

Funding to Fight Childhood Food Insecurity

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Neighborhood Connection

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Executive Summary

The purpose of this proposal is to request funding for Title 1 schools and children in Washington County, Utah. Our main objective in making this request is to obtain funding for the food supplies needed to provide sustenance for the Title 1 children in select Washington County School District Title 1 schools for each weekend throughout the course of the 2019-2020 school year.

Our project is intended to assist the population of Title 1 students in our county who do not have a reliable source of nourishment waiting for them in their lives outside of school. Many of these students are receiving assistance with meals during school hours – often their school meal is the only meal that they will eat during the day. When these same children come to school on Monday morning aching with hunger, they are in no position to gain from academic instruction. Our plan is simple and dignified. We will obtain the necessary means and supplies to create discreet take-home packs filled with the meals necessary to feed one child for the weekend. The packs are designed to simply slip into the child’s backpack and are filled with interesting, easy to prepare, shelf-stable foods.

The five main phases of this plan are:

Phase One: Identify School(s) in Immediate Need

Phase Two: Establish Storage and Staff

Phase Three: Choose and Obtain Supplies

Phase Four: Transportation and Delivery

Phase Five: Assess Outcome

Neighborhood Connection is uniquely qualified to address this project because our leadership has the varied and extensive experience required to successfully administer the services needed as well as the passionate zeal for providing nutritional assistance to children in need.

The budget that we project will cover the costs of assisting these children through the school year totals \$141,970. We are only requesting \$103,500 in funding as Neighborhood Connection will be backing \$38,470 of this project.

We believe deeply in the project because we know that it will have a direct impact on the community through the children helped by our efforts. Though the fight against hunger is an ongoing battle, the education that we will help these children to benefit from will become part of the fabric of their being and stay with them far beyond the school year.

Introduction

Neighborhood Connection is a relatively young non-profit organization, yet their mission is one that has been pursued for ages: fighting the hunger epidemic. In particular, Neighborhood Connection is engaged in the fight against childhood food insecurity in Washington County, Utah. This is a big task since there are roughly 1163 homeless children in Washington County. Additionally, half the schools in the Washington County School District (WCSD) are Title 1. Neighborhood Connection works tirelessly to assist these schools and children by putting together food packs for some of these children to take home with them over the weekend.

Indeed, Neighborhood Connection already serves hundreds of children in the WCSD; however, there are still hundreds more children in hunger. Food insecurity among the children of Washington County is running rampant and they must up our services to continue the fight. Neighborhood connection aims to add more schools to the list of schools that they serve and knows that in order to accomplish that, they need help. The purpose of this proposal is to obtain funding for an additional school in WCSD to be served by Neighborhood Connection.

In this proposal, we will attempt to discuss the complex issue of childhood hunger in Washington County. The current situation is, indeed, dire. We will also detail our project plan, discuss the qualifications of Neighborhood Connection, and propose the budget we have established for this project. This proposal will also contain a few appendices that will provide information such as a resume for one of the members of the board at Neighborhood Connection as well as the works cited for establishing the facts about childhood hunger and the current situation in Washington County.

As you read through this proposal, please note the sense of urgency and hope in our project plan. The situation may be dire, but we believe, as we hope you will too, that together we can have a positive impact on our community and the lives of the children we aim to serve.

Current Situation: Childhood Food Insecurity in WCSD

Childhood hunger and food insecurity are two interconnected massive issues facing the United States as a whole. Our local, Saint George community is no exception. In fact, half of the schools in the Washington County School District (WCSD) qualify as Title 1 schools. In at least one of these schools over 150 students classify as Title 1, others may have 100 or more. Simply put, too many children in our community are going home and going to bed hungry. In the article “Ending Childhood Hunger in America,” Mariana Chilton and Jenny Rabinowich write that “food insecurity among children is associated with fair and poor child health, with high hospitalization rates, and with truncated social, emotional, and cognitive development. Among school-age kids, food insecurity affects their school performance, their math and reading test scores, and their ability to pay attention and behave” (14). The enormously overwhelming problem of food insecurity affects more than just the children’s bellies and bodies. The children in the most desperate need qualify to be a part of the federally funded Title 1 program.

Title 1

What exactly is Title 1? What does it mean for a school or a student to carry around that label? The US Department of Education states, “Title I, Part A (Title I) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act...provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.” What this amounts to is that

Title 1 schools need help, and they receive help. However, the federal assistance that these schools receive cannot always meet the true needs of the student population.

