

Missional Partnership Grant Application for the Central Region of the Presbytery of San Francisco

Name of Partnership Project: CityTeam's Turning Point (projects include garden upkeep, women's shelter hygiene and welcome kits, CityTeam "At Work" career readiness program, and bathroom upgrade)

I. Please list the partnering congregations/organizations: CityTeam - Turning Point Women's Program in Oakland and First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley

Which entity will provide liability coverage for the proposed project? CityTeam

Amount Requested: \$50,000

Please describe your proposed project by expanding upon the established values of the Central Region charter:

Since 1957 CityTeam (<https://www.cityteam.org/>), a non-denominational Christian nonprofit, has compassionately served our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness, poverty, hunger, and addiction. Its mission is to share Christ's unconditional and redemptive love by caring for immediate needs and enabling lasting solutions to help transform lives, families, and communities. By partnering with First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley and the SF Presbytery's grant program, CityTeam's new women's shelter in Oakland - Turning Point – and women's drop in program on Washington Street can pursue restoring more women's lives by equipping them with needed items, allowing them to pursue school, work or job placement, and fostering dignity and confidence as they take steps to overcome trauma, addiction, homelessness, and other obstacles.

During the summer of 2019, First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, with the help of over 125 congregant volunteers, planned, funded and created a garden sanctuary for Turning Point, complete with vegetable boxes, a shaded sitting area, and play area. Now that the shelter is open and housing women, congregants would like to continue responding to the needs of the women in a hands-on manner. We propose a four-pronged approach to allow many congregants to use their expertise in supporting the needs of Turning Point.

II. What is the root cause or need that your proposal is addressing?

There are four main needs:

Continued Care and Maintenance of the Garden (\$4,000): The garden contains vegetable planters that need new plants, as well as mulch and other items for the yard. Additionally, some basic gardening tools (rakes, shovels, trowels, gardening gloves, brooms, etc.) would enable the women at Turning Point to be able to participate in maintaining the yard. We would also like to provide some education to the women about general gardening skills, growing vegetables, and cooking with their harvest.

Hygiene Kits and Welcome Bags (\$6,000): Nearly half of the women who come to the program have limited basic hygiene items and are in need of either a Hygiene Kit at the drop-in location or a Welcome Bag for Turning Point residents. The need is for:

- 150 Hygiene Kits (\$20 per kit) with basic items such as hygiene wipes, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, soap, make-up, hair tie, towel, and Bible
- 60 Welcome Bags (\$50 per bag) with basic hygiene items as well as pajamas/robe.

First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley volunteers would acquire contents, assemble kits and bags, a Bible, and write a note of encouragement. These simple items have made a huge impression on the women. In the past, we have heard it expressed that these kits have made them feel cared for, and we believe this is an opportunity to demonstrate God's love.

CityTeam - Turning Point Career Readiness (cost \$20,000): Through the CityTeam "At Work" learning center, women are given the opportunity to pursue their education or career. First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley would seek to provide many of the volunteers needed to help with math tutoring, resume writing, mock interviews, career coaching, parenting and financial literacy classes, and trade internships. Volunteer lawyers are also needed to help appeal previous legal offenses. Through these opportunities, spiritual and practical mentors are established to help these women navigate out of cyclical crisis to a stable lifestyle.

The major funding for this part of the grant would go towards laptops, tools for trade jobs, certification, training classes, licensure, legal appeals, work clothes, transportation, and books. The lack of funds to pursue these necessary items is what causes many women to feel defeated

and revert to a lifestyle of prostitution, homelessness, and/or with an abusive partner.

Additional bathroom (\$20,000): The Turning Point home has space to house 28 women. There are currently 11 women in the house and the program is continuing to grow. There are four bathrooms and an additional bathroom is needed to accommodate the full residential capacity. This addition would fit within the existing structure and would be converted into two separate bathrooms or a multi-stall communal bathroom. This remodel would include moving a wall adjacent to a bedroom to acquire more space. New stand-up showers or tubs, toilets, sinks and vanities, new tile floor and base, plumbing, electrical, and ventilation are included in the estimated cost for the bathroom(s). These items as well as reconfiguring the bedroom would be \$35,000.00. The cost above the \$20,000 requested amount would be paid for with other funds. Volunteers from First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley would help with demolition, painting, and other jobs that require non or minimally skilled labor.

Please identify the goals, timeline for implementation and the measurable impact you hope to bring about?

Once a woman in the program reaches the "working phase", following recovery from addiction or other crisis, necessary items to prepare for work and/or school are critical. Depending on their progress, this process can begin as early as 30 days or as late 120 days after entering the program. The working phase of the program lasts between six months to one year, but women are allowed to stay in the house until they have safe housing options. The measurable impact is for the women to obtain a job that pays over minimum wage, providing a higher chance of getting into more stable housing for a minimum of three months.

The "Christian Formation" class at First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley is in the midst of a course that includes missional outreach. We are hoping that, with funding, the above opportunities will be available to our congregants beginning in the spring of 2020.

III. How do you hope this project will excite and involve a core group of people from our region in ministry, mission, and relationship-building?

Because of the large congregant volunteer response to the Turning Point backyard project, the homeless crisis, the variety of needs at Turning Point, as well as the diverse expertise of the First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley congregation, we are confident that these needs will excite and include a large group of people with a range of gifts and skills - both from the First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley congregation and hopefully from other churches within the region.

IV. Who is the person accountable for this proposed project?

Beth Thomsen
First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley
2407 Dana St.
Berkeley, CA 94704
betht@fpckerkeley.org
~~510-280-6121~~

Angela Aguilar
CityTeam: Turning Point
722 Washington street
Oakland, CA 94605
aaguilar@cityteam.org
~~891-444-5553~~

Date of Proposal Submission of the proposal:

Date of session approval of the proposal: 2/18/2020

Name of Clerk:

Mindy Phillips, *Mindy Phillips*

V. Is there any other information you want us to know as we consider your application?

Thank you for considering this opportunity. We hope that through these projects, other churches will partner with CityTeam in sharing the goodness of God throughout Oakland.