street Address	1002 E. Grand Avenue
Organization City	Escondido
Organization State	CA
Organization Zip Code	92025
Organization Website	www.palomarfamilycounseling.com
Organization's EIN	33-0629248 200 Palomar Family Counseling Service, Inc. c9ccd290-07a2-48f5-aa45-cd1ecc1006cd 1002 E Grand Ave Escondido CA 92025 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2025-09-29T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A public charity (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(1) organization as referred to in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) 2025-09-09T00:00:00 1996 10
Contact Information	
Contact First Name	David
Contact Last Name	Drazenovich
Contact Title	Director of Development & Communications

Contact Phone	+17604668887
Contact Email	ddrazenovich@pfcs.agency
Project Details	
Briefly describe your request for funds.	Palomar Family Counseling Service (PFCS) requests \$10,000 to deliver four specialized workshops on play therapy, gender-affirming care, somatic processing, and trauma-informed care. These workshops will train up to 50 therapists and practicum students, including those working in San Marcos elementary schools through our Full Service Partnership (FSP) program and at our Escondido clinic and in other . By equipping clinicians with evidence-based tools, we will enhance their ability to address Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and mental/behavioral health challenges, improving outcomes for 175 children, youth, and families annually, with 100 directly in San Marcos. PFCS is an approved provider of Continuing Education by CAMFT and as such can award Continuing Education credits that therapists need to achieve and maintain licensure.
Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.	This initiative directly benefits the San Marcos community by strengthening the clinical skills of therapists serving local children and youth, who often face long waiting lists for mental health support amid rising crises like anxiety, depression, and trauma from ACEs. With PFCS operating in San Marcos elementary schools and our Escondido clinic accessible to San Marcos residents, these workshops will prepare therapists to handle the increasing mental health demands, reducing wait times and improving treatment efficacy. The training will also be accessible to other behavioral health therapists serving children and youth in San Marcos (Anticipated: 50 therapists trained, ultimately serving 100+ San Marcos individuals and families), fostering community-wide resilience, better school performance, and family stability for low-to-moderate-income families.
Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.	We partner with San Marcos Unified School District, the County of San Diego, and other local providers in San Marcos and across North County. We also have a partnership with TrueCare San Marcos.

Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.

The support of the Foundation was the catalyst to identifying and implementing a HIPAA compliant system into our operations. The \$1,260 award was used to fund 50% of our annual contract.

Please provide a detailed narrative of your organization's mission and impact to the community. Include details such as strategic objectives, milestone achievements, and testimonials.

Palomar Family Counseling Service (PFCS) empowers and uplifts individuals of all ages in North San Diego County by providing high-quality mental health services that foster resilience and well-being. Our strategic objectives include expanding access to trauma-informed care, building clinician expertise through ongoing training, and partnering with community entities to address mental health disparities. Since 1956, we've served over 6,000 individuals annually across prevention, early intervention, group therapy, and specialized programs like our Full Service Partnership (FSP) in San Marcos schools and Todos Los Ninos (TLN) for ages 0-5. Milestone achievements: In the last year, we reduced client wait times by 20% through school-based services and achieved 85% positive outcomes in trauma recovery, as measured by pre/post assessments. We've recently been awarded new contracts from the County of San Diego to address social-emotional needs of middle school students and funding from the San Diego Foundation to assist in addressing the behavioral health workforce shortage in San Diego County. A testimonial from a parent: *"Our family therapist's wisdom, genuine care and tenacity became the driving force in our family's healing."* Our staff are 48% BIPOC and 42% bilingual staff, we ensure culturally responsive care, positioning PFCS as a leader in North County mental health. This workshop series advances our mission by equipping therapists to better serve San Marcos' diverse youth, combating the mental health crisis and benefiting the entire community through healthier families and reduced long-term societal costs

Please upload any community letters or media in support of this project.

Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization.

[FY_25_26_Budget.pdf](#)

Please upload your most recent year-end audited financial statements, including any management letters associated with the audit.

[Audited_Financial_statements_23.24_signed.pdf](#)

Please attach the first two pages of your Federal 990.

[990_Pages_12.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.

[Letter_of_Suport_BOD_9_25.pdf](#)

Funding

Budget Worksheet

[San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx](#)

Project Budget Total 10000

Is this a Challenge or No
Matching Grant?

Could this be a No
Challenge or
Matching Grant?

Additional Funding

[SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx](#)

48 481 952 647" data-label="Text">

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?	The budget fully funds the workshops. No other funding sources are committed yet. PFCS will seek internal resources and or registration fees. If partially funded, we can scale to fewer workshops.
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**Reading Together
Strengthens Relationships**

2750 Historic Decatur Road, Suite 210
San Diego, CA 92106

Resolution of the Board of Trustees of Reading Legacies

Officers:

Betty J. Mohlenbrock, M. Ed.
(President and Chairperson)
Educator, Reading Specialist

Richard M. Radosh (Vice Chair)
Community Volunteer

J.R. Raines (Treasurer)
Retired, MUFG Union Bank
Foundation

Julie Beaty (Secretary)
Community Volunteer

Trustees:

Tori Nelson Calisch (Trustee)
Community Volunteer

Derek Cox, M.B.A. (Trustee)
Contract Advisor

Pat Giles (Trustee)
Retired Educator, SDUSD
Community Volunteer

Elana Levens-Craig (Trustee)
Board of Education, Santee
School District
Community Volunteer

Vivian Lin (Trustee)
CEO, ATX DRAFT
Arena Football Team

Eric Manese (Trustee)
Redlands Corporation

Rob Mills (Trustee)
President, Mills Foundation

Linda Rankin (Trustee)
Retired Educator, SDUSD
Community Volunteer

Shaun R. Wiley (Trustee)
ZUZA Print

Founding Trustee (Retired):

Cheryl Carter King
Stephen R. Lewis, M.D. Legacy
Fund Representative

WHEREAS, the San Marcos Community Foundation provides funding for non-profit corporations for certain specified purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Reading Legacies organization wishes to submit an application with the San Marcos Community Foundation for said funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Reading Legacies:

1. Confirms that Reading Legacies is a non-profit California corporation under the laws of the State of California;
2. Approves the filing of an application with the San Marcos Community Foundation for funding during the organization's current fiscal year; and
3. Authorize the people listed below to sign a grant agreement with San Marcos Community Foundation for funds for the current fiscal year.

Adopted on this 25th day of September 2025.

Print Name: **Betty J. Mohlenbrock**

Title: **President/Founder**

Signature:

Print Name: **Julie Beaty**

Title: **Secretary**

Signature:

Title	Reading Legacies - Parent Education Workshops for Underserved Families - Reading Together Strengthens Relationships	09/29/2025
	by Betty Mohlenbrock in San Marcos Community Foundation on behalf of Reading Legacies	id. 51834653
	2750 Historic Decatur Road Suite 210 San Diego, California 92106 CA United States info@readinglegacies.org	

Original Submission	09/29/2025
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Score	n/a
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General Project Information

Please enter your organization's name and project name.	Reading Legacies - Parent Education Workshops for Underserved Families - Reading Together Strengthens Relationships
Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Regular Grant (\$1,500 - \$10,000)
Project Name	Parent Education Workshops for Underserved Families - Reading Together Strengthens Relationships
Project Start Date	1/1/2026
Project End Date	12/31/2026
Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	12/31/2026
Total Number of People Served by this Project	3000

Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	450
Grant Amount Requested	10000
Organization Details	
Organization Name	Reading Legacies
Organization Street Address	2750 Historic Decatur Road, Suite 210
Organization City	San Diego
Organization State	California
Organization Zip Code	92106
Organization Website	www.readinglegacies.org
Organization's EIN	27-0523331 200 Reading Legacies b8fa97f4-e2cb-402b-8803-1ddb7bccf3b 2750 Historic Decatur Rd Ste 210 San Diego CA 92106-6018 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2025-09-29T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A public charity (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(1) organization as referred to in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2010 01
Contact Information	
Contact First Name	Betty
Contact Last Name	Mohlenbrock
Contact Title	President/Founder

Contact Phone	+18587757668
Contact Email	betty@readinglegacies.org
Project Details	
Briefly describe your request for funds.	We are honored to request funding in support of our parent education workshops for underserved families in North County (San Marcos area). District Attorney Summer Stephan encouraged us to partner with One Safe Place (North County Family Justice Center) in San Marcos where we currently provide monthly Family Story Hour events to children visiting the OSP office with their parent or guardian. We anticipate adding our parent education workshop at this location soon. Additionally, we have partnered with Easterseals to provide parent workshops for their registered families at the San Marcos location. Funding received via this grant will go toward covering program material and support costs, including: book inventory, print/copy costs, supplies/equipment, and program management costs.
Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.	We are seeking to expand our service areas throughout San Diego County to inspire and educate as many family and community members as possible regarding the value of reading aloud with children. Our goal is to provide the processes and tools for this experience to become a daily occurrence in the lives of many children. In our collaboration with Easterseals San Marcos, we will meet the needs of the local families and in doing so cultivate a legacy of reading in these families throughout the area. One Safe Place is a unique opportunity to grow our partnership with an established county-wide service provider in which we will provide our unique focus on the value of reading with children for their emotional well-being as well as educational benefits that are inherent in reading aloud with children. It is our goal that by developing these strong collaborations in the San Marcos community, we will be able to expand our services into other organizations in the area, as well. Based on our current projections, these programs in San Marcos will serve an estimated 450 children, parents and caregivers.
Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.	Yes, Easterseals San Marcos (215 South Pacific St) and One Safe Place – North County Family Justice Center (1050 Los Vallecitos Blvd).

Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.

Yes. We received \$1,000 from the SMCF in 2024 in support of our youth literacy/leadership program located at the San Marcos Boys and Girls Club, we served 35 families (105 unique beneficiaries).

Please provide a detailed narrative of your organization's mission and impact to the community. Include details such as strategic objectives, milestone achievements, and testimonials.

