

# FUNDING APPLICATION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Organization Information

<b>Legal Name:</b> Texas Ramp Project	<b>Federal Tax ID#:</b> 33-1139484	<b>Are you a 501(3)(c) charity?</b> Yes	
<b>Address:</b> P.O. Box 832065	<b>City:</b> Richardson	<b>State:</b> TX	<b>Zip Code:</b> 75083-2065
<b>Website:</b> www.texasramps.org	<b>Fax:</b> (214) 675-1230		

### Head Of Organization

<b>Name:</b> John Laine	<b>Title:</b> Executive Director
<b>E-Mail Address:</b> texasramps.laine@gmail.com	<b>Phone:</b> (214) 675-1230

### Application Contact

<b>Name:</b> Kay Champagne	<b>Title:</b> Board Member	<b>E-Mail Address:</b> kfchamp@iit.net	<b>Phone:</b> (972) 618-2905
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Previous funding received from The Gordon Hartman Family Foundation	
Year	Funding \$
2013	\$5,000
2014	\$10,000
2015	\$7,500
2016	\$10,000
2017	\$10,000
2018	\$10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$52,500</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 \$:
\$12,000	\$241,900	\$1,330,000

**Mission Statement:**  
 The Texas Ramp Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to establish regional wheelchair ramp-building programs across Texas. The regional ramp projects provide free ramps to low-income older adults and people with disabilities identified by local health care providers.

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

**Program / Project Title:**  
 San Antonio Ramp Project

**PROJECT TIMELINE**

Start Date	End Date
01/01/2020	12/31/2020

**Program / Project Description:**

The Texas Ramp Project's mission is to provide free wheelchair ramps for low-income older adults and people with disabilities. Referrals come from state and local agencies, rehab hospitals, hospices, home health companies, and other health care providers and social workers. The ramps are built exclusively with all-volunteer teams from local churches, service clubs, military organizations, schools and businesses. They are provided without regard to age, gender, religion, race or ethnicity. The ramps follow ADA guidelines and safe, strong and durable.

The Texas Ramp Project grew out of a Dallas-based ramp-building organization that was started by the Richardson Kiwanis Club in 1985. Since incorporating in 2006 as a statewide nonprofit, TRP has set up local organizations in 36 regions. TRP is active in the 13 counties in the Alamo Area Council of Governments, including those served by the Gordon Hartman Family Foundation.

Over the years TRP volunteers have built more than 17,700 ramps across Texas. These ramps would measure 89 miles if laid end-to-end. In 2018 the local Ramp Projects received over 4,700 referrals and built 1,969 ramps, using the donated labor of more than 3,500 volunteer builders. In 2019 TRP plans to build 2,100 ramps on a budget of \$1,330,000. More than 85% of funds go directly to the purchase of lumber and materials, tools, delivery fees, warehouse rental and/or utility expenses, and local travel.

Since 2006 our San Antonio volunteers have completed over 2,000 ramps (12 miles' worth) for their neighbors with disabilities, bringing safe access to not only clients but also their families and caregivers. San Antonio Ramp Project volunteers have committed 91,000 hours of their time, a \$2.2 million value.

Last year TRP received 656 referrals in the Alamo Area COG. The vast majority (434) were in Bexar County. Of the 202 ramps built in the COG, 127 were in Bexar, 20 in Comal, 16 in Guadalupe, 11 in Bandera, and 8 or less in each of the remaining counties. So far in 2019, the San Antonio Project has received 500 new referrals and built 139 ramps.

Referrals are made by health care providers and licensed social workers who qualify the client as being in financial need according to their agency's standards. The referrals are received through our website and directed to the regional coordinator. A surveyor goes to the residence, assesses the property, and designs the ramp. On build day prebuilt modules, lumber, tools and other materials are transported to the site, where an experienced team leader and volunteer crew install the ramp within a few hours.

San Antonio Ramp Project coordinators are Larry Milton, a retired military officer and educator; Kay Geurin, a retired social services manager; and Roland Guzman, formerly of the Governor's Office for People with Disabilities and himself wheelchair-bound.

