



Application for MoneyGram Global Giving Grant

<i>Date of Application: March 13, 2007</i>		
<i>Legal Name of Organization: Third Way Center, Inc.</i>		
<i>Address: P.O. Box 61385</i>		
<i>City, State: Denver, CO</i>	<i>Country: USA</i>	<i>Zip: 80206</i>
<i>Telephone: (303)780-9191</i>	<i>FAX: (303)780-9192</i>	
<i>Name of top paid staff: Hildegard Messenbaugh</i>		
<i>Title: Medical Director</i>	<i>Direct dial Phone # (303)780-9191 x. 61</i>	
<i>Contact Person (if different from top paid staff): Kate Jordan</i>		
<i>Title: Resource Coordinator</i>	<i>Direct dial Phone # (303)780-9191 x. 16</i>	

Organization Description and Mission: (2-3 sentences)

Third Way Center (TWC) 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 3,000 of Colorado’s homeless, mentally ill, abused and at-risk youth.

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.”

Is your organization an IRS 501(c)(3) not-for-profit? (circle one)		Yes	No
	If no, is your organization a public agency/unit of government or religious institution:	Yes	No
	If no, name of fiscal agent (fiscal sponsor)		

Dollar amount being requested: \$10,000

Describe how funds will be used (Attach additional sheets if needed):

Third Way Center’s Young Mothers’ Work-Study Program provides teen mothers an opportunity to attain solid career experience and training while working towards a high school diploma. **Funds received from MoneyGram will go towards scholarships for vocational certification courses at local community education centers, as well as towards stipends for work-study opportunities in area businesses.**

Third Way Center offers the only residential treatment center designed for young mothers and their babies in Denver. 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 (including foster care, failed adoptions, detention facilities and other treatment centers) prior to coming to Third Way Center. Additionally, most of our residents have suffered from long-standing mental and /or physical abuse and neglect.

Young mothers at Third Way Center work hard on addressing their own mental health issues while attending parenting classes so that they will become competent, nurturing parents. There are four Master’s-level clinicians and six mental health workers who provide treatment services and supervise the teen mothers around the clock. While living at Third Way Center, the residents are required to work toward a high school diploma or GED equivalent at the Joan Farley Academy, TWC’s alternative school. The Joan Farley Academy adheres to the same performance requirements

as most regional schools, and currently graduates over 90% of age-eligible students - *a higher graduation rate than Denver public schools.*

While securing sustainable employment is challenging for many people, it is exceedingly difficult for many of the teen mothers at Third Way Center. Most of the young women at Third Way Center do not have families to whom they can turn for help and will be on their own once they leave TWC. This population faces particular disadvantages when venturing into the employment sector due to poor social/coping skills, a lack of positive exposure to working adults in their own lives and an above-average number of logistical deterrents (tremendous adult-level responsibilities at a young age, little or no job readiness skills, no financial resources, and transportation issues).

Moreover, the gap between when a young mother leaves Third Way Center and secures meaningful employment is an extremely vulnerable period for herself as well as for her children. The mothers, therefore, must develop independent living skills while living at TWC in order to support themselves and their babies successfully in the future. While many of the residents at Third Way Center face difficulties in building sustainable careers, it is of vital importance that the teen mothers develop job skills and increase their employability so that they will be able to support their families. The Young Mothers' Work-Study Program addresses this need by providing the financial support and academic/career guidance necessary to identify and hone skills crucial to retaining employment and maintaining self-sufficiency into adulthood.

Funding from MoneyGram would send twelve to fifteen young mothers to community education centers to become certified in programs such as:

- Office Support Specialist
- Nursing Assistance/Home Health Aide
- Accounting and Finance
- Cosmetology/Esthetician
- Stenography
- Business and Computer Technology

Funds would cover tuition and fees, books and supplies. Certification courses range between one and eighteen months in duration and can be completed while students attend school.