The abundant population of Title 1 students in Washington County is deeply concerning. It bears repeating that *half* of the elementary schools in the Washington County School District are part of the Title 1 program. That means that 13 of the 26 schools closest to us serve students who are struggling to succeed due to a lack of basic necessities. Dr. Erin O'Brien, Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at Dixie State University, says that "the Title 1 students are able to receive free or reduced cost lunches when they are at school, but this could be their only meal of the day. And they may not get any meals over the weekend." These meals are meant to help the children have enough energy and focus while at school so that they can attend to the important task of learning and growing. The *Washington County School District* website indicates that "the purpose of Title I is to ensure that all children have a fair and equal opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and perform well on challenging academic assessments" ("Title 1"). While these programs are working hard to support the children in need, there is only so much that they can do. As Dr. O'Brien indicated, one meal devoured ravenously on a lunch break is not enough to sustain the children physically or academically.

A State of Emergency

In Washington county, Coral Canyon, Coral Cliffs, Dixie Sun, Legacy, Heritage, Hurricane, LaVerkin, Red Mountain, Sandstone, Springdale, Sunset, Washington, and Water Canyon elementary schools have anywhere from 25-150 students dealing with hunger on a daily basis. Statistically "Utah...has the highest average number of children per family in the U.S" (Fisher). When you couple that statistic with the fact that "households with children experience rates of food insecurity that are double those of households without children" (Chilton and

Rabinowich 14), it becomes very clear that our county is a mirror of the state that we live in. Unfortunately, Washington county is the rule, not the exception. Hundreds of children are coming to school starving and going home tired and hungry.

What happens when these children go home hungry? The impact on their ability to learn, much less focus on anything, is great. Hungry children suffer insecure relationships, poor academic performance, and the constant load of the often-secret issue that they are grappling with. Even in our more developed economy, “reducing childhood poverty is especially important since the effects of childhood poverty are severe, and last throughout a person’s lifetime” (Fisher). With the threat of such irreparable, long term impacts on just one child who faces food insecurity, the exponentially growing number of children facing this issue across the country constitutes a true emergency. Chilton and Rabinowich write that “since 1995, between 30 to 35 million people every year in the United States had experienced food insecurity, now that number stands at 49 million, or 14.6 percent of the total U.S. population. This alarming increase, which should indicate a national emergency, has gone largely unnoticed by the public and garnered little response from policy makers” (14). Indeed, if these numbers continue to rise, as indicated, there is no real telling what the lasting effects on both our country and our county will be. The situation is dire and in need of immediate response.

A Call for Foresight

In conclusion, childhood food insecurity and hunger are growing problems. We simply cannot allow them to persist, wishfully thinking that they will resolve themselves. We must exercise foresight and recognize that “childhood poverty’s lasting effects provide substantial incentives for societies to diminish and eradicate childhood hunger and malnutrition (Fisher).” In our local area, the few organizations attempting to quell the rise of childhood food insecurity

simply cannot sustain the burden of this surging issue. In Washington County, with such a dense population of Title 1 children, to do nothing would be reprehensible. If we do nothing, the ramifications of this issue will spread beyond the schools and homes of these kids. As our local children struggle to succeed in school on empty stomachs, we must act in their behalf.

Project Plan: Expanding the “Backpack” Program

The current situation of the children in our area is complex and unnerving; fortunately, there is so much that we can do to win the fight against childhood food insecurity in Washington County, Utah. The solution for helping combat childhood food insecurity experienced by the underserved children at WCSD Title 1 schools is to simply expand the current services already being provided to other schools within the district. Only two organizations have already seen numerous successes in this fight, and they are striving to continue this reputation. To continue successfully assisting Washington County schools, we must take aim at the following goals:

- Establish what the needs of the Washington County School District (WCSD) are.
- Encourage the current service of the existing non-profit programs.
- Supplement the assistance given to WCSD Title 1 schools.

In order to meet these goals, we propose partnering with Neighborhood Connection in their fight against childhood hunger. Neighborhood Connection has taken aim at providing such children with the food that they desperately need. The purpose of this plan is to keep fighting – and win. More specifically, we want to provide nutritional food in take-home backpacks for those Title 1 children attending WCSD Title 1 schools who are not currently receiving assistance.

To be effective and successful, our plan will be implemented in five major phases. First, we will identify which schools have immediate need. Second, we will establish storage facilities and staff capable of handling the supply and workload. Third, we will choose and obtaining needed food and other supplies. Fourth, we will source a vehicle capable of managing deliveries to WCSD schools and carrying out those deliveries. Finally, we will assess the outcomes of this project. When we follow these phases, the packs that will be delivered will easily fit inside each child's backpack and the food items will promote balanced nutrition while being shelf-stable and easy to prepare with minimal work or additional ingredients. But most importantly, the packs will help each child who receives one to have a better weekend, a full stomach, and be better equipped to learn on Monday. To get these supplies into the backpacks of the hungry children in WCSD we must act quickly.

