

# FUNDING APPLICATION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Organization Information

<b>Legal Name:</b> Huckleberry Foundation		<b>Federal Tax ID#:</b> 47-3654727		<b>Are you a 501(3)(c) charity?</b> Yes	
<b>Address:</b> 3416 Purdue		<b>City:</b> Dallas		<b>State:</b> Texas	
				<b>Zip Code:</b> 75225	
<b>Website:</b> www.thehuckleberryfoundation.com			<b>Fax:</b> (214) 991-6509		

### Head Of Organization

<b>Name:</b> Molly Russell		<b>Title:</b> CEO / Founder	
<b>E-Mail Address:</b> molly@thehuckleberryfoundation.com		<b>Phone:</b> (214) 991-6509	

### Application Contact

<b>Name:</b> Molly Russell		<b>Title:</b> CEO / Founder		<b>E-Mail Address:</b> dmiller@millerpr.com		<b>Phone:</b> (214) 991-6509	
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**Previous funding received from The Gordon Hartman Family Foundation**

Year	Funding \$
2019	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>	\$5,000

**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 \$:
\$5,000	\$6,000	\$150,000

**Mission Statement:**  
The Huckleberry Foundation was founded in 2015 by Molly Russell, the mother of 3 boys, one of whom is living with autism. After realizing the financial and emotional burden that special needs families experience and discovering the extremely high rates of divorce among special needs parents due to the incessant stress, Molly set out to pave an easier path for those in need. Children with special needs deserve to have access to the medically - prescribed therapy and devices they need to live a functional and higher-quality life. The majority of the special needs community is in serious financial stress due to the exorbitant cost of medical care, therapies, devices, and a lack of support from insurance companies.

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Program / Project Title:**  
Huck Helps

**PROJECT TIMELINE**

Start Date	End Date
01/01/2021	12/31/2021

**Program / Project Description:**  
The majority of the special needs community is in serious financial stress due to the exorbitant cost of medical care, therapies, devices, and a lack of support from insurance companies. These desperate situations have been made worse during this COVID-19 pandemic as families lose jobs through furloughs or lay-offs and juggle additional child-care and child educational responsibilities from home. Funds used for critical therapies and therapeutic equipment are instead needed for basic food and shelter.

The Huckleberry Foundation believes it is not acceptable there are nonverbal children who do not have access to an iPad and a \$400 app that would allow them to touch pictures and communicate with their families. It is not acceptable that a mother does not have access to an extremely expensive oversized special needs stroller for her 13-year-old who cannot go outside without it. And it is not acceptable that one of the leading causes of death among autistic children is drowning, and yet many families cannot afford special needs swim lessons. A child who needs behavioral, speech, or occupational therapy should have access to it.

The Huckleberry Foundation requests \$5,000 in support of medically prescribed evaluations, therapies, and devices for special needs children. This amount will provide services to approximately 5 special needs children. Our work is supported by the Rees-Jones Foundation, The Spieth Family Foundation, The Barbier-Mueller Family Foundation, the Durham Family Foundation, the Ryan Family Foundation, the Klesse Family Foundation, and the Hamner Family Philanthropic Fund.

The Huckleberry Foundation through the Huck Helps program has been able to provide more than \$200,000 in aid to special needs children in the few years we have been in existence. The need is real and overwhelming, and we are so proud of how many donors have recognized that need and assisted us. Prior to mid-2018, we were able to fund every qualifying applicant. However, word has spread about what we do, and we are now receiving such a high number of requests that we have had to implement a wait list. As a special needs mother, Molly knows all too well the devastation these families feel when told they must wait. They are so desperate. We have begun aggressively seeking grants from organizations such as yours to help us reduce the wait list and provide children the interventions they need.

The main goal of The Huckleberry Foundation is to provide direct assistance to families with special needs children. Eligible applicants have a demonstrated financial need and a family member medically diagnosed with a disability such as autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome, fragile X syndrome, epilepsy, traumatic brain injury, genetic disorder, or

developmental delay. The majority of the children we help are ages 2 to 16. Some examples of the assistance for medically prescribed services or equipment include:

- Behavioral Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Communication devices
- Brain Integrated Exercise Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- REI Therapy
- MNRI Therapy
- Neurological screenings
- Feeding devices
- Safety devices
- Seating devices
- Evaluations
- Recreational programs
- Social skills training

The families The Huckleberry Foundation helps are lower-income families without the means to provide all the therapy and assistive devices their children need. These children can live a productive and meaningful life if given access to the proven interventions that medical professionals recommend for them. Special needs families face an uphill battle when it comes to finances. The lack of quality insurance, high cost of deductible/out of pocket costs, a lack of awareness regarding many special needs diagnoses and high cost of good medical care often end in special needs families taking out second mortgages, maxing out credit cards, and living with a high medical debt to income ratio. Our grantees are residents of Texas.

Without assistance, families raising children with special needs are facing an uphill climb that they will never summit - their medical debt often far outweighs their income. Effective therapeutic interventions and life-altering assistive technology are the paths that provide a chance at a full and life for children with special needs. These interventions, devices, and programming opportunities are expensive and often not covered by insurance, so these families are at a major disadvantage.

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**Evaluation Plan:**

Huck Helps is very simple. Therapists, medical professionals, or parents fill out an application for a specific therapy. After review, if they meet our qualifications, we pay a therapist or provider directly or order the device they are requesting. Any funds received from the Gordon Hartman Foundation will be used to help families with special needs children in Bexar County, Texas.

**Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:**

Funds to help families are distributed only as funding is available. The Huckleberry Foundation conducts ongoing fundraising campaigns.

**Line item Budget:**

<b>Line Item Description</b>	<b>Total Project Funds Allocation</b>	<b>Gordon Hartman Funds Allocation</b>
Behavioral therapies and equipment	\$6,000	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS**

<b>Name &amp; Office Held</b>	<b>Corporate Affiliation</b>
Molly Russell	President
Marcy Simmons	Vice President
Rachel Omundson	Secretary
Coby Russell	Treasurer
Carrie Song	Board Member
Emily Helm	Board Member
Patrick Omundson	Junior Board Member