

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: VisionWorks, Inc.	Federal Tax ID#: 74-2924336	Are you a 501(3)(c) charity? Yes	
Address: P.O. Box 692153	City: San Antonio	State: TX	Zip Code: 78269
Website: www.visionworkscamps.org		Fax: (210) 683-9594	

Head Of Organization

Name: Joel B Cavazos	Title: Executive Director
E-Mail Address: joey@visionworkscamps.org	Phone: (210) 683-9594

Application Contact

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Previous funding received from The Gordon Hartman Family Foundation

Year	Funding \$
2017	\$20,000
Total	\$20,000

Has the organization applied to the Gordon Hartman Family Foundation in the past and been declined?
No

Grant Amount Requested \$:	Total Project Budget \$:	Organization's Annual budget \$:
\$20,000	\$327,412	\$661,411

Mission Statement:
To enhance the lives of children and their families who are dealing with a life-threatening illness through residential camping and other outdoor experiences designed to positively affect their emotional, physical and spiritual needs.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title:
Camp Discovery/ VisionWorks Christmas Party

PROJECT TIMELINE

Start Date	End Date
07/14/2019	07/20/2019

Program / Project Description:
Camp Discovery is a children's oncology camp established in 1984 to provide a unique camp experience to Texas children who were battling cancer. Camp Discovery provides these children a week away from all their worries of treatment, and replaces it with fun, friendship, and a yearning to return the following year. Camp Discovery is available to all children in Texas who have been diagnosed with cancer and do not have a camp of their own to attend, either in their geographic area or through their treatment center. While Camp Discovery opens its doors to any child with cancer, the majority of our 150 campers come from Central and South Texas.

One of the many reasons that Camp Discovery is important is because without it, a child with cancer would not be able to have such an experience since many traditional camps are not designed to facilitate their needs. This experience is provided at no cost to the camper's family.

The issues to be addressed by Camp Discovery include the following: offering hope of survival and recovery to our campers; increasing self-esteem, confidence, and independence; providing a respite for campers' families; strengthening relationship and trust between the patient and their treatment providers; and providing an experience that a cancer patient could not receive at other residential camps.

The major impact of Camp Discovery on a camper is that the child with cancer will go home feeling more confident about dealing with the effects of their disease, and is many times more willing to comply with treatment because of the peers they meet at Camp. A camper who meets a camp counselor who was once a camper themselves, and has overcome the disease, has a very positive influence on the emotional health of the camper. Campers often leave Camp Discovery to become a little more independent at home and develop the ability to take care of daily needs on their own as much as they can.

Camp Discovery also serves as a respite for the family of the child battling cancer. Many families utilize the week of camp to reconnect and show extra attention to the other members of the family, which is often hard to do when caring for a child with such a devastating disease.

Every treatment center that refers children to Camp Discovery also provides medical personnel. As a result, those that treat their patients at the hospital have stated that it is encouraging for them to see the children away from the hospital environment and "just being kids" at camp, and seeing doctors and nurses at camp promotes trust on the part of the camper. Camp Discovery is staffed mainly by volunteers, and is abundantly staffed with nurses, physicians, and Child Life Specialists. Through the years, those physicians familiar with Camp Discovery have found it so valuable that they make attendance at camp a part of the patient's treatment plan.

Every summer, approximately 150 children between the ages of 7-16 experience a fun and "normal" camp experience at Camp Discovery. They are able to ride horses, canoe, climb rock walls, swim, fish, sing, dance, laugh, and participate in many other traditional summer camp activities.

At our Christmas Party in December, the child with cancer and their entire family will be able to experience an evening at Morgan's Wonderland. Again, this opportunity will be open to all pediatric oncology patients, regardless of their age. At our Christmas Party, we hope to provide all families with a unique Christmas experience. While other agencies provide programming around Christmas time, oftentimes space is limited, so not all family members are able to attend the event. Our goal is to have Camp Discovery campers and their families, volunteers, medical personnel, and donors interact with one another during the holiday season. We will also be inviting pediatric cancer patients who are not yet old enough to attend Camp Discovery. In 2018, we had almost 900 people attend this event.

Evaluation Plan:

Every camper at Camp Discovery is given an evaluation form at the end of camp. These evaluations have been instrumental in determining how the kids feel during the week of, and at the conclusion of camp. They are also provided the opportunity to voice how camp could be a better experience. A copy of the results of this evaluation from 2018 is available upon request.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

VisionWorks, Inc. has grown exponentially since we took over Camp Discovery from the American Cancer Society in 2013. We have added multiple Family Camp weekends, Camp Firefly (a bereavement camp for families who have lost a child to cancer), Camp Common Ground (a weekend camp for families who have a child diagnosed with cancer and another special need), an Adolescent Young Adult (AYA) program, and our most recent venture is Camp Brave Hearts (a four day in hospital camp experience provided once a month for those children who are hospitalized at Methodist Children's Hospital).

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Gordon Hartman Funds Allocation
Texas Lions Camp Facility Rental	\$86,000	\$15,000
Christmas Party Morgan's Wonderland Park Rental	\$8,000	\$5,000
TOTAL:	\$94,000	\$20,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Name & Office Held	Corporate Affiliation
John W. Primomo, President	United States Magistrate Judge, Western District of Texas (retired)
Karen Torges, Vice-President	KT Solutions
Jonathan Badger, Treasurer	Badger and Badger, CPA
Keith Howard, Secretary	Faith Presbyterian Church

Jay Porier	Porier Law Firm
Maria Falcon-Cantrill, MD	Methodist Children's Hospital
Bill Martin	YMCA Executive (Retired)
Don Gregory	Talon Home Health (Retired)
Leah Dabaghian	Child Life Specialist, Methodist Children's Hospital
Howie Nestel	Sharkmatic Advertising