Phase One: Identify School(s) in Immediate Need

In order to be of any assistance to the children in need, we first must find out where they are. There are multiple Title 1 schools in Washington County, and some are being assisted while others have yet to receive any help. It is critical to assess the list of schools not currently being helped and identify which schools on that list have the most immediate need for assistance. This status will be decided by the number of Title 1 children at each Title 1 school in the county. The school with the most children in need of weekend support will be prioritized. Of course, our goal is to ensure that every school with students in need of weekend support will eventually be cared for. But to begin, we must start with the school that has the most critical need. To accomplish this we must do the following:

- We will find out which schools in the county are not currently being served. This is a critical place to start since we must first know who needs our assistance.

- We will investigate how many Title 1 children attend each school of these schools. More than knowing who needs help, we must prioritize our limited resources in order to effect focused change.
- We will determine from the previous two steps which schools have the greatest need for immediate assistance. Once we have made this determination, we can begin to direct our services appropriately.

By the end of this phase we will provide a list of three schools in the most need of our help. We should have a firm grasp on where to direct and prioritize our efforts. We will begin with adding services for the school deemed most in need out of the list of three. As this step is of prime importance, we aim to have this completed early in the project. This phase should take no more than one week to complete and will be accomplished by August 31, 2019.

Phase Two: Establish Storage and Staff

Since our ultimate goal is to provide take home food packs for WCSD Title 1 children, we will need a place to collect, house, and prepare both the supplies and the packs themselves. The sheer volume of items that we need to collect, sort, and distribute will require a dedicated storage facility. Certainly, this facility will require attention by at least one dedicated staff member who can oversee the space as well as the items housed there. As anyone might imagine, this task could become very time-consuming and may require more than just volunteer attention. Neighborhood Connection will have to assign a staff member to care for this critical task. If the items that we purchase are not cared for properly, they may go to waste and that is something that we cannot allow. To establish this storage facility, we will do the following:

- We will source an affordable yet adequate storage location that will allow for Neighborhood Connection’s current services to continue, as well as accommodate the growing storage needs that their services require.
- We will assign a supervisor who will maintain responsibility for managing the storage facility and the supplies.
- We will determine if further staff may be essential to the success of the project. At this point, time will be saved if we analyze what other dedicated staff members may be necessary to maintain baseline operations for the organization. This may include an assigned driver and purchasers.
- We will create a budget for the management of the supplies as well as maintaining the storage facility. Administrative costs must be looked at carefully. We want to grow our services and ensure that we have team members that can be relied upon for certain scheduled times and days in order to ensure smooth operation and service to the children.

By the end of this phase we will have a signed lease with an adequate storage location. We can provide copies of said lease. We will also have assigned a dedicated staff member to care for the storage space. Since this step is also critical to achieve before we can make school deliveries, we also want to have this accomplished no later than August 31, 2019. Overall, this step should take no longer than two weeks. The sooner in the school year we can make these services available, the better opportunity these children will have to succeed during the academic year.

Phase Three: Choose and Obtain Supplies

Quite obviously, to provide take-home packs, we must have the necessary – and nutritional – items to fill them with. This phase is the heart of this project plan. Due diligence

must be given to the content of these packs. They must contain shelf-stable items that are not at all close to expiration. The foods must also reflect a balance between nutrition and practicality. We must ask ourselves not only “is this food healthful?” but also “will they eat it?” Special consideration must be given to the additional ingredients and supplies necessary to prepare the meals and snacks in each pack. We cannot make any assumptions about what each child may have at home to prepare their foods. Little more than water should be required to prepare each item. In order to choose and obtain the supplies we must do the following:

- We will research the best shelf stable and nutritional foods and snacks to fill each pack with. This is to ensure that each item is self-contained and does not require refrigeration.
- We will look for items with the best value and pricing. The more cost savings that we are able to achieve here equates to more children receiving packs. We aim to make each pack cost no more than \$5.
- We will purchase the agreed upon items and take them back to the working storage facility for sorting and packing. On days that items are purchased and sorted; a dedicated staff member must lead this process as it is critical to the effectiveness of this entire plan.

Once this phase has been accomplished, we will have all the food needed for one month in storage, we will have two weeks’ worth of packs made, and we will have a list of the agreed upon items for future purchases. The packs will be stored until they are scheduled for delivery. Each pack will cost \$5 or less and will be ready to go by August 31, 2019. This phase will take more time for research, purchasing, and assembling. This phase will take no longer than three weeks. Of course, this is just the first run of an ongoing part of the services we will offer as a

result of this plan. If we have planned and scheduled appropriately, we will be able to provide packs throughout the school year. Thus, multiple purchase trips will be made as supplies are delivered and replenishments are needed. The staff will be scheduled accordingly.

