

Benjamin Williamson

From: Kim Leonards <beaskidstutoring@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 3:05 PM
To: Benjamin Williamson
Cc: Kim Leonards
Subject: Bea's Kids Funding
Attachments: Itinerary.pdf; Llamas.jpg; skating.jpg; skating2.jpg; TeamExercises.jpg

Ben,

Good Morning -

Alese asked me to provide additional detail on City of Farmers Branch funding for our organization.

As I presented earlier this year, we are transitioning to a **Summer Enrichment Program** going forward. In the past, Bea's Kids operated tutoring centers in low income apartment complexes until April of this year. The Farmers Branch tutoring center closed in August of 2017 due to a change in ownership of the apartment complex where we operated. The new owners felt there was no value in providing a free apartment to us for the center and gave us 2 weeks to vacate. Due to extremely high overhead costs and decrease in funding over the past few years, we found it difficult to sustain the other two centers in operation and chose to close them under the Bea's Kids name. Our board felt it difficult to come to this decision because we knew there was a need in both Carrollton and Farmers Branch for a service to help these children continue to learn and grow outside of their home environment. Our board of directors decided to continue Bea's Kids, but limit it to a Summer Enrichment Program we could sustain and grow year over year.

Because we have supported the children of Farmers Branch in the past and our program was funded by the City of Farmers Branch in 2018, it was important to make sure our program included children from the Farmers Branch community. Since we have always offered Summer Camp as part of our after school program we continued to offer the Bea's Kids Summer Camp for the children who did attend our after school program in Farmers Branch. Of the 30 children enrolled in our Summer Program, 16 are from Farmers Branch community. We were fortunate enough to be able to employ a former Bea's Kids who also resides in Farmers Branch. This was also important because there is a huge need for this type of enrichment program for these children.

Why is this important for those children?

- Transportation is provided for these children - no parent has to take off work to bring the children to the camp or activities.
- There is no cost to the families to attend this camp.
- They are not at home alone but in a safe environment with their peers and learning to work in groups and communicate with others.
- They receive a hot meal when they get to the camp site and a snack during the afternoon.
- They are receiving educational programs supervised by a qualified teacher and 3 other counselors.
- They are going on field trips that they would otherwise not be able to attend - most of which are local to the community.
- They learn about their community and why it is important to give back to their community.

Why is this important to the city?

1. Citizens of Farmers Branch are being impacted - no cost education programming and food service for the children in low income families.
2. The children are in a safe, supervised program and not loitering around their homes with no structure or supervision. The unsupervised children left alone for many hours of the day tend to get into trouble or cause damage to property thus involving city services to resolve.
3. Business is coming back to the community - we buy and support local. Local businesses are encourage to participate in their community by sponsorship or spending time with the children. We purchased tshirts and printing for our camp from a Farmers Branch local store, not online.
4. Students of the program are promoted by being hired as an intern with pay. This intern has been in the program for over 10 years.

We have limited availability for the camp due to space and transportation (church buses) provided. We had to turn down children and have a waiting list of families who want to attend. When I take a phone call from a child asking me why they cannot get on our camp bus it is heartbreaking to me that I don't have room. I want this Summer Enrichment Program to be bigger and better next year by doubling our enrollment. There is a need for this service and the City of Farmers Branch helps support this.

I encourage any of the council to attend our camp to see the full program in action. I've attached pictures from the 1st two weeks of camp and the itinerary for the camp. With the City's help, we can expand this and double our enrollment for next year.

If the city feels funding is not possible this year, allowing us to use a vacant space and buses (from Senior Center) would help us double our capacity for next summer. I'd like to discuss this in more detail with a city contact.

Thanks again for your consideration and all the support the City of Farmers Branch has provided to Bea's Kids in the past and present.

Regards,

Kim Leonards, Chair
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