

SOCIAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES COMMISSION FUNDING REQUEST

Legal Name of Agency: **Food and Shelter**

Mailing Address: **P.O. Box 5537 Norman, Oklahoma 73070**

Application completed by: **April Heiple**

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Amount of Funding Request: \$27,500 (\$15,000 housing/\$12,500 Winter Shelter)

In what year was your Agency incorporated: **1983**

Are you associated with a national organization: **No**

Number of volunteers: **609**

How many hours do volunteers donate: **6,516**

How much money do volunteers save the agency: **\$47,241**

Has your Agency applied for SVSC funds before: **Yes**

Year	2013	Amount	\$27,500.00	Purpose	Shelter Programs
Year	2012	Amount	\$25,000.00	Purpose	Shelter Programs
Year	2011	Amount	\$15,000.00	Purpose	Shelter Programs
Year	2010	Amount	\$4,500.00	Purpose	Tables and Mats
Year	2009	Amount	\$5,000.00	Purpose	Improvements to "free store" clothing & household item give distribution center
Year	2008	Amount	\$3,300.00	Purpose	Prevention Staff salaries
Year	2007	Amount	\$1,700.00	Purpose	Equipment & Bike Program
Year	2006	Amount	\$1,000.00	Purpose	Bicycle locks/helmets
Year	2005	Amount	\$1,000.00	Purpose	Bicycle locks & helmets
Year	2004	Amount	0	Purpose	
Year	2003	Amount	\$1,000.00	Purpose	Van Fuel & Maintenance
Year	2002	Amount	\$1,000.00	Purpose	Van Fuel & Maintenance
Year	2001	Amount	\$1,500.00	Purpose	Van Fuel & Maintenance

Financial Information from the last fiscal year:

Percent of the budget which is spent on fund-raising:	1%
Percent of your budget spent on programs:	89%
Percent of your budget spent on administrative expenses:	10%

Percentage of Organizational funding:

Religious Organizations	3%
Civic Clubs	1%
Corporate Donors	0%
Endowment/Interest Income	1%
Fees for services/products	0%
Government Grants	51%
Government Contracts	0%
Individual Donors	26%
Private Foundations	2%
Special Events (based on net earnings)	6%
United Way	10%
Other	<hr/>

Overall Mission of Agency

Please provide a one page narrative in 10 or 12 point type describing the mission of your agency. List the client population (income, age, geographic location – percentage of City of Norman residents) and describe all programs and services offered currently by your agency. Include any duplication of services in our area and the percentage increase or decrease projected in staff numbers over previous year.

Specific project for which funding is being requested

Please provide a one page narrative in 10 or 12 point type describing the project for which funds are requested including staff positions, salaries, equipment, office supplies and other expenses. Please address what similar services are available through other local agencies, why this program is unique, how many will benefit and why it would be appropriate for City of Norman funds to be used to support this program.

Financial Information

Please provide a description of internal financial evaluation procedures, control processes and performance review procedure including the percentage increase or decrease of total budget over previous fiscal year budget. Attach previous year budget summary and projected budget to include in kind contributions and budget assumptions. An independent audit (not an internal audit) is required for any organization that has assets, an annual budget or annual income of \$100,000 or more. For an organization below the \$100,000 level, if no audit is available, so state and provide a signed financial statement (signature of the Board Treasurer or the organizations' chief financial officer) for the most recent fiscal year.

Required Attachments to this application:

Narrative describing Overall Mission of Agency

Narrative describing Specific Project for which Funding is being requested

Financial Information as previously outlined

Budget summary and projected budget

Copy of most recent Audit

Copy of IRS tax exempt status letter or your application for tax exempt status

List of current board members including names and professions

List of current staff members and their position titles



Food and Shelter

Building Hope, Changing Lives in Norman

Social and Voluntary Services Commission

Mission~ Hope is something you usually do not even realize you have until you understand it is gone. For Food and Shelter, building hope is the most critical element to our organization and is ever present in each of our programs. Our mission is simple, we feed those who are hungry and wrap our arms around the lost and alone helping them find their way home.

Our food program is a notable effort bringing hundreds upon hundreds of Norman residents into our facility each day. We serve an average of 250 people per day and have dozens of volunteers joining hands to offer this critical service. We feed breakfast and lunch every day of the year except Christmas which accounts for nearly 100,000 meals annually. We serve anyone who comes through our door and ask for no payment for services.

Our housing program is another effort which brings hundreds upon hundreds of people to us each day. We receive calls from 30 to 40 families per week who have nowhere to go. Once we have examined all of their personal options, we turn to motel rooms to offer for emergency shelter. We work with them daily to build a plan to get them home as quick as is possible. For most of these families, this is possible. For about 20%, families require long-term assistance and case management. For these families, we have 13 shelter units available and have just begun the process to purchase 10 more units which should be available this grant cycle.

Food and Shelter also provides housing assistance to the working poor in order to prevent homelessness in Norman. This program helped nearly over 150 families last year. What is so important about this program, is the prevention of homelessness also prevents the cycle of homelessness beginning. These moms, dads and children never experienced one minute of homelessness.

The unfortunate reality is we cannot meet the needs of all of those who come to us for housing solutions. Because of this, hundreds of men and women and sometimes children call the streets or the back of their car home. For these men and women, we operate a day shelter to give them a safe place for refuge. We offer showers, laundry services, mail services, and recreational services to help them feel at home. All the while, our case managers are working to engage them in services and build a plan to help them overcome the obstacles which lead them to us in the first place.

