

# FUNDING APPLICATION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Organization Information

|   |                                       |  |                           |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <b>Legal Name:</b><br>Autism Service Center of San Antonio (dba Autism Community Network) | <b>Federal Tax ID#:</b><br>26-2592058 | <b>Are you a 501(3)(c) charity?</b><br>Yes |                           |
| <b>Address:</b><br>535 Bandera  | <b>City:</b><br>San Antonio           | <b>State:</b><br>TX                        | <b>Zip Code:</b><br>78228 |
| <b>Website:</b><br>www.acn-sa.org   | <b>Fax:</b><br>(210) 435-1000         |  |                           |

### Head Of Organization

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Name:</b><br>Tiffany Fresher              | <b>Title:</b><br>Chief Executive Officer |
| <b>E-Mail Address:</b><br>tiffany@acn-sa.org | <b>Phone:</b><br>(210) 435-1000          |

### Application Contact

|                               |   |   |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>Name:</b><br>Patricia Vela | <b>Title:</b><br>Chief Development and Outreach Officer | <b>E-Mail Address:</b><br>pattyv@acn-sa.org | <b>Phone:</b><br>(210) 435-1000 |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|

| Previous funding received from The Gordon Hartman Family Foundation |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Year  | Funding \$       |
| 2010  | \$10,000         |
| 2011  | \$10,000         |
| 2013  | \$15,000         |
| 2014  | \$15,000         |
| 2015  | \$15,000         |
| 2017  | \$20,000         |
| 2018  | \$20,000         |
| 2019  | \$15,000         |
| 2020  | \$20,000         |
| 2021  | \$15,000         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$155,000</b> |

**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                   | \$25,732                 | \$1,811,328                      |

**Mission Statement:**

The mission of Autism Community Network is to maximize the potential of children with autism by providing early diagnosis for those with limited access and educating and empowering the community to support them.

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Program / Project Title:**

Neurodiversity University

**PROJECT TIMELINE**

| Start Date | End Date   |
|------------|------------|
| 12/04/2023 | 12/04/2024 |

**Program / Project Description:**

Neurodiversity University is a summer institute for professional caregivers working alongside children experiencing developmental differences, or have received an autism diagnosis. This initiative is unique because it is rooted in the neurodiversity movement which advocates that neurodivergent individuals experience and interact with the world around them in many different ways, none of which are "right" or "wrong". In essence there is no one "right" way of thinking, learning, or communicating; and most importantly differences are not viewed as deficits.

In 2018, ACN made a decision to disrupt the status quo and adopt practices based in neurodiversity affirming care; eschewing the more common medical model which operates from a deficits based position. "Making an effective and efficient response poses challenges for health care systems across the world. The enduring nature of the condition has not, until recently, been fully considered in care planning, despite the fact that much more is known about the developmental trajectories before school attendance, and greater stability later in development." (Green, et. al, 2022)

The framework for "NeuroU" has been created by our clinical staff who are trained in strengths based, neurodiversity affirming, and trauma informed care. The core feature is that ACN believes autistic children are absolute contributors to society and will push the envelope of what humanity is capable of. This will be hosted by ACN on our new campus; both in person and via e-learning. Anyone can attend, however the curriculum is geared toward teachers and clinicians in autism caregiving roles.

#### **Evaluation Plan:**

Participants will be given a pre-test regarding their understanding of neurodiversity affirming care. Each participant will move through a series of modules each addressing a different aspect of the neurodiversity movement; from its beginnings, through practice, to practical applications in the classroom or clinical practices. The quizzes will be administered through a HIPAA compliant platform we already use called TORSH. The quiz modality is an add on option; which also allows for the administration of post-module quizzes to be administered in hybrid mode. Certifications can be offered to participants, as well as some CEUs.

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

Plans to sustain the project include registration fees, request for funding through other foundations, corporations, and local government agencies, as well as revenue from special events.

#### **Line item Budget:**

| <b>Line Item Description</b> | <b>Total Project Funds Allocation</b> | <b>Gordon Hartman Funds Allocation</b> |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Total Staffing Expenses      | \$13,632                              | \$10,000                               |
| Supplies & Materials         | \$2,400                               | \$2,000                                |
| Marketing - Direct           | \$2,500                               | \$0                                    |
| Food/Event Cost              | \$4,000                               | \$3,000                                |
| Cleaning/Facilities          | \$3,200                               | \$0                                    |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>                | <b>\$25,732</b>                       | <b>\$15,000</b>                        |

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS**

| <b>Name &amp; Office Held</b>       | <b>Corporate Affiliation</b>  |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Wendy Faldet, President             | HEB                           |
| Joshua Behnke, Vice President       | Behnke Legal Consulting, PLLC |
| Gregory Hanson, DO, FAAP, Secretary | Southwest Children's Center   |
| Matthew Occhipinti, Treasurer       | Northwestern Mutual           |
| Meggan Leonard                      | Community Advocate            |
| Corey Livingston                    | Indeco, Inc                   |
| Josefina Longoria                   | Author/Community Advocate     |
| Manny Nsien                         | Superior Living Foundation    |
| Shannon Gunn                        | Realtor                       |
| Michael Thompson                    | Merrill Lynch                 |
| Kristen Williams, PhD               | SAISD                         |
| Ursula Pari                         | KSAT 12                       |