Phase Four: Facilitate Transportation and Delivery

While obtaining our supplies may be the heart of the plan, Phase Four is the legs of this plan and no less critical to our success. Through transportation and delivery, we will actually make the connection between our dedicated work and the children in need. In order to get these weekend packs into the hands and backpacks of the children we aim to serve, we will do the following:

- We will source a vehicle with the appropriate capacity to transport the packs to each school. Of course, sourcing a vehicle will include obtaining necessary licensing and or registration as well as insuring the vehicle. Any person who is assigned to drive this vehicle will also be required to have the proper license and insurance to do so.
- We will add to our administration budget (which we began in Phase Two) the line items for necessary fuel and probable repairs to this vehicle. These items will be the last lines to account for in our administrative budget.
- We will assign drivers, create a delivery schedule, and transport the packs to the Title 1 schools chosen in Phase One. More importantly, we will deliver the packs to the schools who will ensure that each Title 1 child will have one to take home for the weekend.

This phase will initially be completed by September 30, 2019. By the time this phase is completed we will have a van for deliveries, a budget for associated costs, and a delivery schedule. However, this phase of the plan has an element that will be ongoing, much like the

ongoing part of Phase Three. Each week these packs will need to be transported to the schools in order for each child to have the necessary supplies for each weekend throughout the school year. We will see the results of this plan in the number of packs that we put in the hands of hungry children for each weekend.

Phase Five: Assess Outcome

It is absolutely necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of this plan. The work being done to service the Title 1 children in the WCSD is ongoing. In order to appropriately plan for the future, we must evaluate how we have performed. Have we met our goals? Have we noticeably increased the assistance to the hungry children in our community? These are questions we must hold ourselves accountable for. In order to evaluate the outcome of this project we will do the following:

- We will study Neighborhood Connection's productivity throughout each phase of this plan. We will keep a timeline of how long each phase takes to complete and how well we have worked within the constraints of our budget. We will also identify how many new children we have been able to serve by the end of this project.
- We will survey the dedicated staff members, volunteers, and Board of Directors. We must gain a well-rounded picture of how those associated with Neighborhood Connection feel about their work and the effectiveness of the project at hand.
- We will write a full report on the effectiveness of the plan. This report will summarize the surveys as well as the timeline and budgets of each phase. No matter what the report finds, we will suggest improvements, indicate future projects, and recognize any current successes.

- We will post the results of the project on the Neighborhood Connection website, adding information about how many schools and children are being assisted by the organization. It is important to share the results of this project with the community being served.

As this phase cannot be concluded without evidence from the other phases, it will take three weeks to compile, and it will be completed much later in the school year. By the end of this phase we will have a written report, and new content on the Neighborhood Connection website. We aim to have the report written by spring break 2020. We want to allow the program to work and grow for a few months before assessing how well we have met our objectives and determine how many new students we have been able to assist. Therefore, a written report will be prepared in March of 2020.

Summary

In conclusion, our plan's success is dependent on meeting our goals. We have to ascertain what the true need is in our county, and how many schools are in need of immediate assistance. By the end of this project, we will have all the food needed for one month in storage, we will have two weeks' worth of packs made, we will have a list of the agreed upon items for future purchases, a van for deliveries, a budget for associated costs, a 9-month delivery schedule, and written report on the assessment of our project. Of course, our operations are not meant as a substitute for the commendable and tireless work of the existing non-profit organizations and the service that they are providing to the children in need. We only aim to supplement or add to this service so that we may fill in the gaps where we find the need throughout the coming school year. Ultimately, our success will primarily be seen and held in the discreet, take-home weekend

packs that we place in the hands of individual children who so desperately need our help. Please refer to figure 1 for Gantt Chart timeline of our project plan.

Figure 1: Neighborhood Connection Backpack Program Expansion Project Gantt Chart

Phases and Tasks	June 2019	July 2019	August 2019	September 2019	October 2019
PHASE 1: Identify School(s)					
<i>Task 1A:</i> Find out which schools are not being served					
<i>Task 1B:</i> Investigate how many Title 1 children at each school					
<i>Task 1C:</i> Determine which schools need immediate assistance					
PHASE 2: Establish Storage and Staff					
<i>Task 2A:</i> Source affordable location					
<i>Task 2B:</i> Assign supervisor and staff					
<i>Task 2C:</i> Determine if additional staff needed					
<i>Task 2D:</i> Create budget for storage administration					
PHASE 3: Choose and Obtain Supplies					
<i>Task 3A:</i> Determine best foods					
<i>Task 3B:</i> Shop best value prices					
<i>Task 3C:</i> Purchase items (ongoing)					

PHASE 4: Facilitate Transportation and Delivery					
<i>Task 4A: Source vehicle and obtain licensing</i>					
<i>Task 4B: Create budget for necessary fuel and repairs</i>					
<i>Task 4C: Assign drivers, create delivery schedule, transport and deliver packs</i>					
PHASE 5: Assess Outcome					
<i>Task 5A: Study organization productivity</i>					
<i>Task 5B: Survey and interview staff, volunteers, and Board of Directors</i>					
<i>Task 5C: Write report on effectiveness of the plan with recognition of successes and indications of future projects</i>					
<i>Task 5 D: Post the results of the project to the N.C. Website</i>					

Evaluation

The goals of this project are to establish the needs of the WCSD, encourage the current service of the existing non-profit programs, and most importantly, supplement the assistance already being given to WCSD Title 1 schools. In meeting these goals, we will provide nutritional food in take-home backpacks for children attending WCSD Title 1 schools who are not currently receiving take-home, weekend assistance.