The San Antonio Project supports 27 trained team leaders. They represent the Greater Randolph Area Kiwanis; Fort Sam Houston Men of the Chapel; Community Bible, Northwest Hills United Methodist, and Abiding Presence Lutheran churches; Lutheran Intercity Network Coalition (LINC); Freethinkers Association of Central Texas; and Bexar County Juvenile Services, all in San Antonio;

Also, St. John's Episcopal Church, First UMC and Kiwanis Club, New Braunfels; St. Andrew Lutheran, First Baptist, and Crains Mill Baptist churches, Canyon Lake; Friedens United Church of Christ, Geronimo; First Baptist Church, Seguin; Rebecca Creek Baptist Church, Spring Branch; New Fountain UMC, Hondo; South Texas Electric Cooperative, Pearsall; Schertz UMC; First UMC, Boerne; and First UMC and Bethany Lutheran Church, Fredericksburg.

In all, more than 40 churches, civic groups, businesses, military units, and college student and alumni groups help build ramps in San Antonio. Scores of local volunteers committed nearly 10,200 hours to ramp building in 2018. We have donated warehouse space in New Braunfels, Hondo and Seguin.

About 234,300 people in Bexar County are age 65 or over, and 151,000 are veterans. About 28% of the 65+ population--some 64,000 people--report an ambulatory disability. Another 71,000 people under 65 also report an ambulatory disability. We expect similar percentages to prevail across the AACOG. The poverty rate in Bexar County is 15.6%, clearly demonstrating a need for TRP's services. Low-income residents with disabilities in the other counties are equally vulnerable. People in rural areas are particularly in need because they have few services.

TRP's ramp-building activity improves the safety and welfare of people of all ages with disabilities, including children and veterans. The new ramps allow clients to safely enter and exit their homes without requiring a caregiver or EMS to lift them. They gain independence, improved quality of life, and enhanced safety in the event of a fire or other emergency. Their caregivers, often elderly spouses, also gain relief from having to assist their patient on steps or dilapidated ramps. Family members and caregivers no longer need to be present every time the client must leave the home. This may allow them to return to work.

In many cases, the ramps also allow clients to age gracefully in their homes, avoiding costly nursing home care at taxpayer expense. A \$700 ramp from the Texas Ramp Project can save taxpayers \$80,000 per year for an uninsured client.

With our overall estimated 2020 budget of \$241,900 for the 13-county Alamo Area COG, we hope to serve as many as 248 clients, their caregivers and their communities. The budget also includes tools for four new teams (two in Bexar, one each in Wilson and Atascosa counties).

A \$12,000 grant from the Gordon Hartman Family Foundation will purchase materials and supplies to build 20 to 25 wheelchair ramps (depending on length) in Bexar and surrounding counties. About 10% of the funding would support executive management, travel by the executive director for training and development, and administrative services including liability insurance, website and database management, and office expenses.

**Evaluation Plan:**

The benefits of a new wheelchair ramp to the clients and their families are assumed, and TRP does not follow up on clients after they receive their ramps. Thus, our evaluation is based mainly on the number of ramps built and the efficiency with which we build them. Our 2020 goal for the San Antonio Project is to build 248 wheelchair ramps (average length 28 feet) and equip four new teams on a budget of \$241,900. These are aggressive goals that depend highly on funding, but the need is great and growing.

The Texas Ramp Project installed a robust database six years ago. The database is used to track ramp construction from referral through build. It provides a detailed record of ramp activity and is totally searchable to the county level.

Referrals come to the database via our website, [www.texasramps.org](http://www.texasramps.org). The referrals are automatically directed to the appropriate area coordinator. The referral includes the client's name, address, phone and age; caretaker's name and contact information; social worker's name, agency and contact information; and confirmation of financial need. It also includes the desired location of the ramp (front or back door); description of obstacles, such as number of steps; details of the client's mobility; if there is an unsafe existing ramp; and whether the client is a hospice or dialysis patient, living alone, or a veteran.

After a ramp is surveyed and built, the team leader records information about the ramp, including build date, length, materials cost, team leader, number and source of volunteers, and hours to build. This data is entered into the database, which is capable of generating reports in a variety of configurations. These details help us determine such metrics as cost per foot and average hours to build the ramp.

