

**NUECES COUNTY – OUTSIDE FUNDING
Evaluation / Funding Report**

Name of Organization: Spaulding for Children **Phone:** 713-681-6991

Completed By: Hayley E. Hall **Title:** Director of Development

✓ **Year of Funding:** 2011-12 ✓ **Amount:** \$500 **Multi-year** ___ yes no

Date of Grant Received: July 16, 2012 *Commissioner
Pct 2*

Name of Program: Special Needs Adoption and Post Adoption Program, South Texas

Major Activities and Accomplishments

Thanks to the support of the Nueces County and other generous donors in 2012, our Special Needs Adoption Program in South Texas was able to:

- Place 25 children from state care in adoptive homes. These children ranged between the ages of 6 to 17 years old. In total, Spaulding for Children placed 62 children in adoptive homes in Houston and South Texas through the Special Needs Adoption Program.
- Finalize the adoptions of 22 children. In total, Spaulding for Children finalized the adoptions of 52 children in Houston and South Texas through the Special Needs Adoption Program.
- Serve approximately 1,396 individuals
 - Children from Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS): 62
 - Individual inquiries: 1,953
 - Individuals who attended an orientation meeting: 526
 - Individuals who completed pre-requisite Parent Resource Information Development Education (PRIDE): 155
- Leverage grant to attract and acquire additional program funding from major sources including:
 - TDFPS
 - John G. and Stella Marie Kenedy Foundation
 - Valero Energy Foundation
 - Grande Communications
 - Bay Ltd.
 - Coastal Bend Community Foundation
 - Earl C. Sams Foundation
 - Meadows Foundation
- Provide all services free of charge to prospective adoptive families. Clients received free background checks, adoption preparation and mandatory trainings, a family coordinator, home study visits, regular monitoring of placements until legal finalization, and ongoing support services including: 1) monthly support

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groups for both parents and children; and 2) two family retreats. Providing services at no charge helped to remove socio-economic barriers to adoption, allowing interested and qualifying families the opportunity to open their hearts and homes to a child in need.

- Raise awareness of children in state care who are in need of adoptive families through public service announcements; presentations at local civic groups and churches; information booths at a numerous community events; distribution of brochures; networking through local chambers and other agencies; and executing three (3) special events including:
 - Spring Family Retreat
 - Fall Family Retreat
 - Annual Adoption Expo

Thanks to the support of the Nueces County and other generous donors in 2012, our Post Adoption Program in South Texas was able to:

- Provide 801 hours of case management to special needs children and their adoptive families.
- Provide therapeutic care for 131 special needs adopted children (241 individuals).
- Offer respite, education, and other support services to 57 adoptive families.
- Provide quality care assistance at no financial cost to clients.

The noted differences in the outcomes for the Post Adoption program can be attributed to either one of two barriers: 1) decreased funding revenue for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services; and 2) unexpected staff turnover in the South Texas region at Spaulding for Children. In 2012, one of the members of the Spaulding for Children team that served on the South Texas Post Adoption team in the Corpus Christi location left the organization suddenly due to a personal crisis. Their departure left a portion of our Post Adoption families without a coordinator to access in the local area. For a short time (around 3 weeks), the coordinator located in McAllen provided support for these families to help with the transition. A new Post Adoption Case Manager took over in Corpus Christi as soon as possible. The transition did go smoothly, but required a period of adjustment for the families to get to know the new Coordinator, to become comfortable with the Coordinator's case management style, and for the Coordinator to have the opportunity to meet with all of the families and gain their confidence. The time of adjustment is reflected in the number of individuals served and the case management hours.

Program Continuation Plan

Spaulding for Children's plan to continue the Special Needs Adoption and Post Adoption programs in South Texas will consist of maintaining the same level of service and recruitment efforts to reach prospective adoptive families. To address the barriers seen in 2012, Spaulding for Children will continue to identify community resources available to support adoptive families and guide them to the avenues needed to cope with the needs of a children with a past of abuse, neglect or abandonment. With the addition of the Post

Adoption program in our South Texas offices, Spaulding for Children is better equipped to prepare families for their journey and help identify their needs as issues arise. Another part of the continuation plan for the Special Needs Adoption program is an increased requirement for trauma informed care training provided to better prepare adoptive parents with needs associated with special needs adoption. Finally, Spaulding for Children will increase its recruitment efforts in South Texas in order reach more individuals with the capacity and willingness to open their home to a child in need of a loving home.

Pictures:

