



Villa Park Rotary Club



DISTRICT GRANT PROJECT PROPOSAL

Foundation for Proposal

For over 100 years, the Rotary Motto has been “Service Above Self.” Rotary strives to live-out this motto through its Avenues of Service directed to meaningful “Causes”.

Under the “Supporting Education” Cause on the Rotary District 5320 website is the following:

Our goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy. We support education for all children and literacy for children and adults.

With that in mind, I’m pleased to propose a grant project that improves the quality of life for impoverished children in our community through the most certain path out of poverty: education.

PROJECT TITLE

The “Power of Me” Applied Science and Technology Grant

Goal

To improve the quality of life for children from low-income families in our community as they build a strong academic foundation in preparation for college and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) careers of the future.

Background

About the Recipient(s)

Friendly Center was founded in 1924 to assist impoverished farm workers in Orange and their families. While Friendly Center's programs and services have expanded over the past 95 years, their dedication to serving the underserved has been unwavering. In March 1967, Friendly Center officially became a non-profit corporation and would continue to evolve, growing to four family resource centers in three cities that serve thousands every year. Today, Friendly Center remains the oldest non-profit in Orange County to stay true to its founding mission of improving the lives of the impoverished by helping them move toward self-sufficiency. Friendly Center is a trusted steward of funding; its 2018 audit reported that 94 cents of every dollar goes toward program services. Today, Friendly Center's 20+ free family-strengthening programs and services can be categorized into three main pillars: family support, food support, and education. The education pillar, which includes The Power of Me after-school tutoring program, is a key component of Friendly Center's vision and mission.

Whether it's Friendly Center's case management program, job development workshops, parenting classes, or The Power of Me – the broader goal of all programs is to strengthen and support low-income families so they can move from instability to self-sufficiency.

About “The Power of Me”

The Power of Me is Friendly Center's daily, comprehensive K-8th after-school tutoring program designed to meet the various needs and potential of each student. Friendly Center's mission is to provide stability, opportunity, and hope to children and families in poverty. Within this mission are three major objectives of The Power of Me after-school tutoring program: to provide each student with the *stability* of daily academic support, the *opportunity* to cultivate academic strengths, and the *hope* to escape poverty through education. The Power of Me accomplishes these three objectives by providing specialized homework assistance and exposure to STEAM curriculum and careers. The purpose of the tutoring program's founding in 1998 was to address the dropout rates and gang involvement that often plagues children from low-income families. Though this founding purpose is still a strong element of why our tutoring program exists today, this purpose has been modernized to include preparing these children for success in college and the job market of the future. During the 2018-2019 school year, the program's three tutoring sites in Orange and Placentia enrolled 147 students, each of whom attends daily, with a growing waitlist. Attendance is closely monitored to ensure students are fully experiencing the breadth of what The Power of Me program offers.

The Power of Me provides a 3:1 student to volunteer-tutor ratio and a student enrolled in The Power of Me spends nearly 20 hours at Friendly Center every week engaging in homework help, STEAM curriculum, and more. Since adding this STEAM component to The Power of Me in Fall 2018, its students have been exposed to a diverse array of subject matter in a learning environment designed for them to cultivate academic talents, interests, and goals. This was especially evident during the midyear career project, when students had the opportunity to research universities and career paths that specialize in their favorite STEAM subject. Some careers that were identified include engineer, inventor, pilot, teacher, and doctor. Research from the American Educational Research Journal shows this type of early, meaningful exposure to STEAM subject matter factors strongly into whether students continue to seriously pursue these subjects in their future studies and careers.

Beyond allowing students to explore their academic interests and strengths in STEAM fields, the program has created space for students to work on larger projects in groups, thus fostering teamwork, responsibility, and interpersonal skills. The Education Program Coordinator ensures each STEAM lesson connects to grade-level standards, ensuring that every activity is supplementing school-day curriculum in order to increase achievement.

