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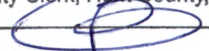
Growing Toward a Safer Tomorrow

March 6, 2024

Commissioners Court of Hunt County
2507 Lee St #107,
Greenville, TX 75401

FILED FOR RECORD
at 2:00 o'clock P M

MAR 26 2024

BECKY LANDRUM
County Clerk, Hunt County, Tex.
By 

Dear Members of the Commissioners Court,

I hope this letter finds you well. As the Executive Director of Women in Need, Inc., a domestic violence nonprofit organization serving our community, I am writing to bring to your attention the significant impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our operations, particularly concerning our efforts to support vulnerable families in Hunt County.

Since the onset of the pandemic, Women in Need has experienced unprecedented challenges in our ability to fulfill our mission effectively. The COVID-19 restrictions and shutdowns have exacerbated existing issues and created new obstacles for those facing domestic violence situations. The repercussions have been profound and far-reaching, affecting not only the individuals we serve but also the sustainability of our organization as a whole.

First and foremost, the pandemic has heightened the demand for our services. With stay-at-home orders in place, victims of domestic violence have been confined to their homes with their abusers, often with limited access to support networks or resources. The effects of COVID-19 have led to a surge in clients seeking refuge and assistance from Women in Need. We have witnessed a significant increase in calls to our helpline, requests for emergency shelter, and inquiries about legal and counseling services.

Furthermore, the economic repercussions of the pandemic have placed additional strain on our organization. The closure of our resale shops, which serve as a vital source of revenue, has resulted in a substantial loss of income. These shops generate funds to support our programs and services and provide employment opportunities for individuals in our community. The inability to operate these shops has had a direct and immediate impact on our ability to sustain our operations costs during the onset of COVID-19 restrictions and put a large financial strain on our efforts to continue serving those in need.

Considering these challenges, we are grateful for the opportunity to present our case to the Commissioners Court of Hunt County. We recognize the vital role that local government plays in supporting organizations like ours, especially during times of crisis. As such, we respectfully request financial assistance to help mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on our organization and enable us to continue our critical work in the community.

Specifically, we are seeking funding to support the following initiatives:

Women In Need, Inc
P.O. Box 349
Greenville, TX 75403
903.455.4612



Growing Toward a Safer Tomorrow

1. **Operational Support:** Funding to offset the operational costs incurred due to the increased demand for our services and the loss of revenue from our resale shops.
2. **Emergency Shelter and Support Services:** Resources to expand our capacity to provide emergency shelter and support services to individuals and families fleeing domestic violence.
3. **Technology and Remote Services:** Investment in technology infrastructure to facilitate remote counseling, legal advocacy, and outreach efforts, ensuring continued access to services for those in need while adhering to social distancing guidelines.
4. **Staffing and Training:** Support for staffing and training initiatives to enhance our ability to respond effectively to the evolving needs of survivors and ensure the well-being of our team members.

Investing in Women in Need not only aids survivors of domestic violence but also bolsters our community's health and resilience. With a proposed allocation of \$75,000, we aim to provide crucial support to families impacted by domestic violence in Hunt County. Together, we can foster a safer, more nurturing environment for all residents, emphasizing the imperative of addressing this critical need.

Thank you for considering our request. We are more than willing to provide any additional information or answer any questions you may have. We look forward to partnering with the Commissioners Court to address the needs of those affected by COVID-19 in our community.

Sincerely,

Kristen Ostertag
Executive Director
Women in Need, Inc.
903-455-4612
kostertag@wintexas.org