

2016-17 Gratitude Grant Sample Application

This application was submitted by Hillsboro, Ore., Lodge No. 1862 and approved by the ENF.

1. CONTACT INFORMATION

2. GRANT DESCRIPTION

Category: Crisis Support, Other Youth Activity, Community Educational Event

Audience: Other Community Issues, Youth

Describe your Lodge's charitable project and how it will serve the community.

The Hillsboro Elks Lodge #1862 intends to use the funds from the Gratitude Grant to provide an opportunity for a local charity to expand their outreach to seriously ill children in several local children's medical centers. Rockin' Rooms is a local charity that provides decorations to children who due to health reasons must spend more than a month staying in a local hospital. Currently, each time a request is received by Rockin' Rooms, volunteers must shop for and assemble baskets that contain sheets, blankets, bath towels, wall decorations, art supplies, and many other items appropriate for each request. The funds from the Gratitude Grant will allow the Lodge to "pre-build" 15-20 of the most requested baskets. The ability to shop for and pre-assemble these baskets will not only save money (because items can be purchased on sale and stockpiled), but also will allow volunteers to respond much more quickly to incoming requests.

Tell us about your community. Why is this as an important community need?

In our area, we have several hospitals that care for seriously ill children - Doernbecher's Children's Hospital; Randall's Children's Hospital, and the Portland Shriner's Hospital. Many of the children who are admitted to these hospitals are there for extended periods of time - weeks and even months. Their rooms are drab and 'medical' (as all hospital rooms can be). As anyone can attest, even sick children are still children. They long for the opportunity to play, laugh, and enjoy life. While we can't make their hospital stay any shorter, or heal them any faster, we can at least make their rooms less dreary and foreboding! Rockin' Rooms was founded by a family whose own child was in Doernbecher's Children's Hospital with a serious illness for an extended period. His mother and grandmother (who are both members of our Lodge) decided one day to decorate his room. It was such a hit with staff and other patients that they founded Rockin' Rooms to provide the same opportunity to other patients. We are blessed that their young child came through with flying colors and is now a happy, healthy little boy. We want to use the funds from the Gratitude Grant to make these requests more easily granted to other families in need.

Is there an opportunity for Elks to get involved in this project? Please tell us how Elks will participate.

As was previously mentioned, the founders of Rockin' Rooms are members of our Lodge and we are planning to increase Elks involvement in the following ways: 1. Elks will shop for the items that are used to create the baskets for each child. 2. Our Well Wishes with Stitches group will make blankets, pillow cases, and other items as appropriate for the basket. They currently donate hundreds of chemo-bag covers each year to the Children's Hospitals and will add these to each basket as needed. 3. We will hold an assembly party so that members of the Lodge who want to volunteer will come assemble the pre-made baskets. 4. As appropriate and allowed by the hospital, Elks members will be delivering the baskets to each child.

What does the Lodge expect to accomplish with this project? How will the Lodge measure its success?

Currently, it takes approximately a week to respond to each request for a basket to decorate a child's room. We hope to cut that response time in most cases to 3-4 days (or less). We also hope to be able to provide more baskets and perhaps add more hospitals. We have had requests from other local hospitals, but are limited to how many baskets we have the resources to fulfill.

Anticipated date of project completion:

07/06/2017

3. BUDGET

| Item | Estimated Cost |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Twin Sheets - \$23/set | \$460.00 |
| Blanket - \$20/each | \$400.00 |
| Bath Towel - \$10/each | \$200.00 |
| Art Tray & Supplies - \$18/each | \$360.00 |
| Pillow Pet-\$10/each | \$200.00 |
| Light - \$15/each | \$300.00 |
| Book/Toy/Balloon - \$30/each | \$600.00 |
| Wall Decorations - \$6/each | \$180.00 |
| Misc. Age Appropriate - \$10/each | \$200.00 |
| Basket \$10 each | \$200.00 |

Total Grant request:

\$2,000.00

Total cost of event:

\$3,100.00

BUDGET NARRATIVE

Each decorating basket contains items that will decorate a room in a specific theme - Star Wars, Frozen, My Little Pony, etc. The point is to provide each child with enough 'non-medical' related decorations and activities as is appropriate based on age, requested theme, health needs, and families wishes. Older children and teens often ask for such things as batteries for IPADs or nail polish; while younger children are more interested in art supplies, coloring books and stuffed animals. The volunteers at Rockin' Rooms have developed a list of items that are most appropriate for children who are residing long term in a hospital setting. None of the budget line items address overhead costs or operation costs associated with the operations or delivery of the baskets. Only hard costs associated with the basket and its contents have been included in our request for funds.