As stated in the project plan Phase 5, we will measure this project's success directly through various data collection methods. We will employ both surveys and interviews to assess the project's productivity and effectiveness. The surveys will include both an initial and ongoing collection of data from each school served over the course of the school year. This will be done in order to ascertain how many students are receiving packs – especially those receiving packs on an ongoing basis. Initially, we will be producing a list of Title 1 schools currently in need in WCSD. The research to produce this list will inform us of how many schools and students are being served prior to the project's initiation. As our project nears completion, we will re-survey the Title 1 schools being assisted and compare these new numbers to the number of children that were being served before the project commenced.

Additionally, we will conduct interviews with various volunteers as well as the Board of Directors. These interviews will ask specific questions about each person's level of involvement with the project, how they feel about the outcome of the project, whether or not they felt that their involvement made an impact on the project overall, and if, from their perspective, the project has been successful.

As a summary of our data collection and interviews, a written report will be prepared in March of 2020. The report will summarize the surveys as well as the timeline and budgets of each phase, and it will condense the information that we will gather into a direct, concise report. Among other things, the report will demonstrate the following outcomes:

- Add a minimum of 2 new Title 1 schools to the current list of schools being served.
- Provide packs for over 200 children through the 9-month school year.
- Assign 1 dedicated admin employee to take responsibility for daily operations.

Ultimately, our evaluation will show that this project not only accomplished its primary goals but that it helped our community work together toward a common goal while helping local children have equal educational opportunities.

Dissemination

Our main mode of disseminating information related to the outcome of this project will be via statistics released on the Neighborhood Connection website. We will update the home page with information about how many schools and approximately how many children are being assisted by the organization. We suggest adding a “running tally” feature on the homepage to track how many packs have been served to date, year-to-date, and month-to date. A simple snapshot of Neighborhood Connection’s activity like this could prompt donators and volunteers to join in Neighborhood Connection’s fight against childhood food insecurity.

Sustainability

Managerial Sustainability will be achieved by assigning administrative staff to continue the management of operations at Neighborhood Connection for this project and beyond. With these few dedicated members in place, administrative tasks such as budgeting, scheduling, and complex planning and coordination will continue. Neighborhood Connection, as a result, will be able to function more effectively and frugally.

Social Sustainability will be achieved through the direct impact that this project will have on the community through the children helped by our efforts. Certainly, hunger may continue to be an issue for some – or perhaps all – of the children who receive packs throughout the school year, but the education that they will more readily profit from on full stomachs and nourished brains will stay with them beyond the school year. The community too will continue to benefit from the connections and camaraderie that will develop from a shared interest in and efforts to

help identify children in need as well as physically placing the packs into the hands of each child. Each day that a volunteer assembles a pack, that a staff member delivers packs to a school, that a school employee accepts and prepares for distribution, and that a hungry child has a nutritional pack handed to him to take home for the weekend, that day is a day that this project helped our community grow closer and work together toward the common goal of not only fighting hunger, but also helping each child have equal educational opportunities.

Qualifications of Neighborhood Connection

At Neighborhood Connection we are deeply concerned about the plight of the hungry children in Washington County, Utah. Currently there are at least 13 schools serving children that are battling food insecurity. Since this is a complex and delicate issue, Neighborhood Connection is uniquely qualified to address this project because our leadership has the varied and extensive experience required to successfully administer the services needed as well as the passionate zeal for providing nutritional assistance to children in need.

Board of Directors

With over 20 years of combined experience working with non-profit organizations, our Board of Directors has the knowledge and wherewithal needed to carry out this project.

Dr. Erin O'Brien is currently serving as the Vice President of our Board of Directors. Dr. O'Brien has multiple non-profit interests and experience. She is the director of the eSMART summer camp for girls going in to the 8th grade that exposes them to college life and workshops in science, math, and technology. Dr. O'Brien also acts as co-director for a similar camp for high school girls called Gene Girls summer camp, works with the DOVE Center, the Erin

Kimball Foundation, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, and participates in many food box volunteer charity programs. Dr. Erin Obrien's résumé is included in Appendix A.