Our mission is to facilitate supportive relationships for children through family and friends reading aloud with them. Our vision is that all children will feel the security of caring adult relationships and develop a love of reading through the read-aloud experience. Since 2009, we have reached close to 70,000 children, youth, and family members throughout San Diego County.

Our strengths are in our outreach efforts to find and nurture collaborative relationships in which our niche-focused programs complement the services of our partners. In all that we do, we educate, empower, and encourage all participants to become that important influence in their young children's lives in their families, and throughout their communities, through the important and consistent read-aloud experience for children.

Our services are designed to leave a legacy in each family and collaborative agency and community in which we serve. We have provided programs for San Diego's most vulnerable since 2009 and currently engage in close to 30 collaborations with significant potential for growth; bridging emotional distances for families by providing programming across the County via childcare centers, schools, libraries, social service agencies, as well as the SD Sheriff's Department, Probation Department, CA correctional facilities, and substance use disorder recovery programs.

These long-standing partnerships with agencies that reach low-income and otherwise stigmatized families, the simplicity/replicability of our program models, and our use of volunteers have been the foundation for our success, allowing us to pivot and respond to needs and opportunities through the pandemic and beyond. Based on our strong track record, we're pleased to have received the strong support of District Attorney Summer Stephan and are now expanding to provide programs at One Safe Place.

Overall Objectives

- To enhance the joy of reading for children and youth
- To foster and maintain relationships and bonds between all ages by spending time with each other through shared-reading
- To provide role modeling opportunities for at-risk youth and incarcerated family members through their commitment to the children and youth with whom they read regularly
- To gain satisfaction from giving of oneself through the intergenerational shared-reading experience
- To demonstrate the power of the shared-reading experience for developing meaningful intergenerational relationships

Please upload any community letters or media in support of this project.

[District_Attorney_-_Letter_of_Support_-_Reading_Legacies_12142023.pdf](#)

Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization.

[2025_Operating_Budget.pdf](#)

Please upload your most recent year-end audited financial statements, including any management letters associated with the audit.

[Reading_Legacies_-_YE_Financials_2024_rev.pdf](#)

Please attach the first two pages of your Federal 990.

[Reading_Legacies_-_990_2024_Pages_1-2.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.

[Reading_Legacies_-_September_2025_-_Board_Authorization_Letter_.pdf](#)

Funding

Budget Worksheet

[San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx](#)

Project Budget Total 181425

Is this a Challenge or No
Matching Grant?

Could this be a Yes
Challenge or
Matching Grant?

Additional Funding

[SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx](#)

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?	We have a diversified set of funding sources allowing us to remain flexible and responsive to community needs; were we to receive less than the requested funding we would be able to run the project.
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ROOTED IN ADVOCACY INC.

Phone Number: (760) 239-7891

Mailing Address: P.O Box 1292
Ramona, CA 92065

Email: rootedinadvocacy@gmail.com

Web: rootedinadvocacyinc.org

Dear San Marcos Community Foundation Board,

On behalf of Rooted in Advocacy, Inc., I am writing to express our strong support for the submission of our grant application to the San Marcos Community Foundation.

Rooted in Advocacy, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit based in San Diego County, dedicated to addressing food insecurity among active-duty service members, veterans, and their families. Our mission is to provide both immediate relief and long-term advocacy, ensuring that no military family is left behind.

With this grant, we will launch Operation Thanksgiving 2025, a new initiative designed to provide 20 grocery gift cards valued at \$75 each to military families, single Marines, and veterans in the San Marcos community. This program represents our first year of implementation and will allow us to serve 20 families with dignity and choice in their holiday meals.

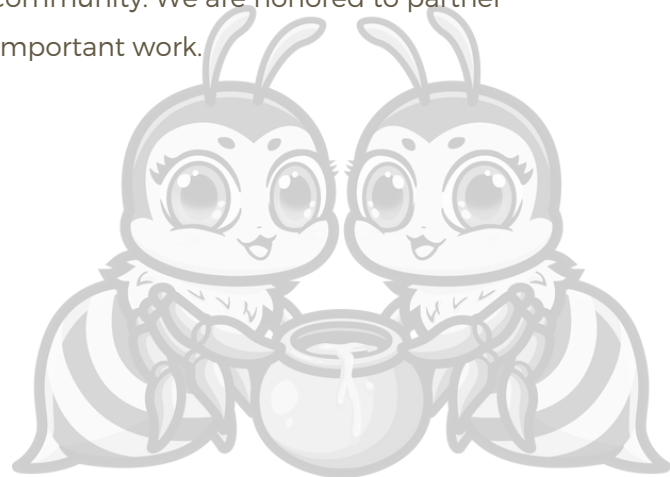
As a newly established nonprofit, this project is an important first step in building sustainable programs that will expand in the years ahead. We are committed to transparency, accountability, and measurable impact, and we look forward to demonstrating how your support makes a meaningful difference in the lives of military families in San Marcos.

Thank you for considering our request and for your dedication to supporting the San Marcos community. We are honored to partner with the Foundation in this important work.

Sincerely,

Bianca Rendon-Sutton

Bianca Rendon-Sutton
Founder & CEO



Title	Rooted In Advocacy Inc - Project Thanksgiving	09/27/2025
	by Bianca Rendon-Sutton in San Marcos Community Foundation on behalf of Rooted in Advocacy Inc rootedinadvocacy@gmail.com	id. 51806125

Original Submission	09/27/2025
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Score	n/a
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General Project Information

Please enter your organization's name and project name.	Rooted In Advocacy Inc - Project Thanksgiving
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Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Mini Grant (up to \$1,500)
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Project Name	Project Thanksgiving
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Project Start Date	11/1/2025
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Project End Date	11/25/2025
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Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	11/1/2025
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Total Number of People Served by this Project	25
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Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	25
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Grant Amount Requested	1500
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Organization Details

Organization Name	Rooted In Advocacy Inc
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Organization Street Address	P.O. Box 1292
Organization City	Ramona
Organization State	CA
Organization Zip Code	92065
Organization Website	Rootedinadvocacyinc.org
Organization's EIN	33-4350956 200 Rooted in Advocacy Inc c5cde08f-35dc-4ba1-bce8-361c2e5f5124 PO Box 1292 Ramona CA 92065-0870 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2025-09-22T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A public charity (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(2) organization 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2025 06
Contact Information	
Contact First Name	Bianca
Contact Last Name	Rendon-Sutton
Contact Title	Founder/CEO
Contact Phone	+17602397891
Contact Email	Rootedinadvocacy@gmail.com
Project Details	

Briefly describe your request for funds.	Rooted in Advocacy, Inc. is requesting funds to support Operation Thanksgiving 2025, a program providing grocery gift cards and holiday support for active-duty service members, veterans, and military families in San Diego County. Funds will be used to purchase grocery gift cards, holiday cards, and packaging for distribution boxes, ensuring families can prepare a traditional Thanksgiving meal. This initiative also raises awareness of food insecurity among military households and provides immediate relief during the holiday season.
Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.	Food insecurity impacts many military families and veterans living in San Diego County, including those connected to the San Marcos community. With the community's support, Operation Thanksgiving 2025 will provide meaningful assistance to up to 20 military families, single Marines, and veterans. These funds will help ensure they can gather around a holiday meal with dignity and comfort. The project not only meets immediate needs but also strengthens community bonds, showing military families and veterans that San Marcos stands with them during the holidays.
Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.	We have received in-kind donations from the USS Midway Museum and local San Diego businesses, and we are eager to build new partnerships in San Marcos.
Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.	
Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization. 1500_annual_Budget_Breakdown.pdf	
Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.	

Funding

Budget Worksheet

San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx

Project Budget Total 1500

Is this a Challenge or No
Matching Grant?

Could this be a Yes
Challenge or
Matching Grant?

Additional Funding

SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?	Requesting \$1,500 to provide 20 \$75 grocery gift cards for military families & veterans. Without full funding, we'll reduce families served or use personal funds.
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September 25th, 2025

Dear San Marcos Foundation Grant Committee,

We are reaching out on behalf of the San Marcos High School Music Boosters and Music Program to share our heartfelt grant application. We truly hope you will consider supporting our efforts to provide a much-needed floor mat for our Knight Regiment Color Guard and Marching Band students.

As Presidents of this organization, we understand the dedication and hard work these students pour into their craft. We believe that investing in a quality floor mat will not only support their performance but also show them that their efforts are valued and appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration. We genuinely appreciate your support for our talented students.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Vanessa Smith and Christina Johnson

Presidents

San Marcos Bands and Music Boosters

663 S. Rancho Santa Fe Road. #658

San Marcos, CA, 92078

president@sanmarcosbands.org

www.sanmarcosbands.org

Title	San Marcos High School Music Boosters -Funding Request for Floor Mat Purchase to Support the Knight Regiment Color Guard and Marching Band Performance safety and artistry.	09/29/2025
	by vanessa smith in San Marcos Community Foundation on behalf of San Marcos High School Music Boosters writing.vanessa@gmail.com	id. 51825889

Original Submission

09/29/2025

Score	n/a
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General Project Information	
Please enter your organization's name and project name.	San Marcos High School Music Boosters -Funding Request for Floor Mat Purchase to Support the Knight Regiment Color Guard and Marching Band Performance safety and artistry.
Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Regular Grant (\$1,500 - \$10,000)
Project Name	Funding Request for Floor Mat Purchase to Support the Knight Regiment Color Guard and Marching Band Performance safety and artistry.
Project Start Date	10/6/2025
Project End Date	2/27/2026
Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	10/10/2025
Total Number of People Served by this Project	200

Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	200
Grant Amount Requested	4500
Organization Details	
Organization Name	San Marcos High School Music Boosters
Organization Street Address	663 South Rancho Santa Fe Road. #658
Organization City	San Marcos
Organization State	CA
Organization Zip Code	92078
Organization Website	www.sanmarcosbands.org
Organization's EIN	33-0874556 200 San Marcos High School Music Boosters 7182fc8c-8598-4434-a281-c1156a6a1756 855 Pearl Dr S San Marcos CA 92078 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2025-09-22T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A public charity (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(1) organization as referred to in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2001 05
Contact Information	
Contact First Name	Vanessa
Contact Last Name	Smith
Contact Title	San marcos High School Music Boosters President

Contact Phone	+17604847439
Contact Email	president@sanmarcosbands.org
Project Details	
Briefly describe your request for funds.	The San Marcos High School Music Boosters respectfully request funds to purchase a floor mat for our Knight Regiment Color Guard and Marching Band students, to be used over the next few years. Our program does not currently have a floor mat.
Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.	<p>The introduction of a performance floor for our Color Guard would significantly elevate the entire Knight Regiment Marching Band program (comprising a total of 200 students), enriching both practice and performance quality in profound ways.</p> <p>This specialized flooring provides a safe surface for Color Guard, minimizing the risk of injury and enabling performers to focus on their choreography and artistic expression.</p> <p>Our Color Guard team can use the new mat for at least four years before passing it down to the JV Color Guard, extending its life within our program.</p> <p>The benefits of this enhanced environment extend beyond just the Color Guard; the entire marching band will gain from the improved visual impact. Cleaner staging and synchronized formations can create a polished aesthetic that captivates audiences and enhances competitive scores.</p> <p>This investment in a shared resource ensures that each student, whether a musician or visual performer, has the tools to showcase their talents and represent the program with pride.</p> <p>This floor is more than a surface; it's a foundation for creativity, teamwork, and celebration within the Knight Regiment.</p>
Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.	Yes, the San Marcos High School Music Program works year-round with all music programs in the San Marcos Unified School District to engage families and the community.

Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.

Our organization has previously received a generous grant from the SM Community Foundation, which enabled us to attend the Bands of America Regionals in Utah, where we earned a top finalist place.

Please provide a detailed narrative of your organization's mission and impact to the community. Include details such as strategic objectives, milestone achievements, and testimonials.

Mission & Vision

The San Marcos Music Program (San Marcos High School Bands / SMHS Music Boosters) serves as the driving force behind vibrant, high-quality music education for student musicians in San Marcos. The organization's mission is to provide students with enriching music education opportunities that go beyond performance to foster leadership, community engagement, creative expression, and lifelong connection to the arts.

Through strategic investment in instruction, equipment, coaching, and performance, San Marcos Band and Music Program seeks to be a leader in music education initiatives within the region — ensuring that every student, regardless of background or level of experience, has access to rigorous ensemble opportunities and pathways to excellence.

Strategic Objectives

To fulfill this mission, the San Marcos Bands and Music Program pursues several key strategic objectives:

1. Provide world-class coaching and professional development

Our organization supports masterclasses, clinics, and partnerships with nationally recognized musicians, composers, and choreographers to elevate student learning.

2. We sustain and expand ensemble offerings

SM Bands offers a full complement of ensembles, including the marching band (Knight Regiment), concert band, symphonic band, wind ensemble, jazz bands, percussion ensembles, color guard, and specialty ensembles such as Axiom and the Conservatory for Leadership & the Arts.

3. Enhance student access & retention

By maintaining open auditioned & non-auditioned groups (e.g. Jazz C, Concert Band 2) and promoting “entry points” for new students, the

organization strives to maintain a robust and inclusive membership.

4. Promote competitive excellence and public visibility

SM Bands invests in high-quality shows, competitive marching circuits, festival participation, and high-profile performances to raise reputation, community awareness, & student motivation.

5. Strengthen organizational sustainability and community partnerships

Through fundraising (e.g. Motors 4 Music car show), corporate sponsorships, booster engagement, and scholarship funds (e.g. Bryce Dhunjishaw Memorial Scholarship), San Marcos Bands ensures steady financial support.

6. Foster leadership, life skills, & community engagement

Beyond musical growth, the program emphasizes student leadership (roadies, section leaders), travel, peer mentoring, and public performances that engage audiences in San Marcos and beyond.



Milestone Achievements & Impact

The San Marcos Bands & Music Program has an impressive track record of accomplishments, both in competitive success and community influence:

Competitive & Performance Achievements

- The Knight Regiment (KR) serves as the flagship marching ensemble and is one of the largest in Southern California, with over 200 student members.
- KR has repeatedly earned honors at the Bands of America Regional Championships, reaching finalist status in 2019 and 2022.
- KR has also achieved finalist recognition in prior years (e.g. 2018) and notable placements in state circuits (SCSBOA, Western Bands Association).
- The Percussion program is a regional powerhouse: in the fall, the marching percussion consistently ranks in the top 5 in California WBA championships.
- On the concert side, percussion students have participated in the Sandy Feldstein National Percussion Festival (Indianapolis) on multiple occasions.
- The Jazz ensembles (Jazz Orchestra, Jazz B, Jazz C) offer tiered learning pathways where students perform, record, improvise, and take part in community/concert settings.
- Concert Band 2, the largest concert ensemble, has worked with world-renowned composers and guest conductors such as David Gillingham, Brian Balmages, Anthony Maiello, and Col. Lowell E. Graham.

Broader Community & Institutional Impact

- The San Marcos Bands and Music Program acts as a flagship arts program for the San Marcos Unified School District, elevating the district's visibility and contributing to a vibrant school culture.
- Public events such as the Motors 4 Music Car Show engage families, local businesses, and community members while fundraising for instrument purchase and program support.
- All donations to the "Fund the Band" campaign go directly to student benefits — purchasing instruments, sheet music, coaching, and masterclass opportunities.
- The program's alumni network and booster involvement help sustain operations, advocacy, and mentorship.
- The directors and coaching staff are highly credentialed and recognized:
 - Geoffrey Radant (Director of Bands) has led ensembles to international invitations (China, Italy, Austria, Germany, Czech Republic), All-State conferences, and Music for All festivals.
 - Mr. Radant was awarded San Marcos High School Teacher of the Year (2022).
 - The program's leadership includes experienced visual and guard instructors (e.g. Ashley Rybak) who bring choreography, design, and cross-disciplinary training.
 - The board and booster structure (with monthly meetings, committee roles, & volunteer recruitment) help maintain transparency, accountability, and community engagement.

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Testimonials & Qualitative Impact

While our San Marcos Bands and Music Program website does not publish many formal testimonials, the achievements themselves and program statements reflect poignant themes of student growth, community pride, and transformative experiences.

- The "Fund the Band" page emphasizes that students benefit from coaching by professional musicians, masterclasses, clinics, and enhanced music/instrument resources — reinforcing that donors' contributions directly enrich student learning and well-being.
- The Knight Regiment page articulates that participation yields "experiences that last a lifetime", including PE credit, travel, friendships, performance opportunities, and leadership roles.
- The color guard page highlights the depth of student involvement, noting the ensemble is a key component of the program and competes at high levels in circuits like WBA and SCSBOA.

The San Marcos Music Bands and Program is not simply a school marching or concert band program — it is a community institution focused on transforming students through rigorous musical training, inclusive pathways, competitive success, and strong community partnerships. Operating with clear strategic objectives — in instruction, ensemble breadth, access, excellence, sustainability, and leadership — the organization has achieved measurable success, including national and state recognition, festival participation, expanded ensemble depth, and high student engagement.

Please upload any community letters or media in support of this project.

[Parent_letter_of_support.pdf](#)

[IMG_0545.JPG](#)

[IMG_1431.JPEG](#)

[IMG_7180.JPG](#)

[IMG_3042.jpg](#)

[IMG_1883.JPG](#)

[IMG_3419.JPEG](#)

[IMG_2528.JPEG](#)

[IMG_2780.jpg](#)

[IMG_3421.jpg](#)

Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization.

[Budget_FY26_PL.pdf](#)

Please upload your most recent year-end audited financial statements, including any management letters associated with the audit.

[StatementofFinancialPosition.pdf](#)

[Statement_of_Activity.pdf](#)

Please attach the first two pages of your Federal 990.

[2023-990ez-accepted.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.

[SM_Foundation_Grant_9_2025.pdf](#)

Funding

Budget Worksheet

[San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx](#)

Project Budget Total 4500

Is this a Challenge or No
Matching Grant?

Could this be a Challenge or Matching Grant?	No
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Additional Funding

SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?	If the grant can't be fully funded, we may need to conduct additional fundraising efforts or reallocate existing funds, with approval of our Exec—board to cover the cost of the mat for our students.
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September 25, 2025

San Marcos Community Foundation
1 Civic Center Drive
San Marcos, CA 92069

To Whom It May Concern,

Christine Amely, Grant Manager for Solutions for Change, is authorized to submit a grant proposal to the San Marcos Community Foundation for the Fall Quarter 2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Chen", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Chris Chen
Board Chair/Interim CEO

Title	Solutions for Change - Healing & Retreat	09/25/2025
	by Christine Amely in San Marcos Community Foundation on behalf of Solutions for Change, Inc. 722 W. California Ave. Vista, California 92083 California United States 7609416545 camely@solutionsforchange.org	id. 51790130

Original Submission	09/25/2025
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Score	n/a
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General Project Information

Please enter your organization's name and project name.	Solutions for Change - Healing & Retreat
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Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Regular Grant (\$1,500 - \$10,000)
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Project Name	Healing & Retreat
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Project Start Date	1/1/2026
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Project End Date	12/31/2026
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Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	12/31/2026
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Total Number of People Served by this Project	200
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Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	60
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Grant Amount Requested	5000
Organization Details	
Organization Name	Solutions for Change
Organization Street Address	722 W. California Ave
Organization City	Vista
Organization State	CA
Organization Zip Code	92083
Organization Website	www.solutionsforchange.org
Organization's EIN	33-0902617 200 Solutions for Change, Inc. 267b7266-3dce-43be-bc1c-8fdf99822baa 722 West California Avenue Vista CA 92083 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2025-09-22T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A public charity (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(1) organization as referred to in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2000 06
Contact Information	
Contact First Name	Christine
Contact Last Name	Amely
Contact Title	Grant Manager
Contact Phone	+17602951673
Contact Email	camely@solutionsforchange.org
Project Details	

Briefly describe your request for funds.

