



Thoughts for Tots



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 1985 we at Network of Community Ministries have strived to provide an improved quality of life for those within our reach by empowering, coaching, and overall caring for our neighbors. Our mission continues to take shape in the communities throughout the metroplex as we have had the joy of using 85% of our funding in order to better serve the homeless and hungry. Many of these past projects have been made possible with the generous support of organizations such as: Dallas Morning News Charities, Exxon Mobil Foundation, Hillcrest Foundation, etc. Without the support of these organizations many projects like our food pantries, clothing closets, more would not have been possible.

As we continue to grow in our need to support, our project for the establishment of a childcare program will work to support our surrounding low-income children. By establishing a program that positively occupies children with educational learnings, unemployed parents will be enabled to take advantage familial support offered by our organization.

As many studies show, children that have access to assisted living resources are more like to grow in their learning while also allowing their community to prosper. Overall, the outcome is to be able to see a drastic increase in the turnout of support programs following the childcare establishment.

NEEDS STATEMENT

Through establishing a childcare program, we hope to encourage the parents/guardians to take advantage of opportunities to establish themselves and support their families. For both parties we will address the problem of educational engagement and employment rate of low-income families. In one scenario, guardians that are without employment assume the full-time responsibility of caring for children with little time to seek out support. In another scenario, youth living in low-income environments are more likely to drop out of school due to a need to support their family or lack of engagement within school.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

At *Tots for Thoughts* we will seek to educate children (ages 1 to 12) in Arts and Science lesson plans. Both subjects will be further divided by age group to ensure that the children are on track with the learning that corresponds to both grade-level and age. The chosen subjects are necessary for fostering intellect and creativity that will sustain a positive mindset towards gaining an education. Each subject will cover multiple activities that alternate by the day of the week. Mondays and Wednesdays will be designated for crafts activities, while Tuesdays and Thursdays will contain assignments for Both subjects will contain the following activities:

Arts

- Display gallery for crafts
- Craft
- Use of different mediums (crayons, markers, etc.)

Science

- Display gallery for crafts
- Craft
- Worksheet/ Fill-in assignments

In addition to the learning sessions, children will still have the chance to showcase their work and accomplishments for their guardians. By implementing a gallery within the care center, the gap between guardian involvement in children's education will be bridged.

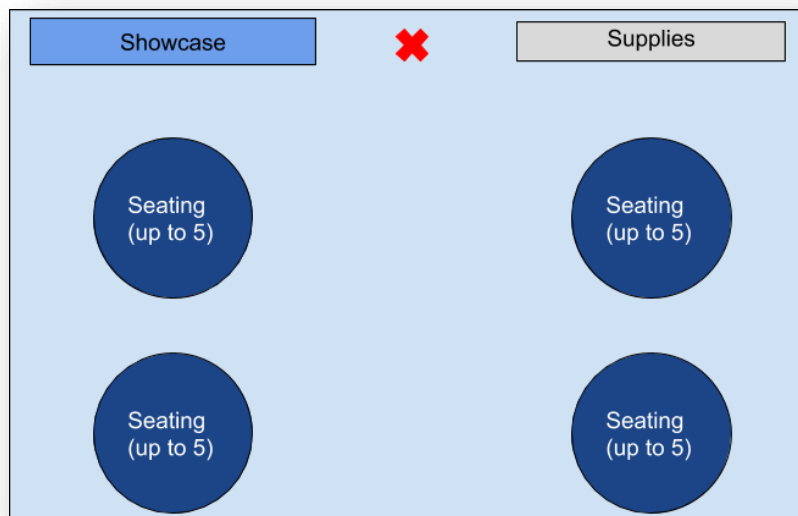


Figure 1: Projected Layout

OUTCOMES AND EVALUATION

In the envisioned success of the project the childcare program will establish successful learning habits for children. This goal will be measured in the following ways:

- Number of attendances for familial support programs
- Rise/ decline in attendance of youth in surrounding schools
- Rise/ decline of employment

Parents can seek out careers while their children are cared for; and, children will be provided with attention and learning outside of their living.

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Network of Community Ministries is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a service area that encompasses the entirety of the 14 zip codes within RISD, including the portion of these zip codes that extend into the Plano, Garland, and Dallas ISD areas. Founded in 1985, Network began during an economic downturn when several churches and community organizations came together to form an alliance to assist families in need, and thus the term “Network” of Community Ministries was born.