Proposal

Applied Science Component

Over the last year, The Power of Me students showed a marked interest in science-based group projects and lessons involving applied, hands-on components. Specifically, staff has found success in implementing curriculum through Science kits from The Center for the Collaborative Classroom. These kits include rigorous lessons plans and supplemental consumables for use in the kit's various science projects. Funding has not been



AfterSchool KidzScience Complete Program (14 kits)

Item Number: KS-PLGFS

Contains all 14 kits in the AfterSchool KidzScience program: Alternative Energy, Beach Science, Bubbles, Colors in Nature, Crime Lab Science, Exploring Habitats, Falling and Flying, Food from Plants, Fresh Water, Magnets, Mystery Detectives Kit, Predators and Prey, Sunlight Science, and Waste Not.

\$2,975.00

1 ADD TO CART

secured for the purchase of these kits for the 2019-2020 program year, which begins in late June. These kits provide more than engaging content for students, they also allow Friendly Center staff to shift focus toward other aspects of the program, such as student engagement and success, rather than spending valuable time and resources preparing curriculum and ordering project supplies. An AfterSchool KidzScience Complete Program Kit (pictured, \$2975) and an AfterSchool KidzScience Physical Science Kit (\$600) from The Center for the Collaborative Classroom would impact upwards of 150 students and provide The Power of Me with about 33% of the curriculum and consumables needed for the school year.

Technology Component

During the 2018-2019 program year, degradation of the The Power of Me’s 15-year-old computer towers in its Orange computer lab became evident, and Microsoft’s phasing out of support for the lab’s current software drastically reduced the ability of students to utilize the computer lab for homework assignments and the program’s STEAM activities. However, a grant from the Rotary Club of Villa Park (“VPRC”) would allow Friendly Center to update the lab through the purchase of: 10 new Computer Towers (\$3,000), installation of Windows 10 Operating System with necessary computer lab software (\$1,308), and 3 laptops for Tutors to implement STEAM activities (\$1,181). Note: The 10 computer monitors, 10 computer mice, and 10 computer keyboards currently in use were in-kind donations and will be compatible with new the Computer Towers.

This computer lab project will benefit students enrolled in the program, each of whom rely on these computers daily, as well as the program's future students. Since these upgraded computers components will *not* be pre-owned, they will have much greater longevity and serve The Power of Me students for many years to come. These computers will also benefit the community through other Friendly Center programs, such as Job Development and Financial Literacy.

Cost(s)

Total amount-**\$9,790** - broken down as follows:

A. Applied Science Component: Program Kits

- 1. AfterSchool KidzScience Complete Program Kit - \$2,975
<https://www.collaborativeclassroom.org/products/afterschool-kidzscience-complete-program-15-kits/>

- 2. AfterSchool KidzScience Physical Science Kits - \$600
<https://www.collaborativeclassroom.org/products/afterschool-kidzscience-physical-science-kits-grades-3-5/>

Sub-total	<u>\$3,575.00</u>
Plus 8% Tax	<u>\$3,861.00</u>

B. Technology: Computer Lab upgrade purchased by Friendly Center through TechSoup

1. Ten (10) Computer Towers - \$3,000
2. Software: Windows 10, Managed Anti-Virus, Monitoring Software, Microsoft Office – \$1,308
3. Three (3) Laptop Computers utilized by Tutors to facilitate lessons and STEAM activities - \$1,181

Sub-total	<u>\$5489.00</u>
Plus 8% tax	<u>\$5928.00</u>

Total Funding Required

Totals Sections A. plus B. \$3,861.00 + \$5,928 = \$9,789

Grand Total: \$9,789

In the event of any overages, the Rotary Club of Villa Park will take care of those overages.

The supplies being purchased are needed to supply the items for use by The Power of Me – the Science Program kits will last for one program year (July 2019-June 2020) and the Computer Lab will last the program up to 10 years. Computer towers will be purchased through an organization that provides discounted computer equipment and software to non-profits.

Involvement and Recognition of Rotarians

Applied Science Component – Science Kits

Rotarians could purchase the science kits for Friendly Center (“FC”), and come to present them to the students at FC. Rotarians could then observe instruction by the tutors based upon the kits, and tour the FC facilities. FC would then create and submit a press release with Rotary photos and send to Sentry Hills newspaper.

Technology Component - Computers

VPRC will assist in the purchase of the computers, and then present the computers to the students in the computer lab. The Rotarians could then observe instruction in the computer lab and tour the facilities. The FC IT folks would have to set up the computers though. FC would then create and submit a press release with Rotary photos and send to Sentry Hills.