



Help & Hope for People in Need

October 29, 2014

Dear Mr. Horne,

I hope you are doing well. Attached, please find the proposal for additional RCS funding, allocated for family homelessness (RCS Grace House) that we discussed earlier today. The request is for an additional \$25,000.00, bringing the total support from the City of Clearwater for RCS homeless services to \$50,000.00. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter and thank you for all of your support for RCS!

Best, Caitlin

RCS President and CEO
(727) 584-3528 F: (727) 587-7747
www.RCSpinellas.org

Hunger

Homelessness

Domestic Violence

Basic Needs

www.RCSpinellas.org 503 S. MLK Jr. Ave. Clearwater, FL 33625 (727) 584-3528

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Request to the City of Clearwater

Homeless families with children, is the fastest growing sub-set of homeless populations in Pinellas County. The City of Clearwater's investment in Homeless Services helps to alleviate the suffering of homeless families and children while providing a long-term positive economic impact for the community.

City of Clearwater's Investment in RCS Grace House: Currently, the City of Clearwater is making an investment of \$25,000 in homeless family services. However, an additional investment of \$25,000 or \$50,000 total will generate greater measurable returns. With greater funding, RCS Grace House staff can more actively explore the possibility of expanding RCS Grace House services. RCS Grace House is a proven program that moves families facing homelessness to stable permanent housing. By partnering with local service agencies, recreational centers, Pinellas County Schools and area Housing Authorities, RCS Grace House is able to meet the needs of families as they obtain self-sufficiency.

During Fiscal Year 2013-2014, RCS Grace House provided emergency shelter services to 163 homeless families, equating to 594 individuals of which 384 were children. Services include a fully furnished family apartment, professional case management, on-site mental health services based on a trauma informed care model, access to computers and computer training at the on-site Computer Learning Center (funded in part by City of Clearwater CDBG funding), subsidized child-care, transportation assistance, on-site weekly life skills classes, tutoring, and community referrals.

Service Results:

- **84% of families served moved from shelter to permanent housing** - Of the 150 families that exited the program, 126 families achieved this result (13 families remain in the program)
- **99% of families completing the full eight weeks of the program moved to permanent housing** – Of the 69 families completing the eight week program, 68 achieved this result
- **69% of families obtained/maintained employment during their program stay** - Of the 150 families that exited the program, 104 obtained employment (13 families are still in the program)
- **81% of families completing the full eight weeks of the program obtained/maintained employment** – of the 69 families completing the eight week program, 58 achieved this result
- **76% of all families increased their household income through SNAP benefits** – of the 150 families exiting the program, 115 obtained this result

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Economic Impact:

While total economic impact is difficult to quantify, research tells us that homeless children have higher rates of learning disabilities, emotional and behavioral problems requiring professional care, and suffer more health problems than their housed counterparts. Therefore, it can be reasoned that reducing the number of homeless children in a community will have a positive economic impact on children's services, school resources and health care expenses.

- 115 families served obtained a total of \$50,651 in monthly SNAP benefits resulting in an **economic impact of \$93,197.84 monthly** based on the USDA determination that \$1.00 in SNAP benefits results in \$1.84 of economic activity*

*"SNAP is the only public benefit program which also serves as an economic stimulus, creating an economic boost that ripples throughout the economy when new SNAP benefits are redeemed. By generating business at local grocery stores, new SNAP benefits trigger labor and production demand, ultimately increasing household income and triggering additional spending."

(<http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/outreach/business-case.htm>)

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