The first phase of the Solutions program is Healing & Retreat, where new families begin their journey to self-sufficiency. The Healing and Retreat phase includes: group classes in Health & Wellness, beginning process for reunification (if involved with Child Welfare Services), connecting with peer coach and sponsor, and creating a personalized success plan. This crucial part of the program sets families up for success and is the most cost intensive portion of the 700-day program as families receive the most interactive services. Funds would be allocated towards: communal live & facilities, case management/empowerment coaching, group classes/workshops, peer support & recovery sponsorship, and therapy/counseling services.

Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.

[Solutions for Change served a total 89 families in 2024, which includes 84 mothers, 20 fathers and 148 children \(252 individuals\).](#) For 2025, we expect the following service outcomes:

- Up to 115 students (adults) will receive services through Solutions for Change in 2025
- 100% of the students served are low income
- Approximately 90 students will acquire and retain adequate, full-time employment
- Approximately 90 students will achieve their savings goal
- Up to 90 families will move into permanent, off-campus housing upon completion of the program

While it is difficult to pinpoint exactly where our families are 'from,' most lived along the 78 corridor—either immediately before entering Solutions or having grown up in a North County city. The impact to the San Marcos area and surrounding communities is:

- [A savings of \\$40,000 annually per adult \(in government supportive services\)](#)
- [A savings of \\$54,000 annually for every child reunited with their family](#)
- A savings of \$106,000 annually per adult not incarcerated
- Local economic growth as formerly homeless adults become employed or earn higher wages
- A reduction in crimes by and against homeless individuals

Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.

Yes, Solutions partners with organizations throughout North County, including - TrueCare and Palomar Family Counseling.

Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.

Solutions received \$1,000 in December 2024.

Please provide a detailed narrative of your organization's mission and impact to the community. Include details such as strategic objectives, milestone achievements, and testimonials.

The mission of Solutions for Change is to solve family homelessness – one family, one community at a time. We offer a unique, 700-day model that blends affordable housing, educational opportunities, and employment training. Each family graduates with permanent housing, full-time employment, thousands in savings, and the knowledge needed for long-term resilience.

Our objectives are to ensure the long-term stability and self-sufficiency of the families participating in our Solutions Academy.

Objective #1: Employment - Under-employment, defined as working in low-paying or low-skilled jobs, is one of the causal factors for most homeless families. Structured classes are designed to connect residents with relevant, transferable job skills and better opportunities for adequate, long-term, stable employment.

Outcome: The outcome of objective #1 is increased employment, higher paying jobs, job retention by residents. The outcome is measured by the percentage of job success and retention by our residents.

Objective #2: Financial Stability – Only through adequate, stable, employment can our residents achieve financial stability.

Outcome: The outcome of Objective #2 is increased savings potential by our residents. The outcome is measured by the percentage of residents achieving their savings goal after 500 days in the program.

Objective #3: Housing Stability – Job Security and financial stability equip our residents for long-term housing stability, reducing the chance of recidivism.

Outcome: The outcome of Objective #3 is increased housing stability and self-sufficiency. The outcome is measured by the percentage of families moving into permanent, off-campus housing upon completion of the program.

Please upload any community letters or media in support of this project.

Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization.

[2025_SFC_Organization_Budget_FINAL.pdf](#)

[SFC_Statement_regarding_2023_990_losses.pdf](#)

Please upload your most recent year-end audited financial statements, including any management letters associated with the audit.

[Solutions_for_Change_Inc_09-119_-_fs_Regular_Audit_2023.pdf](#)

Please attach the first two pages of your Federal 990.

[SC_Inc_Public_Disclosure_2023_990_pages_1_and_2.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.

[Solutions_for_Change_letter_from_ceo_authorizing_grant_submission_9.25.25.pdf](#)

Funding

Budget Worksheet

[San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx](#)

Project Budget Total 255750

Is this a Challenge or Matching Grant? Yes

Additional Funding

[SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx](#)

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?	This request would be part of the private foundations/grants budget line item. On average, the amount of these donations range from \$2,000-\$25,000, so every donation helps.
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September 27, 2025

Dear San Marcos Community Foundation,

This letter is intended to demonstrate my full support in applying for the San Marcos Community Foundation Mini Grant to support Students on Stage.

Students on Stage is a 501c3 Non-Profit after school theater program that teaches students in the community of San Marcos how to sing, dance, and act while putting on quality musical theater performances. We focus on building confidence and working as a team as well as production value in our show. We want to offer excellent training to our students and help them grow in their musical theater skills. The San Marcos Community Mine Grant would support operations through the 2025-2026 performance season.

We appreciate your consideration of our application and your generosity to the San Marcos Community

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Torell", written in a cursive style.

Kevin Torell
President
Students on Stage

Title	Students on Stage 2025-2026 Season	09/29/2025
	by Natalie Kirkman in San Marcos Community Foundation on behalf of Students On Stage fundraising@studentsonstage.org	id. 51831315

Original Submission	09/29/2025
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Score	n/a
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General Project Information

Please enter your organization's name and project name.	Students on Stage 2025-2026 Season
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Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Mini Grant (up to \$1,500)
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Project Name	2025-2026 Season--Students on Stage
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Project Start Date	8/26/2025
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Project End Date	5/9/2026
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Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	5/9/2026
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Total Number of People Served by this Project	200
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Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	200
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Grant Amount Requested	1500
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Organization Details

Organization Name	Students on Stage
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Organization Street Address	6965 El Camino Real Suite 105-252
Organization City	Carlsbad
Organization State	CA
Organization Zip Code	92009
Organization Website	www.studentsonstage.org
Organization's EIN	88-3866372 200 Students On Stage f36ca62a-a970-4dd6-a4d9-d34610737109 6965 El Camino Real Ste 105 Pmb 252 Carlsbad CA 92009 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2025-09-29T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A public charity (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(2) organization 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2023 10
Contact Information	
Contact First Name	Natalie
Contact Last Name	Kirkman
Contact Title	Co-Director of Fundraising
Contact Phone	+18588694672
Contact Email	fundraising@studentsonstage.org
Project Details	
Briefly describe your request for funds.	These funds will be used to support the Students on Stage production costs for our 2025-2026 season. Potential expenses covered could include registration fees for families in financial need, facility fees, scenic elements, costumes, wigs, makeup, microphones, props, and storage space.

Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.

We are a non-profit after school theater program that teaches about 200 San Marcos Unified students how to sing, dance, and act while putting on a quality musical theater performance. We focus on building confidence and working as a team as well as production value in our show. We want to offer excellent training to our students and help them grow in their musical theater skills. Our productions have been well received by the community and we aim to continue to produce quality family entertainment that our students can feel proud to be a part of. Our shows reach approximately 5,000 audience members across the 15 performances at the four schools served. We strive to create a safe place for students to feel welcome and have a place where they can freely express themselves through theater arts in a supportive community.

Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.

Our programs run at 3 Elementary and 1 Middle School in San Marcos Unified School District. While a separate organization, we partner with SMUSD to offer this after school program at school sites.

Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.

Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization.

[SOS_Master_Budget_2025-2026_Final.xlsx - _ALL_Schools_Budget.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.

[Support_Letter_for_San_Marcos_Community_Foundation_Mini_Grant_09272025.pdf](#)

Funding

Budget Worksheet

San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx

Project Budget Total 93040

Is this a Challenge or No
Matching Grant?

Could this be a No
Challenge or
Matching Grant?

Additional Funding

SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?	Our funding sources are both pending and variable. We would be able to run the project without the grant request, but receiving the grant now would allow secure financial footing.
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09/29/2025

San Marcos Community Foundation
C/O Jewish Community Foundation, San Diego

Subject: Providing supportive services to San Marcos residences

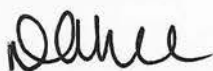
Dear Board of Directors,

The Brother Benno Foundation respectfully requests funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation to provide critical rental and utility assistance to low-income San Marcos residents, as well as to support the salaries of staff who guide them through the assistance process. For over forty years, we have been dedicated to uplifting the lives of unsheltered individuals and extremely low-income households across North San Diego County.

Our Supportive Services program focuses on aiding vulnerable community members, many of whom face the imminent risk of eviction and homelessness. We provide essential resources and social support daily to sustain and inspire hope among those we serve, whom we warmly refer to as our "Guests." Our goal is to empower them on their path toward self-sufficiency.