Donna Macbean has a long history of involvement with a variety of non-profit organizations. She is currently President of the Board at Neighborhood Connection. Donna is also on the Board for Girls on the Run and Habitat for Humanity. She is the President of Dixie Ladies of Elks and Chaplain of Dixie Elks. Donna is overwhelmingly selfless, participating monthly in a group that buys, cooks, and serves for the homeless once a month. She manages this by organizing a yearly fundraiser to cover the cost for the monthly meals. She has even done so well with her fundraising to assist the Soup Kitchen in other ways, such as buying them a new fridge and freezer. Around the holidays, Donna intensifies her efforts. Last year, a group of her friends fed over 450 people on Christmas rather than participate in their own celebration. But all this is just a small window into the selfless, experienced, and dedicated leadership that Donna provides as owner and board member for Neighborhood Connection.

Motivation and Mission

At Neighborhood Connection we know that childhood hunger is real, but we believe that together, as a community, we can help. There are 1163 homeless children in our community, not to mention the hundreds of others who do not know where their next meal is coming from even if they have a stable roof over their heads. The struggle of these little ones, the most vulnerable in our area, is all too real, and we are determined to ease the strain that hunger places not only on their physical growth but also their mental facilities. We want every student in every school in Washington County to benefit from equal educational opportunities. No matter what infrastructure is in place, children cannot focus on their education with rumbling, hungry stomachs. Additionally, physical hurdles like basic transportation and intangible hurdles like

shame may prevent these children from accessing assistance from local charities, much less asking for help from teachers or other members of their community.

Our organization began as a response to pleas for help from our local community. What began as an effort to respond to this need by helping one elementary school has transformed into an effort to relieve whatever school may still have need. Our mission focuses on providing discreet take home packs for weekends for these children who might not otherwise eat at home. We pride ourselves on taking nutrition as well as reasonable convenience into account when selecting what items will be included in each pack. At this point we are able to pack and distribute over 500 packs each week. While our organization is still growing, we offer cutting edge strategies to bolster the funds and functionality of our services. We have established a platform where members of the community can have the ability to donate funds or food stuffs to our program, but we also encourage members of the community to connect with our organization by sponsoring one child for a month or a year. This donation strategy allows one person to feel directly connected to the support that they provide.

We started with one school, and now we are serving five schools in the Washington County School District. At Neighborhood Connection, our experience informs us that this journey may be long, and the fight is hard, but we are resolved to successfully complete this project to the betterment of our community and the children in it. Please refer to Appendix B for more information about Neighborhood Connection as listed on their website.

Dedicated and Driven to Succeed

As members and volunteers of a growing organization, we are facing the issue of childhood food insecurity with zeal in our eyes and determination in our hearts. The key factor in successfully fighting this battle is the will and courage to face the mounting issue that simply

cannot be subdued by one person. With over 20 years of combined experience and a unique zeal for this work, Neighborhood Connection has the brave determination to join your company in waging the war against childhood hunger, one backpack at a time.

Budget and Budget Narrative

A project of this duration and scope requires diligent fiscal planning. Thus, we have generated a budget to show how the requested funds will be distributed. Expenses for the Backpack Project will cover the costs of feeding hungry children throughout the school year; though, the costs will not be minimal, Neighborhood Connection is dedicated to this ongoing mission and is committed to contributing to and covering many of the costs associated with this project. The largest costs associated with this project are related to supplies needed to create and fill the take-home packs. Other minor costs are personnel, fuel, and computer expenses. We are asking you to fund the costs of the supplies and personnel for one school year. Neighborhood Connection will share the costs of this project by funding a portion of the personnel costs, rental fees, licensing fees, and computer administrative costs. The entire project will cost \$141,970. Neighborhood Connection will assume \$38,470 of these costs, so we are requesting \$103,500 from your organization. Table 1 below will give you an overall picture of how we arrived at these numbers. For an itemized list of the major costs in this budget, please see Table 2.

Table 1: Budget for the Backpack Program				
Budget Category and Items	Requested from Sponsor	In-Kind Costs	Cash In-Kind	Subtotal Project Costs
<i>Personnel Costs</i>				
President of Board of Directors ¹	\$ 13,500.00			\$ 13,500.00
General and Administrative Staff ²			\$ 14,120.00	\$ 14,120.00
Subtotal	\$ 13,500.00		\$ 14,120.00	\$ 27,620.00
<i>Non-Personnel Costs</i>				
Computer and Internet		\$ 900.00		\$ 900.00
Phone		\$ 900.00		\$ 900.00
Storage Rental Fees		\$ 1,350.00		\$ 1,350.00
Licensing and Registration Fees		\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00
Vehicle Insurance		\$ 900.00		\$ 900.00
Fuel		\$ 1,800.00		\$ 1,800.00
Packing Supplies ³		\$ 18,000.00		\$ 18,000.00
Food ⁴	\$ 90,000.00			\$ 90,000.00
External Audit		\$250		\$ 250.00
Subtotal	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 24,350.00		\$ 114,350.00
Total	\$ 103,500.00	\$ 24,350.00	\$ 14,120.00	\$ 141,970.00

