

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

Name of Organization: Arms Wide Adoption Services (Formerly Spaulding for Children)

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✓ **Year of Funding:** 2016/2017

✓ **Amount:** \$500.00 - *County Judge*

Name of Program: South Texas Special Needs Adoption Program

Major Activities and Accomplishments:

Thanks to the support of the County of Nueces and other generous partners who believe every child deserves a loving, stable home, our South Texas Special Needs Adoption Program has been able to accomplish the following thus far in 2017:

- Place 9 South Texas area children from state foster care in adoptive homes and finalize the adoption of 9 children.
- Absorb the cost of all adoption services leading up to adoptive placement and serve prospective families free of charge, removing socio-economic barriers normally associated with adoption. Clients received free adoption education, mandatory training, background checks, family coordinator services, home study visits, regular monitoring of placements until legal finalization, and ongoing support services throughout the adoptive process.
- Raise awareness about the number of children in state care available for adoption through presentations at local civic groups and churches, information booths at community events, distribution of program materials, and networking through local chambers and other agencies.

In addition, Arms Wide Adoption Services was able to leverage the County of Nueces' grant to acquire additional funding from major sources including:

- Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
- Kenedy Memorial Foundation
- Valero Energy Foundation

Program Continuation Plan:

Arms Wide Adoption Services, formerly Spaulding for Children, plans to continue its Special Needs Adoption Program in the South Texas region. Because Arms Wide Adoption Services is the only organization in South Texas

whose primary focus is the adoption of special needs children the Texas foster care system and the only provider of no-fee, adoption-specific support services to children who have been adopted from foster care and their adoptive families, the organization fills an enormous service void in the community.

40th Anniversary Rebrand

Arms Wide Adoption Services announced an organizational rebrand in May of 2017, in conjunction with the agency's 40th anniversary. During this announcement, the public was informed that the agency's name was changing from Spaulding for Children to Arms Wide Adoption Services to better reflect its mission and services. While the organization's name and marketing collateral has changed, its people, purpose and programs have remained completely unchanged. In addition, our tax identification number is unchanged as the agency operates under the legal name "Spaulding for Children dba Arms Wide Adoption Services" during this time of transition. We anticipate a full legal name change to Arms Wide Adoption Services in the next 5 - 7 years. Our updated 501(c)(3) determination letter from the IRS is included in this evaluation report in case additional documentation is needed to explain our name change.

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