We are grateful for the opportunity to submit this application and appreciate your team's time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Warm regards,



DinaMarie Ahee
Deputy Executive Director

Title	The Brother Benno Foundation	09/26/2025
	by emily hasting in San Marcos Community Foundation	id. 51803560
	on behalf of The Brother Benno Foundation, Inc.	
	emily.hasting@brotherbenno.org	

Original Submission	09/26/2025
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Score	n/a
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General Project Information

Please enter your organization's name and project name.	The Brother Benno Foundation
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Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Regular Grant (\$1,500 - \$10,000)
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Project Name	Providing supportive services to San Marcos residences
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Project Start Date	7/1/2025
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Project End Date	6/30/2026
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Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	6/30/2026
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Total Number of People Served by this Project	399
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Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	50
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Grant Amount Requested	10000
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Organization Details

Organization Name	The Brother Benno Foundation
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Organization Street Address	3260 Production Ave.
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Organization City	Oceanside
Organization State	CA
Organization Zip Code	92058
Organization Website	The Brother Benno Foundation
Organization's EIN	33-0051575 200 The Brother Benno Foundation, Inc. 2604aa1d-15c4-41aa-be0d-f87a53db3f9d 3260 Production Ave Oceanside CA 92058-1308 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2025-09-22T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A public charity (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(1) organization as referred to in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) 2025-09-09T00:00:00 1984 12
Contact Information	
Contact First Name	Emily
Contact Last Name	Hasting
Contact Title	Grants Director
Contact Phone	+17608429284
Contact Email	emily.hasting@brotherbenno.org
Project Details	

<p>Briefly describe your request for funds.</p>	<p>The Brother Benno Foundation is requesting funding to provide rental and utility assistance to economically disadvantaged residents of San Marcos and to help cover essential staffing costs necessary to deliver these services. Brother Benno's serves vulnerable populations such as seniors, low-income families with children, and individuals with disabilities by preventing eviction, homelessness, and utility shutoffs. It also provides motel vouchers to homeless individuals, including those recovering from surgery, while longer-term care arrangements are made.</p> <p>However, limited resources prevent the Foundation from meeting the growing demand. Support from this funding will strengthen operations and allow the organization to reach more individuals and families in need.</p>
<p>Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.</p>	<p>Housing insecurity is rising, with more households unable to cover rent and utilities and are at greater risk of eviction. In the last fiscal year, the Brother Benno Foundation assisted 50 San Marcos households, totaling 123 residents, with \$58,687 in rental and utility aid. All assisted households were experiencing economic hardship, and 74 percent were female-headed. Research shows that female-headed households are more likely to rely on a single income, with 45 percent of mothers in the U.S. serving as primary earners and the majority being single parents (Center for American Progress, 2023). This dynamic contributes to higher rent burdens due to caregiving responsibilities and childcare costs.</p> <p>The Brother Benno Foundation also documented an increase of 14 households seeking rental assistance compared to the prior year. With additional support, the Foundation anticipates assisting at least 60 San Marcos households, approximately 140 to 150 residents, through targeted rental and utility assistance and connections to stabilizing services that prevent eviction and strengthen community well-being.</p>
<p>Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.</p>	<p>San Diego County HSEC, Catholic Charities Diocese of San Diego, Palomar Community College EOPS, Mira Costa Community College EOPS, Feeding San Diego, and San Diego Food Bank, Children's Paradise.</p>

Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.	The Foundation received a \$5,586 grant in 2021 for appliance replacements in recovery homes, and a \$1,250 grant in 2024 to support rental and utility assistance.
Please provide a detailed narrative of your organization's mission and impact to the community. Include details such as strategic objectives, milestone achievements, and testimonials.	<p>The Brother Benno Foundation's mission is to carry on the ministry of Brother Benno by living out the gospel according to Matthew 25:31-45* with love and compassion.</p> <p>To feed the hungry!</p> <p>To give drink to the thirsty!</p> <p>To shelter the homeless!</p> <p>To clothe the naked!</p> <p>To comfort the sick and also to support people recovering from addiction!</p> <p>We place our foundation in God's hands and rely on his divine providence to provide the people and the where-with-all to accomplish our mission.</p> <p>Since 1983, the Brother Benno Foundation has been dedicated to uplifting the lives of individuals experiencing homelessness and those living in extreme poverty. In the last fiscal year, the Foundation's programs served 5,969 unique individuals, offering supports that meet immediate needs and promote long-term stability. Core programs include the Essential Services Program; the Breakfast "soup kitchen" and bag lunch program; the Showers Program; the Mail Program; the Food Recovery and Redistribution Program (Indoor Market); Supportive Services; the Scholarship Program; and the Substance Abuse Recovery Support Program.</p> <p>The Essential Services Program provides critical basics to guests experiencing homelessness, housing instability, or severe financial hardship. As available, staff distribute over-the-counter medications, personal care products, and feminine hygiene supplies. Essential Services also manages weekday bag-lunch distribution, ensuring guests receive sack lunches Monday through Friday</p> <p>The Breakfast "soup kitchen" operates from a commercial kitchen six days a week, following a scheduled menu to serve a hot, nutritious breakfast to the community. Here the recovery program volunteers assemble the daily</p>

sack lunches, which are then distributed by Essential Services.

The Food Recovery and Redistribution Program is the largest food distribution effort in North County San Diego. Rescued and donated foods are pre-sorted and quality-checked, then stocked in the Indoor Market on shelves, refrigerators, and freezers, much like a grocery store. This way guests can choose items that fit their needs, including dairy and frozen foods as available. This choice-based model supports dignity, normalcy, and balanced nutrition. Services also extend to partner nonprofits, which submit weekly pickup orders that our pantry volunteers prepare and stage for collection.

Showers are available daily, with guests receiving hygiene kits and towels to support health and dignity. The Mail Program provides a secure mailing address for individuals without housing, enabling them to receive essential documents such as birth certificates, Social Security checks, benefit notices, and letters from loved ones.

Each week, these programs distribute approximately 1,100 food boxes, 425 sack lunches, 75 packs of adult and baby diapers, 900 hot meals served six days a week, and provide an average of 74 showers to guests experiencing homelessness. These services meet essential human needs such as food, hygiene, and secure mail access. With those needs addressed, guests can begin to focus on employment, education, and rebuilding stability in their lives.

The Supportive Services Program provides vital assistance to extremely low-income households through dedicated case managers who offer rental and utility support, emergency motel vouchers, and referrals to mental-health services. In the last fiscal year, the program helped 399 households avoid evictions and utility shutoffs thus preventing homelessness. That stability let families focus on work, health, and long-term goals. To strengthen this safety net, Brother Benno's partners with a specialized homeless-services team of county social workers, benefits specialists, and additional case managers to deliver comprehensive wraparound care. In the past six months, the program adopted the HMIS Clarity database, enrolling 240 individuals and as result housed 6.

The Brother Benno Foundation also operates a volunteer-led scholarship program to support long-term transformation through education. Each year, it awards 80 scholarships of \$500 to students enrolled in the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) at MiraCosta and Palomar Colleges. These scholarships are granted to students who have demonstrated resilience in the face of significant life challenges, including homelessness, foster care, and substance use recovery. In addition to financial support, the program affirms the Foundation's belief in the potential of every individual to create a better future through education and perseverance.

The Substance Abuse Recovery Program offers a no cost, six-month residential recovery model grounded in the 12 step approach. Participants receive room and board, necessities, and daily recovery support. Four Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors (CADCs) provide individualized guidance and oversight, while participants contribute volunteer service at

the Foundation's center as part of their recovery journey. This service fosters a strong work ethic, personal accountability, and a sense of community that reinforces recovery. The program also provides participants with a solid foundation in 12 step principles, instilling the tools and discipline necessary for lasting sobriety. Upon graduation, every participant is employed, housed, and eligible to reside in one of four sober living residences for up to 52 weeks, ensuring a stable transition into independent living and long-term success.

Additionally, through a valued partnership with TrueCare Mobile Health Services, a mobile medical and dental clinic visits the Foundation twice each week. Staffed by licensed healthcare professionals, the clinic provides essential medical and dental care to homeless Guests, many of whom have gone years without access to these basic services.

The Brother Benno Foundation remains a vital lifeline for the most vulnerable members of the community. With continued support, the organization can sustain and expand these essential programs, meet growing demand, and ensure that no one in need is turned away.

Please upload any community letters or media in support of this project.

Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization.

[25_26_Operating_Budget_Overview.pdf](#)

Please upload your most recent year-end audited financial statements, including any management letters associated with the audit.

[Audited_Financials_FYE_06.30.24_Final.pdf](#)

Please attach the first two pages of your Federal 990.

[990_FYE_07.31.23_Public_Disclosure.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.

[signed_coverletter.pdf](#)

Funding

Budget Worksheet

[San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx](#)

Project Budget Total 64500

Is this a Challenge or Matching Grant? No

Could this be a Challenge or Matching Grant?	Yes
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Additional Funding

[SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx](#)

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?

The program will continue, but without added funding, we cannot meet rising demand in San Marcos. Support is vital to keep vulnerable families safely housed.



September 16, 2025

Dear San Marcos Community Foundation,

On behalf of Project Next, I authorize the submission of this grant request to the San Marcos Community Foundation. With your support, we can empower more young people in San Marcos to graduate with the clarity, skills, and connections they need to successfully transition to their best next step.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to change lives. Please don't hesitate to contact me at (760) 420-4432 or lisa@projectnext.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Stout".

Lisa Stout, Executive Director

Title	Project Next (Legal Name: The San Marcos Promise) – Bus Transportation to Offsite College and Career Readiness Events	09/17/2025
	by Lisa Stout in San Marcos Community Foundation on behalf of San Marcos Promise lisa@projectnext.org	id. 51713893

Original Submission	09/17/2025
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Score	n/a
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General Project Information	
Please enter your organization's name and project name.	Project Next (Legal Name: The San Marcos Promise) – Bus Transportation to Offsite College and Career Readiness Events
Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Regular Grant (\$1,500 - \$10,000)
Project Name	Bus Transportation to Offsite College and Career Readiness Events
Project Start Date	9/1/2025
Project End Date	8/30/2026
Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	8/30/2026
Total Number of People Served by this Project	500
Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	250
Grant Amount Requested	5120

Organization Details

Organization Name	Project Next
Organization Street Address	255 Pico Ave, Ste 103
Organization City	San Marcos
Organization State	CA
Organization Zip Code	92069
Organization Website	www.projectnext.org
Organization's EIN	46-5460510 200 Project Next 02ff7f2d-79c8-4dd5-91dc-415b6166918e 255 Pico Avenue Ste 103 San Marcos CA 92069 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2025-09-15T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A public charity (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(1) organization as referred to in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2014 08

Contact Information

Contact First Name	Lisa
Contact Last Name	Stout
Contact Title	Executive Director
Contact Phone	+17604204432
Contact Email	lisa@projectnext.org