Table 2: Budget Narrative
¹ President of Board of Directors: \$1500/mo x 9 months = \$13,500
² General and Administrative Staff: \$20/hr x 71hours = \$14,120.
³ Packing Supplies: \$1per pack x 500/wk = \$500/wk; \$500 x 36wks (9months) = \$18,000
⁴ Food: \$5 per pack x 500/wk = \$2,500/wk; \$2,500 x 36wks (9 months) = \$90,000

As you can see in Table 1, the largest and most critical expense in this budget is the food that will fill these packs. Indeed, the food intended for the children who need it most is the heart and soul of this project. While this line item seems large in comparison to other administrative

costs, that figure will cover the cost of 500 packs per week throughout the entirety of the school year (9 months or 36 weeks). In addition, a project of this extent requires a steady and dedicated flow of manpower to handle the various projects and administrative tasks necessary to prepare for the school year project. You will note in both Table 1 and Table 2 that there are line items for general and administrative staff. These hours budgeted are split between various projects for the pre-project tasks as well as the 36 week project. Neighborhood Connection is run by many loyal, passionate employees who volunteer their time, money, and abilities to keep the organization's services running smoothly.

It is perhaps unusual to request so little in the way of salary for the president of the Board of Directors at our organization. Such a minimal amount as \$13,500 for 9 months is requested because our staff is not dedicated to this project for personal nor financial gain. While our staff is primarily comprised of part-time volunteers, some members of the board have found it necessary to devote more and more of their time to Neighborhood Connection's cause. As we expand our services to the community around us, having a dedicated staff available to oversee the orderly and efficient distribution of our services is critical to not only the success of this project, but also to ensure the proper and most effective use of resources from donations and funding organizations.

This budget clearly shows the commitment that Neighborhood Connection has to the community through this specific project. Though the total cost of this project is \$141,970, through voluntary donations and personal funds, Neighborhood Connection will share the expense of this project by providing over one fourth (27%) of the necessary funds leaving less than three fourths (73%), or \$103,500, to be funded by your organization. We are excited about

the potential of this enterprise, and we are certain that together we can truly make an immediate difference in the quality of life of hundreds of children in our community.

Conclusion

In closing, we should recognize the costs and benefits of our project: expanding the Neighborhood Connection “Backpack” program. The goal of this organization is to add one additional WCSD school, or 100 additional children, to the current list of schools/children being assisted by our organization. This entire project will cost \$141,970. Neighborhood Connection will assume over one-fourth of the costs, or \$38,470. This means that we are only requesting \$103,500 from your organization.

The benefits of this project are worth so much more than this small amount would seem to indicate. The social sustainability of this project will do little else than change the lives of the people we will help. A child who is enabled to engage more fully with his education is far more likely to succeed both in the current academic year and in future years resulting from this current engagement. Each weekend that each child is helped, is one more weekend with lessened anxiety in addition to the physical contentment of being well fed. This will, no doubt, enhance their personal and academic life. Additionally, the assistance we provide will relieve the burden from the struggling families constantly worrying about how to provide the next meal. The overall impact on our community will result in lifting the spirits of those undergoing this hardship and strengthening the relationship between Neighborhood Connection and the community they serve.

We can and will make a difference. Our staff and the tireless support of the volunteers from our community, combined with your generous funding, will produce a successful project.

It is no overstatement to say that we will change lives this school year. Thank you so much for your attention to this proposal. We are excited to collaborate with you on this project.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at (435) 313-4724 or southneighborhoodconnection@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you about this grant request, and we sincerely appreciate your time and thoughtful consideration.

Appendix A: Résumé

Appendix A contains Dr. Erin O'Brien's résumé. Dr. O'Brien received her PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is Chair in the Department of Biological Sciences at Dixie State University in Saint George, Utah, and has served Dixie State University in many different roles for the past twelve years. She has directed the eSMART Camp for the past five years.

Contact

orgjdie@yahoo.com

www.linkedin.com/in/erin-obrien-54223866 (LinkedIn)

Top Skills

Higher Education

Teaching

University Teaching

Erin O'Brien

Chair, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Dixie State University
Saint George, Utah

Experience

Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters

Member-at-large

April 2017 - Present

Representing Dixie State to the board and assisting with projects.

eSMART Camp

Director

August 2014 - Present

Saint George, UT

We offer a five-day summer STEM experience for girls entering the 8th grade. The girls sleep in the dorms at Dixie State University and experience a little of college life while they make friends who share their interest in science, math and technology. Workshops are primarily led by female mentors working in STEM fields and include field geology and hydrology, food science, computer assisted-art, extracting their own DNA, and building electronics. The camp is one of two STEM programs sponsored by the St. George branch of the American Association of University Women that are held at Dixie State. Through the fundraising efforts of the branch and in-kind donations from Dixie State and local businesses including Even Stevens, we are able to cut the camp fees for all girls to less than half of the cost of camp and offer need-based fee waivers to those families who need a little help beyond that. My responsibilities have included holding the fundraiser for camp one year, but are generally restricted to organizing the camp.