Our mission is to care, coach and empower our neighbors in need as they seek an improved quality of life.

Network is a non-denominational, community-based organization serving nearly 9,000 individuals annually through over 47,000 units of service. Current programming at Network includes Emergency Services (food, clothing, utilities, rent and income supports), a Medical & Dental voucher program, Seniors’ Net (supplemental food, handyman service, companion calls, information and referrals), and Stabilization Programs (Pathways case management and stability planning, Job Resource Center, Financial Empowerment Classes).

Figure 2: Organization's Bio

MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

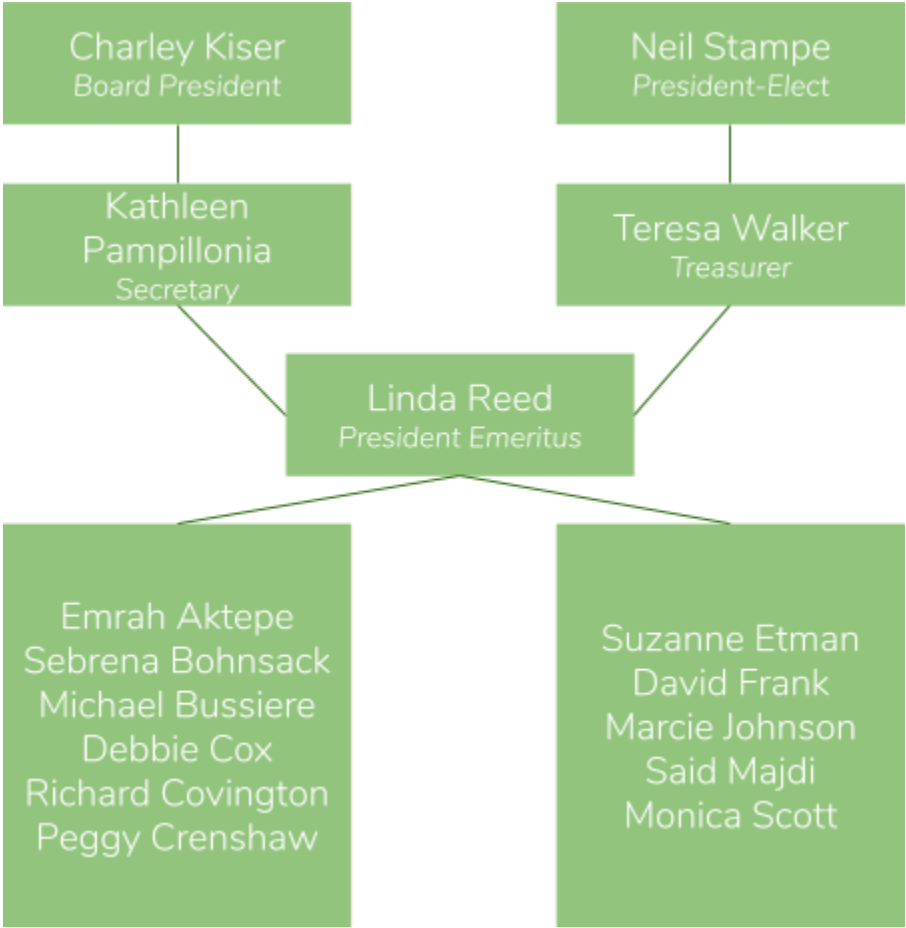


Figure 3: Organization's Board Members

BUDGET

In requesting the amount of \$5,000 for the *Thoughts for Tots* program we intend to utilize the budget to cover supplies needed for the Arts and Sciences lesson plans; the amount will be evenly split between both subjects.

Arts (\$2,500)	Science (\$2,500)
Paper	Styrofoam
Markers	Glue
Paints & Brushes	Construction Paper
Pens	Popsicle Sticks
Pencils	

Table 1: Supplies and Budget

CLOSING REMARKS

Our vision of fostering an atmosphere of positive learning for disadvantaged children can be made possible with the requested amount of \$5,000. In our program children will be taught to yearn for educational activities while their guardians can use the time to get the care that they need and ultimately stabilize their households. The amount will ensure the progressive start of the program and allow for semi-annual stocking of supplies without cutting into the building budget. Our joint mission of providing for families in need is not only encouraging for the program, but for the lives in our surrounding communities.

We thank you for your time. Please contact me at **972-234-8880** for additional questions and concerns.