Project Details

<p>Briefly describe your request for funds.</p>	<p>Project Next requests funding to provide bus transportation for students from Twin Oaks, Mission Hills, and San Marcos High Schools to attend Future Center college and career readiness events.</p> <p>Our five Future Centers—three located in San Marcos—are year-round, on-campus hubs that provide students with mentorship, resources, programming, and events that support workforce and college readiness in a professional environment. Built around three pillars—clarity, confidence, and connections—Future Centers help students explore post-graduation options, build skills, and link to real-world opportunities. Transportation is essential to ensuring students can fully access the “connections” pillar.</p> <p>Each year, Future Centers host nearly 90 events. Offsite experiences supported through this grant include Connect to Careers, where students meet with professionals across diverse industries; Career Expeditions, which bring students into local companies to explore pathways and workplace culture; and college, vocational, and apprenticeship program tours that offer a first-hand look at postsecondary options.</p> <p>Without bus transportation, many students—particularly those from low-income families—would be unable to attend. With costs averaging \$320 per trip (ranging from \$100–\$600), funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation will ensure equitable access to critical Future Center experiences for San Marcos students.</p>
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<p>Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.</p>	<p>This request is critical to ensuring San Marcos students can participate in opportunities that directly connect them with local companies and professionals. While our on-campus Future Centers provide year-round mentoring, skill-building, and smaller onsite events, it is the offsite experiences that give students the networks and real-world exposure needed to make informed post-graduation decisions.</p> <p>Each year, about 500 students participate in these events, with at least half coming from Twin Oaks, San Marcos, or Mission Hills High Schools. We prioritize those facing the greatest barriers to post-graduation success—students who would not otherwise have these opportunities. Offsite experiences expose students to career and postsecondary pathways they may have never considered, equip them with the knowledge to make informed choices, and connect them with local employers and training programs offering jobs, apprenticeships, and skill-building opportunities.</p> <p>By providing reliable transportation, we remove a critical barrier and ensure equitable participation. This investment strengthens the San Marcos community by promoting upward mobility for local youth, closing opportunity gaps, and reinforcing the education-to-career pipeline in North County San Diego. It ultimately prepares more students to graduate ready for meaningful work and long-term economic stability.</p>
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Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.	Partners include Twin Oaks, Mission Hills, and San Marcos High Schools. We also collaborate with 350 employers, colleges, and nonprofits that support our work.
Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.	In March 2024, we received \$1,500 to support our Programs Director’s salary, which helped support our career-based mentoring programming in San Marcos.
Please provide a detailed narrative of your organization's mission and impact to the community. Include details such as strategic objectives, milestone achievements, and testimonials.	Mission Project Next helps high school students plan and prepare for their future—a future that’s best for them.
	Priorities Equity and Access: We provide all students at partner schools access to college and career readiness resources and drop-in support before, during, and after school, while offering targeted mentoring and programs to those who need it most.
	Transitions: We help students understand the full range of options after high school and support them in identifying and pursuing the path that best fits their strengths, interests, and goals.
	Collaboration: We partner with more than 350 local organizations, including nonprofits, businesses, and postsecondary institutions, to connect students with meaningful career exploration and readiness opportunities both on campus and in the community.
	Strategic Objectives During the 2025/26 school year, we will provide direct services to students at seven North County San Diego high schools. Within San Marcos, we will provide the following:

- One-on-one coaching to approximately 840 students.
- Targeted programming for 170 underserved students to overcome barriers and successfully pursue college, training, or full-time employment with upward mobility through our Focused Futures program.
- Over 30 college and career exploration events, supported by cross-sector partners.
- Free professional clothing, class presentations, and interactive Skillsshops.

2024/25 Impact on Students and San Marcos Community

We continued to help high school students identify and pursue their best path after graduation and equip them with the tools, confidence, and connections they need to succeed in the real world. Through our on-campus Future Centers, students gained direct access to career exploration, skill-building, professional mentorship, and postsecondary planning support. Whether they chose college, vocational training, the military, or direct entry into the workforce, we helped them take meaningful steps toward their goals.

Future Center Services: Our three SMUSD Future Centers welcomed students 4,209 times this year. Career Coaches provided 1,006 personalized coaching sessions to 719 unduplicated non-program students, covering topics such as resume development, career research, job preparation, college applications, and completion of the SuperStrong Interest Assessment. These individualized sessions reflect our commitment to meeting students where they are and helping them move forward with clarity, confidence, and a plan.

"I'm grateful for everything Project Next has done for me. They believe in me, invest in me, and help me take real steps toward my dream. I will carry this gratitude with me every single day as I move forward and get closer to becoming the nurse I've always wanted to be."

Future Center Events: Students participated in 57 Future Center events, generating over 1,250 student touchpoints (total instances of participation, including repeat attendance) and engaging hundreds of professionals. SMUSD highlights include:

- 15 Adulting workshops on life skills, goal-setting, and planning for life after high school
- 9 Career Chats featuring professionals from diverse industries
- 10 Career Nextpedition events, connecting students with professionals through immersive company visits.
- A large-scale Connect to Careers event serving 79 SMUSD students with support from 150 professionals representing 30 companies
- 11 Money Matters workshops

· Interview Skills Day workshops at each campus

"I liked that I was able to connect with different people in different careers and found out about other career choices I might look into. The professionals gave great insight and helped me feel more confident about my future."

Future Center Programs: Our two flagship programs—Focused Futures and Xcelerate—provided targeted support to students furthest from opportunity, helping them explore, prepare for, and pursue meaningful postsecondary and career pathways aligned with their individual goals.

Focused Futures served 74 SMUSD students. Students received foundational support through interest assessments, career exploration, one-on-one coaching, resume development, and participation in skill-building events. Over two-thirds of all participants already have a post-graduation plan, with 68% planning for higher education or training. 75% of seniors enrolled in community college or trade/technical school before graduation. We will continue to support students through their junior and senior years as they refine their goals and take meaningful steps toward achieving them.

"Before I found the Future Center, I didn't really think college was for someone like me. But being here, having people actually listen and help me figure things out—it made me believe in myself. Now I know I want to help other kids like me see what's possible too."

Xcelerate enrolled 55 SMUSD students, primarily seniors, who were not on a college track and lacked a defined post-graduation plan. Forty-seven actively participated in the program. Through personalized coaching, skill-building, and exposure to real-world career pathways, 46 of the actively participating students identified their best post-graduation plan. The majority of active participants created resumes, explored career opportunities, and connected with employers and training programs to broaden their awareness of options. By graduation, nearly half of these students applied to community college, 17% to trade or technical school, 4% to a 4-year college, 4% to an apprenticeship, 9% enlisted in the military, 2% entered the workforce, and 2% chose a gap year. The remaining students are still preparing to take steps toward their postsecondary and career goals. In total, 81% of active participants are now enrolled in higher education or training, employed, or enlisted in the military.

"I've never been a big fan of school, so I just assumed my options after high school were pretty limited. College isn't for me but I had no idea what else was out there. Then I found Xcelerate. I've met people with legit jobs that don't require college, jobs I didn't even know existed. Now I know I have options—and that feels real good."

Starting in the 2025–26 school year, we will unify the strengths of our Focused Futures and Xcelerate programs into a single, student-centered program.

Fund Your Next Initiative: This initiative supported 222 SMUSD students—

many of whom would not have applied without direct assistance—in completing their FAFSA or CADAA applications, exceeding our target of 200. An additional 32 students met with the Financial Aid Coach but ultimately chose not to apply. Each was referred to a Career Coach for continued support with postsecondary planning and identifying alternative next steps.

Please upload any community letters or media in support of this project.

[Project_Next_Letters_of_Support_Sample_09_2025.pdf](#)

Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization.

[Project_Next_2025_26_Organization_Budget.pdf](#)

Please upload your most recent year-end audited financial statements, including any management letters associated with the audit.

[2024-2025_ProfitandLoss_updated.pdf](#)

[2024-2025BalanceSheet.pdf](#)

[Project_Next_6_30_2024_Financial_Statements.pdf](#)

Please attach the first two pages of your Federal 990.

[Project_Next_990_2023_24_pages_1-2.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.

[PN_to_SMCF_authorization_letter.pdf](#)

Funding

Budget Worksheet

[San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx](#)

Project Budget Total 10000

Is this a Challenge or No
Matching Grant?

Could this be a No
Challenge or
Matching Grant?

Additional Funding

[SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx](#)

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?

Grant funds will cover bus transportation. If the request isn't fully met, we will continue seeking additional funding to ensure students can access these offsite opportunities.



San Marcos Community Foundation

Dear Members of the San Marcos Community Foundation,

On behalf of The Sing Me a Story Foundation, I am pleased to submit our grant application for a San Marcos-based Composition Program project.

Our mission is to give children in need the opportunity to share their imaginations with the world through the creation of original music inspired by their stories. In 2024, we partnered with the San Elijo Middle School Band and the Emilio Nares Foundation to celebrate the story of a local child who had survived cancer. The result was a powerful community event that united students, families, educators, and neighbors around a message of creativity, empathy, and resilience.

With your support, we can bring this transformative experience to another San Marcos child and school ensemble, ensuring that our community continues to benefit from the connections, inspiration, and pride that come from celebrating a child's story through music.

Thank you for your consideration and for your dedication to enriching the lives of San Marcos residents.