Dixie State University

Department Chair

January 2016 - Present

Dixie State College

Associate Professor

June 2007 - Present

Utah Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters

Past-President

April 2015 - April 2017 (2 years 1 month)

Utah

The past-president largely serves as institutional memory and sits on the board to assist with their various activities.

AAUW Tech Savvy Outreach

co-chair

September 2014 - June 2016 (1 year 10 months)

St. George, UT

We offer a one-day STEM experience for 6th-9th grade girls and their parents on the campus of Dixie State University. This program was originally developed at the University of Buffalo and now, the American Association of University Women sponsors the program across the country. We were selected as a site for the second year of the program, the only one in the southwest that year, and attracted over 120 girls and 30 parents in our first year.

Dixie State University

Faculty Senate President

May 2014 - May 2016 (2 years 1 month)

Utah Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters

President

April 2013 - April 2015 (2 years 1 month)

We are the state Academy of Science for Utah. Founded in 1908, the Academy became interdisciplinary in the middle of the last century. Every year we honor exceptional academics in Utah and citizens who support education in the state. We host an annual conference and publish a journal through BYU Press.

Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters

Biology Chair

April 2008 - April 2013 (5 years 1 month)

Utah

Served on the UASAL board and acted as section editor for the Biological Sciences.

Claremont University Consortium

Visiting professor, Joint Science Department at the Claremont Colleges

December 2006 - June 2007 (7 months)

Claremont, CA



UC Santa Barbara

Post-doctoral researcher

June 2004 - August 2006 (2 years 3 months)

Worked with Bruce Mahall on plant below-ground interactions and chemical signaling in greenhouse and field experiments. Funded by the Mellon Foundation.

Education

University of Illinois at Chicago

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Ecology and Evolutionary Biology · (1997 - 2004)

Bryn Mawr College

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Biology, General · (1992 - 1996)

Appendix B: Website Information

Appendix B contains information that is located on Neighborhood Connection's website (neighborhoodconnection.net). The information found on the website includes data about homeless children in Washington County, Utah, the main mission of their organization, and the successes that they have had, such as winning the Select 25 grant.



Childhood hunger is real.
Together we can help.

[DONATE](#)

According to the most recent data (2017), of the 31,000 children in Washington County School District there are

1163

homeless children

40.22%

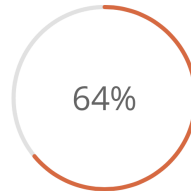
Students on free lunch

The struggle for adequate food hits the most vulnerable members of our community, our children. Students do receive a hot meal at lunchtime; however, this may be the only full meal they eat all day. Help from local charities often is difficult for families to access due to transportation and the shame they may feel from receiving support. The best way to provide support to our youth is through direct support at school.



WHAT WE DO

Neighborhood Connection helps children who receive free or reduced-cost meals at school by providing them with food to take home over the weekends. The children receive two breakfasts, two snacks, and two lunches to help ensure they have adequate nutrition – because we believe no child should go hungry.



At Sunset Elementary 64% of the children (or 351 children) are on the free or reduced lunch program.

Sunset Elementary is the first school that will be receiving our assistance.

GET INVOLVED

There are several ways you can get involved. Donations, whether monetary or food items, are what enable us to provide this service and are invaluable to us. We also need help packing food bags during the school year. Check our Facebook page for ways you can help, or simply contact us to find out our current needs.

Donate Money

via PayPal

DONATE

Donate Goods

via SignUpGenius

DONATE

100% of all donations stay in Washington County to cover the cost of providing children in need with food on the weekends.

Sponsor a child for a school year: \$200

Sponsor a child for a month: \$20

Congratulations!

Winner of the Select 25 grant program 2018



CONTACT US

435.313.4725
P.O. Box 140 Santa Clara 84765
soutneighborhoodconnection@gmail.com

Name

Email Address

Message

7 + 1 =

SUBMIT



Appendix C: Works Cited

Works Cited

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- US Department of Education. "Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies (Title 1, Part A)." *Ed.gov*, 24 October 2018, www2.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/index.html.
- O'Brien, Erin E. Personal Interview. 20 January 2019.
- "Title 1 Department." *Washington County School District*, 2018, www.washk12.org. Accessed 29 Jan. 2019.