

SOCIAL AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES COMMISSION FUNDING REQUEST

Legal Name of Agency: Norman Day School for Handicapped
Children-Project Outreach

Mailing Address: Director: 2015 Martingale Dr.
Norman, OK 73072
Treasurer: 2127 Wilkinson Ct.
Norman, OK 73069

Application completed by: Danielle Broach, Director

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Amount of Funding Request: \$1,950

In what year was your Agency incorporated: 1965

Are you associated with a national organization: No

Number of volunteers: 5-10 per session

How many hours do volunteers donate: 4 hrs per session

How much money do volunteers save the agency:
50 + volunteers per year = \$2,250 (assistant rate of \$45 each per session)

Has your Agency applied for SVSC funds before: Yes

Year: 2009 Amount: \$750 Purpose: operations and fundraising

Year: 2008 Amount: \$1,500 Purpose: operations and publicity

Year: 2007 Amount: \$1,000 Purpose: operations

Year: 2007 Amount: \$500 Purpose: operations

Year: 2006 Amount: \$400 Purpose: operations

Year: 2005 Amount: \$2,500 Purpose: operations

Year: 2004 Amount: \$1,000 Purpose: operations

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:	85%
Percent of your budget spent on administrative expenses:	14%

Percentage of Organizational funding:

Religious Organizations	NA
Civic Clubs	47%
Corporate Donors	23%
Endowment/Interest Income	<1%
Fees for services/products	Services/products provided free of charge
Government Grants	NA
Government Contracts	NA
Individual Donors	15%
Private Foundations	NA
Special Events (based on net earnings)	Special Events provided through 100% private donations in 2013
United Way	NA
Other	15%

Narrative Describing Overall Mission of Agency

Project Outreach's mission is to provide a free-of-charge respite care program that allows children with disabilities (through age 21) and their siblings (through age 12) a safe and inclusive atmosphere in which to interact and play, while giving parents and other caregivers time to run errands, relax, or otherwise take a break from intensive care needs.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) defines respite care as:

“Respite care is temporary relief care designed for families of children or adults with special needs. Respite care can range from a few hours of care provided on a one-time basis to overnight or extended care sessions. Respite care can be utilized on a regular or irregular basis and can be provided by family members, friends, skilled care providers or professionals. Providers, chosen by the family, care for children or adults with special needs while families take a class, go to a movie, go on a vacation, or enjoy any activity.

Respite care is designed to help families. Caretakers of children or adults with special needs often face serious problems and stress as a result of balancing the needs of their child or adult with special needs with the needs of other family members. These breaks, that respite care provides, allow families time to tend to the needs of their children, spouses, and themselves.” (<https://dhs.sd.gov/dd/resp/whatis.aspx>, 8/2014).

The undertaking of Project Outreach is to provide supportive and sensitive care to families in the Cleveland County area with its primary focus: the Norman community. Our definition of respite care parallels that of DHS. We seek to give caregivers of special needs children temporary relief from the stress of care giving. One objective is to continue provided respite care through the utilization of volunteers and donations. We seek to include as many children as possible challenged with disabilities that include: the autism spectrum, cognitive disabilities, traumatic brain injury, physical, visual and hearing impairments. Project Outreach maintains an environment free of judgment and exclusion. We are a support system, as well as advocates for special needs children and their families.

Our program directly serves children with disabilities through age 21 and their siblings with quality, structured recreational and social activities. Priority is given to children from the Norman Public Schools District, but we also serve children from Cleveland County and the surrounding counties.

The crux of Project Outreach is providing free monthly four-hour respite care sessions for children with disabilities and their siblings. However, we also work to be an informal support network for participating families.

Our purpose and vision allow Project Outreach to directly affect the families of these children, giving them a brief break from intensive care that may serve to strengthen their family unit. We also directly serve the community through our volunteer program. Project Outreach utilizes volunteers from the community, primarily high-school and college-age, who seek to gain experience with children with disabilities. This impact is widespread as volunteers return or find a potential lifelong career or volunteer interest in working with children of all ability levels.

Project Outreach's staffing has remained consistent over the past two years with one executive director, two assistant directors (one for community involvement and one for general operations), and one Registered Nurse.

Respite care program availability in Norman has recently declined. In the past year, the other local respite care program, Wonderfully Made (located at Crosspointe Church), has ceased to operate. Norman-area families have some respite care options available in Oklahoma City or, for a fee, at JD McCarty Center for Children with Developmental Disabilities in Norman. We are the only free respite care program in Norman and the surrounding areas.

Specific Project for Which Funding is Being Requested

As a small nonprofit, Project Outreach has been extremely conscientious of its spending. The work of Project Outreach is dependent primarily on donations as it persistently maintains its assets. However, two assets have been stretched to the limit: our toys and supplies. The toys, used on a regular basis have been preserved fantastically well over the years, including a few recent donations but with regular use and the introduction of new toys we've found a need. A recent inventory of our toy closet revealed a necessity for additional outdoor toys. Our outdoor toys have been worn completely out and activities for the older age groups (middle school to high school) have added a new component to our activity needs. This need arises to the additional service we now provide to this recently added age group. We continue to applaud the heart of our program: our volunteers, staff, and the creativity and imagination they bring. The volunteers and staff, though, supplement their energy with our toys.

In addition, we are asking for continued support of our sessions. For \$550, Project Outreach is able to provide up to 30 children with four hours of fun with peers allowing respite for their families. In addition to the social experience with other children, participants get to experience free and structured indoor and outdoor play, arts and crafts, snacks, and perhaps a current movie. Often, movie opportunities on a large screen are an activity our children do not have access to. These activities are enhanced with an energetic group of volunteers, staff and peers. Session costs account for staff salaries, snacks, activity supplies, utility and insurance fees. Special activities in the past year have included water fights, shaving cream painting, a visit from Home Depot including a wood working craft, drive-in movie night, fall carnival, a visit from Santa with a bag of gifts, and an Xbox dance off.

The services of Project Outreach are vital. In recent months service providers in the Norman-area have declined with the exit of Wonderfully Made. Families and the Norman community need our service. In addition to providing indispensable respite care for families, we provide an opportunity for University of Oklahoma education students and organization members to volunteer. Included in this group of volunteers we provide service projects for qualified City of Norman high school students in need of community service. Included in our community collaboration, we are proud to embrace a recent partnership with Sooner Success. Through this collaboration Project Outreach has gained 4 families who've participated in the last 2 sessions. Our growth indicates the heightened need for respite care options as the community of Norman and surrounding areas expand.

We are requesting \$500 to purchase additional toys, games, and activities that stimulate our children's focus, creativity, and peer interactions. In addition, we are requesting \$1,450 to sponsor two special Project Outreach sessions. This will bring our total request to \$1,950.