Sincerely,

Autumn Dobbeck

Director of Operations

The Sing Me a Story Foundation

Title	The Sing Me a Story Foundation - Composition Program	08/12/2025
	by Autumn Dobbeck in San Marcos Community Foundation on behalf of The Sing Me A Story Foundation autumn@singmeastory.org	id. 51342894

Original Submission	08/12/2025
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Score	n/a
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General Project Information

Please enter your organization's name and project name.	The Sing Me a Story Foundation - Composition Program
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Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Regular Grant (\$1,500 - \$10,000)
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Project Name	Composition Program
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Project Start Date	1/1/2026
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Project End Date	6/30/2026
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Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	6/30/2026
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Total Number of People Served by this Project	150
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Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	150
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Grant Amount Requested	2000
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Organization Details

Organization Name	The Sing Me a Story Foundation
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Organization Street Address	11482 Balsam Way
Organization City	Woodbury
Organization State	MN
Organization Zip Code	55129
Organization Website	www.singmeastory.org
Organization's EIN	45-2872153 200 The Sing Me A Story Foundation 2ea3281d-476f-4c33-8c7a-2f10c97b9f53 1606 Porter Rd. Suite 300 Nashville TN 37206 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-07-15T00:00:00 2025-08-11T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A public charity (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(1) organization as referred to in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) 2025-07-15T00:00:00 2012 01
Contact Information	
Contact First Name	Autumn
Contact Last Name	Dobbeck
Contact Title	Director of Operations
Contact Phone	+18478304559
Contact Email	autumn@singmeastory.org
Project Details	

Briefly describe your request for funds.	We are requesting funds to bring a Sing Me a Story Composition Project to San Marcos, connecting a local child in need—such as one facing a serious health challenge—with a student composer and a San Marcos—area school music ensemble. Together, they will create and premiere an original piece of music inspired by the child’s story at a public concert attended by family, friends, and community members. The project will also produce a 2–3 minute summary video to share the experience widely, fostering creativity, empathy, and community pride while celebrating the resilience and imagination of a local child.
Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.	This project will give a San Marcos child in need—such as one facing a difficult health diagnosis—a powerful platform to share their imagination, while bringing together local student musicians, educators, and community members in a shared celebration of creativity and resilience. We anticipate directly serving approximately 100–150 San Marcos residents through participation and attendance at the public concert, including the child, their family, student musicians, educators, and audience members. An additional 1,000+ residents will be reached through the 2–3 minute summary video and related media coverage, extending the project’s impact across the community. By uniting residents around a deeply personal and uplifting story, the program will foster empathy, pride, and connection within San Marcos.
Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.	We partner with local nonprofits and San Marcos school ensembles to connect children in need with composers, creating performances that unite the community through music and storytelling.
Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.	No.
Please provide a	Mission and Vision

detailed narrative of your organization's mission and impact to the community. Include details such as strategic objectives, milestone achievements, and testimonials.

The Sing Me a Story Foundation exists to give children in need the opportunity to share their imagination and creativity with the world through original stories and music. We believe the greatest gift we can give a child is the opportunity to give something of their own — and every child, regardless of circumstance, possesses the power of imagination. Our mission is rooted in the conviction that creativity fosters empathy, builds community, and reminds us all of the humanity we share.

Our programs connect children with songwriters, composers, student musicians, and music therapists to bring their stories to life as original pieces of music. These stories are not simply translated into songs — they are given a platform and an audience, making the child's voice heard, valued, and celebrated. We create experiences that empower children, inspire musicians, and unite communities around moments of shared creativity.

Core Programs

1. **Story-to-Song Program** – Volunteer songwriters from around the world choose a story from our website, written by a child served by one of our nonprofit partners. They transform it into a song and we send it back to the child and their family.
2. **Composition Program** – Launched in 2021, the Composition Program connects a child in need — often facing a significant health diagnosis or life challenge — with a student composer from a local university and a school music ensemble (band, choir, or orchestra). The composer writes a new piece of music inspired by the child's story, tailored to the ensemble's strengths. The work is premiered at a public concert attended by the child, their family, and the broader community.
3. **SMAS Inner Circle** – The SMAS Inner Circle is a group of volunteer professional music therapists who are especially talented, compassionate, and trustworthy. Often recommended by peers or connected through inquiry, these therapists are entrusted with our most delicate stories. While nothing replaces the attention of a music therapist on site, the Inner Circle helps bring a small fraction of these therapeutic services to families who might not otherwise have access. Their work blends clinical sensitivity with creative expression, ensuring that some of our most vulnerable storytellers are supported by professionals uniquely equipped to meet them with artistry and care. Through this program, we also advocate for the critical work of music therapists and highlight the need for more on-site positions at our partner organizations.

Strategic Objectives

- **Empower Children in Need** – Provide children facing adversity with a joyful, public platform to share their imagination.
- **Enhance Arts Education** – Offer student musicians unique opportunities to premiere new works, collaborate with composers, and connect with the human stories behind the music.
- **Foster Community Connections** – Bring together nonprofits, schools, musicians, families, and audiences in shared experiences that celebrate creativity and empathy.

Milestone Achievements in San Marcos

In 2024, we partnered with the **San Elijo Middle School Band** and the **Emilio Nares Foundation** to celebrate the story of a local child who had survived cancer. That child's imaginative story became the inspiration for a new musical composition written specifically for the San Elijo Middle School Band. Students rehearsed for weeks, learning not just the notes but also the courage and creativity behind the piece. At the premiere concert, the child and their family sat in the audience surrounded by classmates, teachers, and neighbors — a shared celebration of resilience and imagination that brought the community together.

This project reached hundreds of San Marcos residents in person and many more online through the summary video, which captured the journey from imagination to performance.

Testimonials from Participants

- *"The Sing Me a Story Foundation was a wonderful experience from beginning to end... Beyond everything, the best part was seeing the genuine joy on Luca's face as he heard his story brought to life in real time."* – **Willie Cornish**, Composer
- *"Sing Me a Story gave Violet such a special opportunity... She has since told us that she feels even more inspired to continue with her love of writing and music now. We will forever be grateful for the support, encouragement, and care that everyone at Sing Me a Story gave to our family."* – **Brandy**, Grandparent of participating child

Impact to the Community

Our work impacts three primary groups:

1. **The Child and Family** – For a child in need, having their story brought to life through music can be transformative. The San Elijo project's participating child described feeling "seen" in a way they hadn't since their diagnosis, and their family called the event "a celebration of hope."
2. **Student Musicians and Composers** – San Elijo Middle School students experienced the excitement of performing a world premiere and connecting with the human story behind their music. Composers gain valuable experience creating work with deep personal significance.
3. **The Broader Community** – The concert became a true community event, drawing residents together to celebrate resilience, creativity, and connection.

Measurement and Evaluation

We measure impact using both quantitative and qualitative methods:

- **Quantitative:** Number of participants (child, composer, student musicians, educators), concert attendance, views of the summary video, funds raised for the partnering nonprofit, and media reach.
- **Qualitative:** Feedback from the child and their family, participating

musicians, educators, nonprofit partners, and audience members.

Conclusion

Sing Me a Story is more than an arts program — it is a community-building, empathy-growing, joy-sharing experience. In San Marcos, projects like the San Elijo Middle School Band and Emilio Nares Foundation collaboration have shown how powerful it is to unite students, families, and residents around a single child's voice and vision. The SMAS Inner Circle extends this commitment to our most sensitive stories, ensuring they are handled with the skill and compassion of professional music therapists.

With the San Marcos Community Foundation's support, we can bring this transformative experience to another San Marcos child, engage local musicians in a once-in-a-lifetime performance, and give the community a shared story that will continue to inspire long after the music fades.

Please upload any community letters or media in support of this project.

Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization.

[SMAS_2025_Budget.pdf](#)

Please upload your most recent year-end audited financial statements, including any management letters associated with the audit.

[SMAS_Financial_Statements.pdf](#)

Please attach the first two pages of your Federal 990.

[SMAS_990_for_2024.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.

[San_Marcos_Community_Foundation_Application.pdf](#)

Funding

Budget Worksheet

[San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx](#)

Project Budget Total 2000

Is this a Challenge or Matching Grant? No

Could this be a Challenge or Matching Grant? No

Additional Funding

[SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx](#)

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?

The grant will fully fund a San Marcos Composition Project. Without full funding, we would postpone until secured, as no other sources are available to cover program costs.



September 16, 2025

Ms. Erika Skaar
San Marcos Community Foundation
1 Civic Center Drive
San Marcos, CA 92069

Dear Ms. Skaar:

Thank you for this opportunity to introduce the Yellow Ribbon Fund that provides supplemental assistance to Veteran families in San Marcos and San Diego County.

Founded in 2005, Yellow Ribbon Fund, Inc., is a nonprofit 501(c)(3), national organization that is dedicated to meeting the needs of post-9/11 service members returning home from catastrophic injuries and their immediate families, who have often become these brave service members' caregivers.

Yellow Ribbon Fund's mission is to keep families together. After 20 years, we continue to fulfill this mission through our Crossroads program, providing housing and transportation for veterans at Walter Reed National Medical Center, and Keystone, which provides health, wellness, education, and respite programs for service families.

Since starting our chapter in 2016, our Keystone program has served over 2,000 families in San Diego County, yet 150 families remain on the waiting list.

Our goal is to expand access to our health, education and respite programs. These programs include peer-to-peer support for veterans and caregivers and family events, such as Movie Nights, retreats, picnics, and tickets to family attractions. **We are requesting \$10,000 to serve 200 additional families in San Marcos.**

Thank you for your consideration. Yellow Ribbon Fund looks forward to providing the San Marcos community with continued programs that empower families!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina Harrow".

