

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
2018	\$20,000
Total	\$40,000

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 \$:
\$15,000	\$370,986	\$873,986

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

PROJECT TIMELINE

Start Date	End Date
07/11/2021	07/17/2021

Program / Project Description:

6) Project Description: (Describe in detail the project the funds are being request for - may include goals, issues, or needs the project will address, individuals impacted, expected results). This section will expand and if additional space is required, organization may add no more than 1 additional sheet.

Camp Discovery is a children's oncology camp established by the American Cancer Society (ACS) 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. The first camp hosted approximately 50 children and grew every year until we reached our limit of 150 children, which is where we are today. 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 campers come from Central and South Texas.

In the summer of 2020, we were forced to go virtual as a result of COVID-19. While the situation was sub-optimal, 95 children were able to still stay connected with each other and participate in modified camp activities. Our plan for 2021 is to return to a physical camp where 150 children between the ages of 7-16 can have a fun and "normal" camp experience at Camp Discovery. They will be able to ride horses, climb rock walls, swim, sing, dance, laugh, and participate in many other traditional summer camp activities. 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.

Camp Discovery is staffed solely by volunteers, and our staff members are dedicated to providing leadership, understanding, compassion, safety, and direction to the campers as well as enjoying the experience of being a counselor. The camp is abundantly staffed with volunteer nurses, nurse practitioners, physicians, and Child Life Specialists. 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. 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.

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.

As mentioned before, Camp Discovery is staffed solely by volunteers. Many of them return year after year, and we currently have a 94% return rate of volunteers. As of 2018, approximately 75% of our volunteers are cancer survivors, with over 50% of those being former campers. These "wounded healers" provide a strong base for understanding what the campers are going through in their fight with cancer.

VisionWorks is committed to keeping Camp Discovery at full capacity (150 campers) until there is no longer a need for a camp like ours. We have recently began providing Family Camp Weekends for children and families battling cancer, but Camp Discovery will always be the priority. These weekends are for family members of the children who attend Camp Discovery, as well as for other cancer patients who are also dealing with a second disability, such as Down Syndrome, Autism, etc. At the request of some families who have lost a child to cancer, we will conduct our first bereavement oriented camp in the autumn of 2017.

The 150 children who attend Camp Discovery will be exposed to a natural and relaxed environment, promoting an appreciation of their capabilities, developing an awareness of common concerns among peers, demonstrating the value of adapting to their illness. This allows for independent expression of interests, and fostering as much as possible, self-care for daily needs by the end of that one week.

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 also leave Camp Discovery a little more independent at home and are able to take care of daily needs on their own as much as they can.

Evaluation Plan:

Each camper will be provided with an extensive evaluation at the end of camp which will help us provide them with a better experience and will show us how to improve on meeting their psycho-social needs. A copy of our evaluation can be provided upon request.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

VisionWorks will continually pursue funding through various foundation, grants and fundraising events. We will also continue to make our program known to the community through a variety of media sources, and anticipate receiving additional resources as a result.

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Gordon Hartman Funds Allocation
Background Checks	\$2,000	\$0
Camp Facility Rental	\$90,000	\$15,000
Camp Music	\$3,000	\$0

Camp Transportation Expense	\$6,000	\$0
Capes and Crowns	\$15,000	\$0
Carnival	\$10,000	\$0
Catering	\$4,000	\$0
Event Housekeeping	\$3,000	\$0
Gas & Oil	\$1,000	\$0
Medical Personnel	\$3,000	\$0
Participant Gear	\$10,000	\$0
Payroll Expenses	\$191,986	\$0
Printing	\$3,000	\$0
Program Expenses	\$14,000	\$0
Supplies	\$10,000	\$0
Video Production	\$1,000	\$0
Volunteer Gear	\$4,000	\$0
TOTAL:	\$370,986	\$15,000

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	Creating Healthier Communities
Jonathan Badger, Treasurer	Badger and Badger CPA
Keith Howard	Faith Presbyterian Church-Head Pastor
Maria Falcon Cantrill, MD	Methodist Children's Hospital
Howie Nestel	Sharkmatic Advertising-Owner
Leah Dabaghian	Baptist Hospital- Child Life Specialist
Jay Porier	Attorney
Don Gregory	Talon Health Care Services
Bill Martin	YMCA Executive Director- Retired