The truth is, we invest in people. Sometimes it is food. Sometimes it is diapers. We have a strong life-skills and jobs initiative called START which is a strategic investment in moving people forward. It is working. In 2013-2014, we enrolled nearly 40 men and women, who were homeless, in our jobs initiative and helped them find good paying, stable employment. This was the catalyst to move them off of the streets and into their own housing. To date, all are still employed and housed. Not only does it change their housing status, but it changes them holistically. Building hope truly does change lives.

From the outside looking in, our work appears focused on meeting the needs of people in the minute. When you look inside our work, you will see a focus on people. You will see a focus on relationships and you will see a focus on hope. This is Food and Shelter.



Food and Shelter *Building Hope, Changing Lives in Norman.*

Social and Voluntary Services Commission

Project~ Homelessness destroys families and communities. Regardless of why people find themselves without a home, the life-changing experience is the same. No mother or father ever wishes to look to their children and say everything is gone, tonight we are going to sleep in the back of our van. The trauma affects the children involved each day for the rest of their lives. Providing homes for moms, dads and children who are homeless is the single most important thing we can do to eventually break and end the cycle of homelessness in Norman.

Our housing program is a multi-faceted program aimed at assessing the needs of the individual and/or families we serve and meet their needs in the best possible manner. Each week, six to ten families turn to us to with nowhere to go, and no one able to help them. Because Norman has only one family space in our emergency shelter, Food and Shelter steps in providing emergency housing solutions through one of our own spaces or through a motel voucher system. Unfortunately, with the closing of East Main Place and Community Action Agency's housing program, we are now the only long-term shelter provider for families who are homeless.

Well over 80% of these families without homes will be able to find housing stability through our rapid re-housing program. A small investment will help them achieve long-term stability and they are very unlikely to find themselves homeless again. The other 20% face obstacles to housing much more difficult to overcome in a short amount of time. For these families, we offer long-term supportive shelter.

We currently have 13 available units for long-term supportive shelter. We are in the process of expanding these units even further. This housing program offers intensive case management so the moms and dads of the families can tackle the obstacles leading them to homelessness in the first place. It is the relationships we build with our moms, dads and children that enable them to be so incredibly successful in our program. When families move out of our shelter, they leave with increased job skills, increased life skills and rarely ever return to us for services. We invest in people. They are worth it.

We request a \$15,000 investment from SVSC: The City of Norman. The funds requested through the Social and Voluntary Services Commission provide \$5,000 toward the utility and maintenance expenses in our 13 housing units as well as \$10,000 toward the case manager's salary.

The unfortunately reality for the City of Norman is homelessness is a very real and critical problem. Homelessness affects the police and fire department, court system, ambulance services, code enforcement, parks department and our community hospital. We know homelessness costs our community a great amount of money, but in a community as wonderful as Norman, those who struggle should have opportunity for hope. Supporting this program, is an investment in those who are struggling, an investment in their children and an investment in what they could contribute to our community if given a chance.

The most important thing we hear from our residents and guests is "I came to Food and Shelter looking for a night stay... I found so much more." We build hope. Hope changes lives. We do this for Norman.



Food and Shelter *Building Hope, Changing Lives in Norman.*

Social and Voluntary Services Commission

Project~ On any given night, over 150 men and women curl up on the ground under an awning or in a breezeway and try to sleep for the night. Sometimes they are awoken by unexpected rain. Sometimes they are awoken by someone asking them to leave. Sometimes they are awoken by someone being hurtful. Though this feels unacceptable even today while it is warm outside, in the winter, it is dangerous. In the winter, it is life-threatening.

Last year I included a statement from a man who gave me the most important perspective related to the need for winter shelter. He said, "Though 45° isn't below freezing, you have no idea how long it takes your body to warm up after spending ten to twelve hours outside in the cold." The physical and mental health risks are debilitating and as we have learned this last year, the effects of this experience over time create chronic health conditions difficult to overcome.

For these reasons, we offer a warm shelter through the winter months for those men and women who do not have another option. We collaborate closely with Salvation Army to get as many women and men into their emergency shelter as possible. There still are over 100 men and women left with no other alternative. Our facility can sleep an additional 40 throughout the winter and though this is not enough space, it is what we have to offer right now. Last winter, we found a collaboration with Journey Church to have space large enough to meet everyone's shelter needs. We are hoping to find a collaboration again this year so we never have to turn anyone away.

For this project, we request \$12,500 to cover the costs of the overnight shelter monitor. This position is a critical position and without the staffing, this project would not be possible. We intend to offer shelter November 1st through March 31st. Though in years past, we have opened earlier based on a change in temperature as well as continued later due to a longer winter than expected. The staffing is for 10 hours per day for 151 days. The total cost for staffing is \$12, 835. Food and Shelter will pay any additional costs in staffing which occurs including additional hours on weekends, facility use and supplies and the purchasing of bedding and cots as is necessary.

In the end, the City of Norman benefits a great deal from providing safe, clean care to those without homes. In the winter, men and women on the streets get desperate and find somewhere warm to sleep. Often it is city buildings in our parks, vacant houses, and unused buildings downtown. This creates disturbances in which our police officers must respond. Not to mention, their health and well-being is worth this small investment.