Gina Harrow
Executive Director

Title	Yellow Ribbon Fund Yellow Ribbon Fund Southern Caliifornia Keystone Project by Lisa Kronhaus in San Marcos Community Foundation on behalf of Yellow Ribbon Fund Inc lisak@yellowribbonfund.org	09/25/2025 id. 51793017
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Original Submission

09/25/2025

Score	n/a
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General Project Information

Please enter your organization's name and project name.	Yellow Ribbon Fund Yellow Ribbon Fund Southern Caliifornia Keystone Project
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Are you applying for the Mini Grant or the Regular Grant?	Regular Grant (\$1,500 - \$10,000)
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Project Name	Yellow Ribbon Fund San Diego County Keystone Program
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Project Start Date	3/1/2026
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Project End Date	2/28/2027
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Date by Which Funds Will Be Expended:	10/1/2026
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Total Number of People Served by this Project	5200
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Total Number of People Served by this Project in San Marcos Only	580
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Grant Amount Requested	10000
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Organization Details

Organization Name	Yellow Ribbon Fund, Inc.
Organization Street Address	P.O. Box 41048
Organization City	Bethesda
Organization State	MD
Organization Zip Code	20824
Organization Website	www.yellowribbonfund.org
Organization's EIN	36-4567583 200 YELLOW RIBBON FUND INC de97c971-b412-4b4a-8f58-c444f76d4096 P.O. Box 41048 Bethesda MD 20824 This organization was not included in the Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals(SDN) list. true false 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2025-09-22T00:00:00 501(c)(3) Public Charity A public charity (50% deductibility limitation). Section 509(a)(1) organization as referred to in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) 2025-09-09T00:00:00 2006 02
Contact Information	
Contact First Name	Lisa
Contact Last Name	Kronhaus
Contact Title	Grants Manager
Contact Phone	+12402231180
Contact Email	grants@yellowribbonfund.org
Project Details	

Briefly describe your request for funds.	<p>Yellow Ribbon Fund's goal is to expand the health, wellness, education and respite programs that we have provided to critically wounded Service members, their caregivers and families since our founding in 2005. We currently serve 200 families in San Diego County who face physical, emotional and financial challenges, and there are an estimated 200 additional veteran families in need.</p> <p>Among our programs, we provide peer-to-peer support, nutritional awareness and financial literacy courses to help these families who are living on single, fixed incomes to manage their finances and save for the future. As we strive to keep families together, we offer respite programs, such as movie nights, retreats and theme park tickets. These events not only delight the kids, but they also build important family memories that they'll treasure for a lifetime.</p> <p>Respite events give relief to parents, as well. For veterans and caregivers, these respite events bring needed temporary relief from the stressors that service members and caregivers face during recuperation.</p> <p>This grant will help us serve the additional Service families in San Diego County so that they can achieve a better quality of life that befits their status as the heroes of our country.</p>
Briefly describe the significance of your request to the San Marcos community, including anticipated numbers served.	<p>As these service members recuperate, Yellow Ribbon Fund (YRF) is seeking to expand our San Diego County Keystone chapter by 200 veteran families in the coming year. By providing veterans and caregivers new skills in health, wellness, and financial literacy, we are empowering them to re-enter the work force in high tech, financial and medical areas and become productive members of the San Marcos community.</p> <p>These veterans are taking the skills they learned in the U.S. Military and applying them in combination with YRF's program to become entrepreneurs in logistics and management, further supporting San Marcos' strong local economy. As these families become stronger physically, emotionally and financially, they will be able to expand their abilities to support the San Marcos retail businesses.</p> <p>In addition, these veteran families support the needs of the local school district, where their children attend school and matriculate to Palomar College and California State University San Marco.</p>
Do you collaborate with other organizations to achieve your mission? If so, briefly describe those partnerships highlighting any that are located in or serve San Marcos residents.	<p>We are grateful for the guidance and support of our 17-member Board of Directors who have diverse military backgrounds and represent national companies, as well as our generous benefactors.</p>

Has your organization received funding from the San Marcos Community Foundation in the past? If yes, please briefly describe the most recent project which received funding and the outcomes you achieved. If you have not received funding in the past, you can leave this section blank.

Please provide a detailed narrative of your organization's mission and impact to the community. Include details such as strategic objectives, milestone achievements, and testimonials.

Yellow Ribbon Fund's Mission and Community Impact

Yellow Ribbon Fund, a nonprofit 501(c)(3), is a national veteran service organization dedicated to keeping the family together during the critical recuperation phase when an ill or wounded Veteran returns home from service. Founded in 2005 for post-9/11 critically injured veterans and their families, Yellow Ribbon Fund's mission is to provide supplemental assistance to wounded, ill and injured service members and their caregivers -- bridging the gap between their needs and earned benefits -- enabling families to stay together during critical recuperation.

Yellow Ribbon Fund is comprised of two programs, Crossroads and Keystone, and we make an impact on veterans and their families nationwide. Across both programs, we have served more than 2,500 families in our Crossroads Program and more than 5,400 veterans and caregivers in our Keystone Program, across eight states including: California, Colorado, North Carolina, Texas, Florida, Kentucky/Tennessee, Washington, D.C, Maryland, and our National Virtual chapter.

While Crossroads provides temporary housing with nine private apartments, hotel partnerships and rental car transportation to enable families to stay close to their wounded veterans under care at Walter Reed National Medical Center, this temporary housing eases their financial burden of paying for housing and bills back home. More importantly, Crossroads keeps families together, providing added moral and emotional support for the recuperating Veteran.

Our Keystone program has 11 Keystone chapters in eight states that offers health, wellness, education, fitness, nutritional awareness, respite and family events for Veterans and their families. Located in California, Colorado, Florida, Kentucky/Tennessee, Texas, Washington, D.C./Maryland and North Carolina, we served 5,400 veteran families this past year.

Strategic Objectives

First and foremost, our objective is to increase access for our veteran

families so that they can participate and benefit from Yellow Ribbon Fund's programs and services. Our goal is to increase recipient engagement by 50% a year to ensure that every veteran family can access our services. We will accomplish this goal through our strong network of community supporters who collaborate with us to provide mental health, nutritional awareness, fitness and respite programs that foster participation among the surrounding U.S. military communities.

Our second objective is to help veterans and caregivers achieve financial literacy. Many service families are living at or near the Federal Poverty Level as a result of living on single, fixed incomes. Caregivers have had to give up their jobs to care for their their wounded spouses with weekly doctors' and therapy appointments. Yellow Ribbon Fund teaches veterans and caregivers how to manage a budget, balance a checkbook, pay off their debt and save for the future, whether it's buying a house or paying for college. These financial literacy classes are not only helping to provide financial stability, but they're also helping families regain peace of mind that relieves some of the mental anguish many of these families have faced since their loved ones came back from serving overseas.

Our third objective is to keep families together. As these heroes recuperate, every one in the family feels the emotional and physical stress of a different family dynamic when a wounded loved one returns home with long-term care needs for recuperation. That is why Yellow Ribbon Fund believes in the healing power of respite programs for these families. Events including picnics, retreats, "Movie Nights" and special theme park trips are vital in keeping these families together. These events promote peer-to-peer support in relaxed settings among veterans, caregivers and kids. Grants, such as the San Marcos Community Grant, make it possible for these families to forget about their troubles, escape from all the stressful doctors' appointments and find a little fun, creating lasting memories that these families will never forget.

With each of these objectives, Yellow Ribbon Fund is committed to continuous improvement and adapting to changing community needs through quantitative and qualitative analysis. We survey our veteran families after every event to measure their engagement in the program. Their responsiveness ensures that we remain relevant and impactful in our efforts to support veterans and caregivers.

Milestone Achievements

Yellow Ribbon Fund is proud to share some of the outstanding achievements made among our San Marcos and San Diego County service families:

The Jackson family's daughter is a recent graduate of California State University San Marcos and is now a teacher in Los Angeles.

The Surla family started their own successful food truck business, while the Gomez-Munguia family started their own beekeeping business in San Diego and their daughter graduated at the top of her class as a welder.

Many of our veteran families (21 families in 2024) have purchased homes,

and are living with financial stability, as a result of learning financial management skills through YRF's Financial Literacy program.

Nicole Heffel, daughter of a service family, is a successful attorney.

Veteran caregiver and wife Brittany Everett went back to school, and she is now a nurse at Rady's Children's Hospital in San Diego, and her husband is doing well in college.

The Yorks, both veterans who completed Yellow Ribbon Fund's financial literacy program, now work as full time civilian contractors at Naval Base San Diego.

The South family is doing well, despite suffering a traumatic injury while serving in Iraq. She's is a longtime high school administrator and her recently got a veteran husband is now an environmental biologist that allows him to be outside, which is very therapeutic as he continues to recuperate.

After making a full recovery, the Jolimeau's, a husband and wife team, both went to trade school and are now working as a cosmetologist and a barber. Their son was accepted to a college out of state and is doing well in his studies. They benefited from Yellow Ribbon Fund's retreats and movie nights that provided memorable escapes that the entire family could enjoy.

Veteran Eddie Robinson recently finished EMT school and is now working towards becoming a firefighter in San Diego County.

Please see testimonial letters below.

Please upload any community letters or media in support of this project.

[YRF_TESTIMONIAL__Ocean_Reef_Family_Wellness_Retreat.docx](#)

[Jennings_Letter.docx179.pdf](#)

[YRF_Letter_Solis_Family_San_Diego_Co.pdf](#)

[YRF_Thank_You_letter_San_Diego_Co.pdf](#)

Please upload the annual operating budget for your organization.

[YRF_FY_2026_Budget_approved.pdf](#)

Please upload your most recent year-end audited financial statements, including any management letters associated with the audit.

[FY_2025_YRF_Audited_Financial_Statements.pdf](#)

Please attach the first two pages of your Federal 990.

[YRF_IRS_Form_990_FY_2025.pdf](#)

Please upload a letter, signed by your organization's president or authorized officer on this application, supporting the submission of this grant.

[YRF_9_24_25_San_Marcos_Letter_from_Gina_Harrow_9-16-25.pdf](#)

Funding

San Marcos Community Foundation - Budget Worksheet.xlsx

Project Budget Total 44000

Is this a Challenge or No
Matching Grant?

Could this be a Yes
Challenge or
Matching Grant?

Additional Funding

SMCF Budget Worksheet 2.xlsx

Please provide a brief narrative for your budget and funding sources for this project. If you don't receive your full grant request, will you still be able to run the project?	Our budget provides programs that will best serve veteran families of San Marcos and the surrounding area. By controlling expenses, we remain committed to keeping the families of our heroes together!
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