

# FUNDING APPLICATION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Organization Information

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

### Head Of Organization

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

### Application Contact

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

**Has the organization applied to the Gordon Hartman Family Foundation in the past and been declined?**

No

| <b>Grant Amount Requested \$:</b> | <b>Total Project Budget \$:</b> | <b>Organization's Annual budget \$:</b> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| \$20,000                          | \$310,000                       | \$222,000                               |

**Mission Statement:**

The Huckleberry Foundation for families with special needs is a nonprofit foundation that provides financial assistance to families with special needs children as well as local organizations that support the aging special needs community. Our mission is to help these individuals and their families live life to the fullest.

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Program / Project Title:**

Huck Helps

**PROJECT TIMELINE**

| <b>Start Date</b> | <b>End Date</b> |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 01/01/2019        | 01/30/2020      |

**Program / Project Description:**

The main goal of The Huckleberry Foundation is to provide direct assistance to families with special needs children via our Huck Helps Program. We accept applications from families in need of financial assistance for their family member(s) with special needs. Eligible applicants have a family member or members medically diagnosed with a disability such as autism spectrum disorder, down syndrome, fragile x syndrome, epilepsy, traumatic brain injury, genetic disorder, developmental delay, etc. Anyone is welcome to apply for funds for a therapy or device that would improve the life of their special needs child. Some samples of uses of the assistance include, but are not limited to:

recreational programs, evaluations, social skills therapy, special needs school tuition, speech therapy, occupational therapy, behavioral therapy, special needs swimming lessons, devices used for communication, devices used for transportation, etc.

The majority of the special needs community is in serious financial distress due to the exorbitant cost of medical care, therapies, devices and a lack of support from insurance companies. As a mother of a child with Autism I quickly discovered this social crisis soon after my son's diagnosis and founded Huck and the Huck Helps Program to pave an easier path for others that are also raising a child with special needs but without the benefit of secure finances.

The Huckleberry Foundation's Huck Helps program offers hard-working, low income families the financial support to obtain necessary therapies, assistive technology devices and adaptive programming that would be out of reach for them otherwise. Without this assistance families raising children living 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 path that provide a chance at a full and productive life for children living with special needs. Our work helps these families that are at a major disadvantage, and ensures that these children are NOT forgotten and are given a shot at a productive and meaningful life.

The Huck Helps program provides more than assistance to families raising children with special needs; it is an investment in the future of these children, their families and society as a whole. Huck Helps exists to enable disadvantaged families access to necessary interventions and opportunities that bolster their child's chances and encourage their confidence as they have to work considerably harder in the hopes for a strong, independent and fulfilling life. By supporting these children, their families and the organizations serving them we are fostering a future in which children with special needs are not only cared for but also given the opportunity to reach their fullest potential.

The impact of this program will result in special needs children finding themselves served and encouraged into adulthood, many of them thus being able to find a job or career. We are also helping to grow the organizations that will transition them into independent and employable adults.

**Evaluation Plan:**

We measure the program's success by following up with the families that we have helped as well as requesting updates on their child's progress. Sometimes it is as simple as following up with a non-verbal child that was recommended by an SLP for an iPad and app designed for non-verbal individuals and we are able to find out from the parents or SLP that the child is finally communicating. Our work is incredibly impactful. We feel so honored to be able to provide these children with improved quality of life.

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

We are currently in year 4 of the Huck Helps program. Our plans to sustain the project involve continuing with our annual fundraising event in the spring as well as continue our efforts to partner with organizations like yours. We run many online campaigns thought the year and participate in "Giving Tuesday" as well as North Texas Giving Day. We also have a team assembled that strategizes and builds important relationships with individuals within our community that will continue to support our cause. It is, if I am being honest, a constant hustle to find the finances that we need to keep us ahead of the incredibly overwhelming amount of requests for aid that we receive.

**Line item Budget:**

| Line Item Description | Total Project Funds Allocation | Gordon Hartman Funds Allocation |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Financial Aid Grants  | \$150,000                      | \$20,000                        |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>         | <b>\$150,000</b>               | <b>\$20,000</b>                 |

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS**

| Name & Office Held                     | Corporate Affiliation                |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Molly Russell - President              | Co-Owner of CW Custom Flooring, Inc. |
| Marcy Simmons - Vice President         | n/a                                  |
| Rachel Omundson - Secretary            | Co-Owner of Three Branches Floral    |
| Coby Russell - Treasurer               | Owner of CW Custom Flooring, Inc     |
| Carrie Song - Marketing                | Owner of Carrie Song Art             |
| Emily Helm - Development               | n/a                                  |
| Patrick Omundson - junior board member | n/a                                  |