

El Pomar Youth in Community Service
GRANT APPLICATION

CONTACT INFORMATION

Organization Name: Third Way Center
Address: P.O. Box 61385
City/State/Zip: Denver, CO 80206 County: Denver
Contact Person: Kate Jordan Phone: (303)780-9191 x. 16
Position: Resource Coordinator Email: kjordan@thirdwaycenter.org
Applying to which High School? Denver Academy

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Non-Profit Status (check one): 501(c)3 Government equivalent

Brief Description of Organization:

“Although their situations seem hopeless, this is a story of hope... Together, with the children, we are breaking the cycle of generations of abuse and neglect, one child and one family at a time.” – Third Way Center

Third Way Center, Inc. (TWC) was originally founded in 1970 by Dr. Hildegard Messenbaugh, M.D. as an overnight shelter for runaway youth. Having experienced poverty and the atrocities of an Austrian concentration camp as a young girl, Dr. Messenbaugh can empathize with the troubled lives and turbulent pasts of the abandoned, abused and emotionally disturbed adolescents treated at the Center. She knows firsthand the challenges children can face, yet she is committed to the concept that there is always hope.

Third Way Center is a private, not-for-profit, licensed residential treatment program that has grown to four residential facilities (including Denver’s only residential treatment center for teen moms), a transitional supervised aftercare program and an accredited alternative school. Since 1970, we have served over 3,200 of Colorado’s homeless, mentally ill, abused and at-risk youth.

Mission of Organization:

Third Way Center’s mission is to *“provide a continuum of services in a home-like environment where high-risk, homeless, mentally ill and disadvantaged youth can work through their problems, learn to take responsibility for their actions and become productive members of society.”*

Our objective is to provide the intensive mental health services necessary for breaking cycles of intergenerational abuse and to modify patterns of destructive behavior. We work to equip residents with education and independent living skills, to come to workable terms with their natural families whenever possible, and to empower clients to support themselves and their future families.

Principal Programs:

Third Way Center provides homes where troubled youth can live and heal from their problems. Our comprehensive programs include: individual, group and family therapy; drug and alcohol abuse treatment; redirecting sexual aggression treatment; transitional housing; independent living skills training; nutritional counseling; an alternative school for residents, GED preparation classes; and vocational training. For most of our residents, Third Way Center is their first real home.

Primary Sources of Funding (i.e. government grants, foundations, individuals):

Funding for Third Way Center comes from Medicaid, HUD, Colorado Department of Education, County mental health funds, private donations, corporate donations and foundation support.

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GRANT APPLICATION (continued)

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High School Name: Denver Academy

GRANT REQUEST

Amount requested: \$1000 (grants typically range from \$500-\$2500)

Type of Request (circle one):

- A. General Operating Costs
- B. Existing Program Support
- C. New Initiative/ New Program Support
- D. Equipment and Supplies**
- E. Other (briefly describe): _____

Please describe how the funds will be used.

Funds received from the Denver Academy will go towards supporting the Lincoln Street facility, a building that houses 22 teenagers and 4 babies in supervised apartments. Lincoln residents learn independent living skills and are required to sign leases for their apartments, work part- or full-time, and pay part of their monthly income to rent. As most of the teens at Lincoln have no families at all to whom they can turn for help, they will be completely on their own when they leave the facility. The residents, therefore, are permitted to take their household items when they leave TWC so they will have the basics to start their new lives. TWC must constantly replenish household goods and furniture so that incoming residents will have what they need. **With \$1,000, the Denver Academy would fully re-stock 5 apartments with beds, tables, lamps, pots and pans, sheets and comforters. These household items, as basic as they may seem to some of us, make a world of difference to someone who is starting out on their own, creating their first home.**

If funded, how will this grant impact your organization and/or the community it serves?

TWC endeavors to help each child help themselves so that when they emancipate from the program, they stand a fighting chance of succeeding in their lives. In the past year, youth who have left the program and who are living independently have maintained these results:

- 92% have remained out of jail
- 89% of residents 18 years or older discharged with a high school diploma or GED
- 73.2% of Lincoln residents were released into stable, safe housing

More than 50% of the teens we treat have lost their biological parents to abandonment, incarceration or death; many of them have been in 25 to 30 placements prior to coming to Third Way. Being able to gather a few personal items like pillows, dishes and beds that the teens can call their own - items that will make up their homes when they leave TWC – helps ensure a brighter and more solid future for these courageous young people who have triumphed over the unimaginable and are now striking out on their own.

Executive Director or equivalent (please print)

Title

Signature of Executive Director or equivalent

Date