In addition, Third Way Center partners with local businesses and nonprofits to place TWC residents in three-month internships onsite. Our top collaborations include:

- Local hotels, nursing homes, childcare facilities, doggy daycare, and law firms
- American Lung Association
- Denver Parks and Recreation
- Goodwill's Earn & Learn Youth Employment
- Governor's Summer Job Hunt
- Mayor's Office of Workforce Development
- Mile High Youth Corp
- Mount Saint Vincents Children's' Home

The internships offer the teens an opportunity to gain invaluable hands-on education and experience in numerous on-the-job-training areas. Funds received from MoneyGram would be used to cover stipends (approximately \$300-\$400 for three months for one student) and for job-related fees such as uniforms and work boots.

All participants in the Young Mothers' Work-Study Program attend job readiness and career exploration classes. Topics include improving organizational skills, time management, resume writing, interview techniques, understanding employee expectations and job retention strategies. The students also identify the various certification programs available for job training and work with independent living counselors to create individualized career development plans.

Project name: Young Mothers' Work-Study Program

If a project, give project duration: Month/Year June 2007 to Month/Year June 2008

Total project budget (for support other than general operating). \$ 44,000

Other sources of funding/revenue: (list major donors and major fundraising activities):

America Honda Foundation

Colorado Department of Human Services

The Denver Foundation

ECA Foundation

Government Aid (FAFSA –Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

Mile High Rotary Club

Rose Women's Organization

Individual Donors (Third Way Center hosts four annual fundraisers and a year-end holiday appeal)

List all charitable review groups have reviewed your organization (i.e. the Minnesota Charities Review Council, GuideStar, etc.):

Better Business Bureau of Denver

Child Welfare League of America

Council on Accreditation (COA)

Colorado Association of Families and Children's Agencies (CAFCA)

Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce

Geographic area served: Third Way Center accepts referrals from all counties in Colorado. Approximately 150 youth are served per year (average length of stay is 6 to 9 months).

Please describe your organization's focus and demographics (i.e. who are you helping, how will the organization use the money, etc.): Third Way Center provides a full continuum of residential treatment services within a community-based and deinstitutionalized setting. These 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 with intensive testing and tutoring, GED preparation classes; vocational guidance and recreational activities.

Most of our residents are 15 to 19 years old and have severe mental health and/or behavioral issues that have led to homelessness, functional illiteracy, learning disabilities, chronic truancy, teen pregnancy, drug abuse, crime, delinquency, suicide and other dysfunctional behaviors. The ethnicity of our residents is:

- Caucasian -- 36%
- African American -- 31%
- Hispanic -- 31%
- Asian/Pacific Islander -- 1%
- Native American -- 1%

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. For most of our residents, Third Way Center is their first real home. Although these children appear hopeless, Third Way Center successfully emancipates approximately 70% of our clients into the community.

With support from MoneyGram, these young women will have the opportunity to gain significant work experience and training, as well as the initial funds necessary to transition their families out into the working world, while pursuing their education.

Was organization referred by a MoneyGram employee? Yes No If yes, who? Jacque Williams

List Board Members and affiliations:

Mr. William Matthews, President, Board of Directors, Six years
Professional Artist, Owner: William Matthews Gallery

Mrs. Marilyn Dana, Board Member at Large, Ten years
Sales Manager – Remax Computer Technology-sales

Mr. David Eisner, Board Member at Large, Eight years
Executive Director, Third Way Center

Mr. Joel Farkas, Board Member at Large, Four years
Real Estate Developer – Gateway American Properties

Mr. Gary Gray, Board Member at Large, Eight years
Community Leader

Mrs. Sally Johnston, Board Member at Large, Two years
Community Leader, Vail, CO, Owner: Christiania Lodge, Owner: Vail Antiques

Dr. Hildegard Messenbaugh, Board Member at Large, FOUNDER - 36 years
Program/Medical Director, Third Way Center, Licensed Psychiatrist

Mark Messenbaugh, Board Member at Large, two years
Director, Partnership of Development - Office of Attorney General; Boys & Girls Clubs of America

May we use your name in our external communications? Yes No

Signature _____ Title _____ Date _____



Please return grant application form to:
MoneyGram Global Giving Program, 1550 Utica Avenue South, Suite 100, MS 8065,
Minneapolis, MN 55416

For office use only: Application received on: _____ By: _____