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Title: Grant Proposal for Community and Animal Welfare Initiatives

Organization: Capital Area Food Bank

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Executive Summary

This proposal outlines the Capital Area Food Bank's (CAFB) strategic efforts to address food insecurity and community well-being through targeted partnerships and innovative programs. We seek a total of \$430,398 in funding--\$200,000 over two years for Gateway Pet Guardians (GPG) to stabilize and expand pet resource services, and \$230,398 for United Way of Greater Charlotte's AmeriCorps program to enhance neighborhood engagement and address social determinants of health. These initiatives align with CAFB's mission to combat hunger and promote equity, leveraging evidence-based strategies to foster resilient, healthy communities. Funding will support program expansion, community outreach, and sustainable impact measurement, ensuring that vulnerable populations receive comprehensive support to thrive.

Statement of Need

Food insecurity remains a pressing challenge in our region, with over 26% of residents in targeted neighborhoods relying on Food and Nutrition Services--more than twice the county average. Disinvestment has led to increased poverty, housing instability, and limited access to essential services, exacerbating health disparities and social inequities. Simultaneously, the community faces a significant pet overpopulation crisis, with approximately 6.3 million animals entering shelters annually nationwide, and many pets being relinquished due to barriers to veterinary care and resources. Addressing these intertwined issues requires a holistic, community-driven approach that promotes food security, animal welfare, and social cohesion, particularly in neighborhoods with high rates of poverty, minority populations, and housing instability.

Program Description

The proposed programs focus on two key initiatives: Gateway Pet Guardians (GPG) and United Way of Greater Charlotte's AmeriCorps service members. GPG provides accessible veterinary care, pet pantries, affordable pet supplies, and professional grooming to remove barriers to pet ownership, thereby reducing



shelter intake and promoting animal health. Over the next two years, GPG aims to spay/neuter 400 community pets annually and vaccinate 1,500 pets through its walk-in clinics, directly impacting community health and pet retention. Concurrently, United Way's AmeriCorps members will serve within six 'corridors of opportunity,' engaging approximately 83,000 residents--primarily Black and Hispanic populations--in neighborhood revitalization efforts. They will facilitate community events, connect residents to services, and support the development of Community Quarterbacks--local leaders who identify assets and needs, foster resident engagement, and increase awareness of available resources. These programs work synergistically to address social determinants of health, reduce poverty, and promote community resilience.

Goals & Objectives

Goal 1: Strengthen and stabilize GPG's pet resource programs to ensure long-term sustainability and community impact.

- Objective 1.1: Secure \$200,000 over two years to support operational costs.
- Objective 1.2: Increase spay/neuter services to 400 pets annually.
- Objective 1.3: Vaccinate 1,500 pets annually through walk-in clinics.

Goal 2: Enhance neighborhood engagement and address social determinants of health through United Way's AmeriCorps program.

- Objective 2.1: Deploy 8 AmeriCorps members to serve within six neighborhoods.
- Objective 2.2: Increase resident awareness of Community Quarterbacks and services.
- Objective 2.3: Facilitate at least 50 community events and outreach activities over two years.
- Objective 2.4: Improve resident engagement and resource utilization, reducing neighborhood disparities.

Implementation Timeline

Year 1:

- Q1: Finalize partnerships, recruit AmeriCorps members, and initiate community outreach.
- Q2: Launch GPG stabilization efforts, begin vaccination clinics, and community events.
- Q3: Expand pet spay/neuter services; conduct neighborhood surveys and engagement activities.
- Q4: Evaluate program progress, adjust strategies, and report outcomes.



Year 2:

- Q1: Continue service delivery, deepen community engagement.
- Q2: Scale up pet services and neighborhood outreach.
- Q3: Conduct comprehensive program evaluation.
- Q4: Prepare final report, sustain partnerships, and plan for future growth.

Budget + Justification

Total Funding Requested: \$430,398

1. Gateway Pet Guardians - \$200,000 (over two years):

- Operational costs, veterinary supplies, staff salaries, and program expansion.

2. United Way AmeriCorps Program - \$230,398:

- Service member stipends, training, program materials, and community event expenses.

Matching Funds:

- GPG and United Way will secure \$222,850 in private funding, ensuring program sustainability.

Justification:

Funding will enable GPG to stabilize and expand vital pet services, reducing shelter intake and promoting pet retention. Simultaneously, AmeriCorps members will foster neighborhood engagement, increase awareness of community resources, and support social determinants of health, directly addressing disparities in the targeted neighborhoods.

Evaluation Plan

Program success will be measured through quantitative and qualitative metrics:

- GPG: Number of pets spayed/neutered, vaccinated, and served through clinics; shelter intake reduction; community pet retention rates.
- United Way: Resident engagement levels, number of community events held, increased awareness of Community Quarterbacks, and utilization of services.
- Data collection will include surveys, service records, and community feedback. Regular progress reports



will be submitted quarterly, with a comprehensive evaluation at the end of Year 2 to assess outcomes, identify areas for improvement, and inform future sustainability strategies.

Staff & Organizational Background

Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB) is a leader in addressing food insecurity and social inequities in our region. Our team includes experienced professionals dedicated to community health, food medicine, and equitable service delivery. Key staff involved in this initiative include:

- Jane Doe, Director of Grants and Partnerships, with extensive experience in nonprofit program development.
- Our leadership team actively collaborates with local organizations, government agencies, and community stakeholders to ensure program relevance and sustainability.

Gateway Pet Guardians is a vital partner, bringing expertise in animal welfare and community outreach. Their leadership team, including Executive Director Alisha Vianello and Community Outreach Director Jill Henke, has demonstrated success in expanding access to veterinary care and reducing shelter populations. United Way's team, led by experienced program managers, brings a strong track record of neighborhood revitalization and AmeriCorps service delivery.

Appendices

- A. Letters of Support from Community Partners
- B. Detailed Budget Breakdown
- C. Organizational Charts
- D. Program Logic Models
- E. Data Collection Tools and Evaluation Metrics
- F. Profiles of Key Staff and AmeriCorps Members
- G. Community Demographics and Needs Assessment Data