TRP monitors key metrics monthly. These metrics, along with funding, referrals and staffing in each region, allow us to detect problems, such as an unusually high cost per foot or a sudden drop in funding or volunteers, early on. We can then take immediate steps to remedy the situation and avoid a shutdown of construction, which for us is a worst-case scenario. While a shutdown may be necessary, it is harmful to the local project and can result in the loss of key volunteers and create uneasiness with funding sources. Fortunately, this has rarely been necessary.

The build and financial data are shared with the area coordinators and relevant team leaders on a regular basis. This allows them to check that all builds have been entered and accounted for and also to keep tabs on their region's income and spending. If builds are missing, they can send their data to our volunteer data coordinator, who will enter it for them. If there is concern about income vs. expenses, they work with the executive director and treasurer to determine how to proceed.

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

Because we assist low-income people and do not sell a product, we will continue to depend on support from donors. The San Antonio Ramp Project received grants from a variety of foundations last year and into this year. Our largest donor has been the Kronkosky Foundation, which has provided \$50,000 per year for many years. Other funding comes from the Baptist Foundation of San Antonio, San Antonio Area Foundation, The Greehey Family Foundation, McKenna Foundation, Home Depot Foundation, David Weekley Homes, Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country, St. Luke's Lutheran Health Ministries, and the South Texas, Central Texas and Medina Electric Cooperatives. We have also received generous gifts from churches, service clubs and individuals.

We have also sought and succeeded in receiving two challenge grants in 2019: one for \$35,000 from the Ed Rachal Foundation of Corpus Christi and another for \$25,000 from the Carl C. Sr. and Marie Jo Anderson Charitable Foundation of Austin. These grants are unrestricted and can be used anywhere in the state. The Texas Ramp Project is using these funds to encourage our Ramp Project volunteers to seek donations from their local churches, civic clubs, businesses and individuals with the promise of matches. Local funding is needed to help balance foundation giving, which is sometimes not as available in rural areas and smaller cities.

TRP is also aggressively seeking contracts with local Area Agencies on Aging and educating our volunteers in the field as to how to access fee for service payments from them. The board is reaching out to corporations that are willing to provide funding as well as opportunities for their employees to participate in ramp building as a service activity. So far TRP has succeeded in building these relationships with Home Depot, David Weekley Homes, State Farm and Toyota. We also have relationships with a number of electric cooperatives around the state. We do find that it takes months and sometimes years to build these relationships.

The Texas Ramp Project has a record of steadily increasing financial support. Since 2006 TRP has received \$9.6 million in cash gifts from churches, foundations, corporations and individual donors and over \$1 million in fees for service. We maintain a reserve of about five months of funding on hand. Our balance sheet is healthy, and our endowment stands at \$76,600. We are not currently drawing from the endowment.

<b>Line item Budget:</b>		
<b>Line Item Description</b>	<b>Total Project Funds Allocation</b>	<b>Gordon Hartman Funds Allocation</b>
Materials, transport, trailers	\$202,000	\$9,800
Warehouse (rent, utilities)	\$5,200	\$0
Tools for 4 new teams	\$10,800	\$1,000
Travel/training/development in region	\$6,700	\$0
Project management	\$10,200	\$0
Central administrative	\$7,000	\$1,200
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$241,900</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS**

<b>Name &amp; Office Held</b>	<b>Corporate Affiliation</b>
Garner McNett, President	Cargo Data Management (retired)
Peter Heinkel, Vice President	Occidental Chemical Corp. (retired)
Donna Burton, CPA, Treasurer	Donna Morris Burton, CPA (self-employed)
Molli Harris, Secretary	Strasburger & Price, LLP (retired)

Kay Champagne, Board Member	Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas (retired)
Stephen England, Board Member	Martin Marietta (retired)
Roy Harrington, Board Member	Texas Instruments, Inc.
Myron Knudson, Board Member	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (retired)
Sandra Knutson, Board Member	National Opinion Research Center (retired)
Matt McGillen, Board Member	24 Hour Fitness
Marge Oberg, Board Member	Garland ISD (retired)
Suraj Pelluru, CPA, Board Member	EmpowerMX
Gary Stopani, Board Member	Texas Instruments, Inc. (retired)
John Laine, Executive Director	Laine Enterprises Inc. (retired)