SOROPTIMIST®

Investing in Dreams

Community Grant Application

Since 1930, Soroptimist International of Chico's mission is to improve the lives of women and girls by providing them with resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams. We are a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve social and economic empowerment. To learn more, go to SoroptimistChico.org.

Please tell us about your nonprofit organization

- Nonprofit Name: Boys and Girls Clubs of the North Valley
- Website Address: www.bgcnv.org
- Facebook Address: https://www.facebook.com/BGCNorthValley
- Mailing Address: 601 Wall St. Chico, CA 95928
- Contact Name & Title: Rashell Brobst, CEO
- Contact Email: rbrobst@bgcnv.org
- Preferred Phone: 530-899-0335 x2206

What is the mission of your nonprofit organization?

Boys & Girls Clubs of the North Valley (BGCNV) formed in 1995 to provide comprehensive youth development services, activities and programs for those in Butte and Glenn Counties. We are governed by a local volunteer board and staffed with more than 60 youth development professionals. Our mission is to inspire and enable all youth to reach their full potential as responsible, caring and productive citizens. The BGCNV offers tested, proven, and nationally recognized programs within five core areas: Character & Leadership, Academic & Career Development, Health & Life Skills, the Arts; and Sports, Fitness & Recreation. Each year, the BGCNV provides direct services to an average of 2,000 youth of Butte and Glenn Counties; through COVID restrictions we served 1,217 youth in 2020. The BGCNV offers wrap-around services to youth and their families, fosters positive friendships and adult relationships, and provides a safe place for children to go every day after school and throughout the summer. Our commitment to our youth is in finding ways to engage, encourage and have fun while participating in our programs. Simply put our clubs: *are a consistent space that provides the social, emotional, and physical safety that every child needs to learn and grow. *have diverse programs and activities designed to expose young people to a variety of enriching experiences and skill-building opportunities. *foster hope through youth development strategy to create a sense of belonging, usefulness, competence and influence.

How does your nonprofit organization benefit women and girls?

The BGCNV is an inclusive Club for youth ages 6-18. We are proudly a woman-led organization by our CEO, Rashell Brobst and an equal opportunity employer that seeks to employ passionate individuals, eager to make an impact on the life of our members. 45% of the youth that we serve identify as female. We provide programs that teach positive self-esteem, the qualities of strong women, and safe environments that our girls can share their life experiences, struggles, and accomplishments through Smart Girls. Within this program we choose successful, diverse, female staff to lead our young girls to understand what it means to be a strong, independent, intelligent, and successful woman in today's world. In addition to Smart Girls, we find that our members are empowered through our Interactive Journaling program where our youth get the chance to write about and express their emotions in safe spaces.

Briefly describe the project or nature of the needs of your nonprofit organization. Is this a new or ongoing expense?

Each year the BGCNV serves those in greatest need with 58% living below the poverty level, 63% living in non-traditional households, 54% relying on social services, and 22% reporting housing insecurity. The BGCNV does not give up on kids and often will take those students who have been kicked out of other after school care

programs. Instead, we believe that children are our future and our hope. We believe that we have the ability to affect change in these students and see them grow into thoughtful, productive individuals who will work hard and give back to the community. Each year we scholarship approximately 66% of students who are in need of our services and due to family circumstances cannot afford to pay. We believe in doing whatever it takes to see that all students are given the opportunity to grow, learn, and play; and we will continue to do whatever it takes to make sure that those in greatest need are able to receive the support and care that they need.

How many people will these funds benefit? What percentage are women and girls?

50 female youth from Chico will receive scholarships for year-long after school care at the BGCNV.

What is the estimated cost of the project or needs of your nonprofit organization?

The cost of caring for one child for an entire school year is approximately $3500. The BGCNV believes that our services should not be cost prohibitive. Through fundraising efforts, grant writing, and community partners we are able to significantly reduce the required membership fee costs to a mere $100 for the entire school year. For many of our families this is still a barrier for after school care services. These funds will help support the 58% of our families that live below the poverty line.

How much are you requesting?

$5,000

How did you hear about Soroptimist?

In 2019 our CEO, Rashell Brobst, was honored to receive the Ruby Award at our Chico Soroptimist. It is through a long-standing relationship with Soroptimist and that of Kim Huber, a member of the Giving Committee, that we were passed along the grant application and asked to apply. Our partnership with Soroptimist is long standing. Under President Julie Curl, Soroptimist supported the creation of the Serenity Room at our Chico Clubhouse. This space continues to serve its purpose and more especially in light of all the recent traumas in our region. We look forward to continuing to develop and grow our relationship with Soroptimist for many years to come.

Have you requested funds from Soroptimist International of Chico or any Soroptimist club in the past?

Yes. Through your generous support we have been able to fund our Serenity Room at our Chico Clubhouse; a safe and quiet space for those members who need a calm environment in order to focus during Power Hour. We also requested funds from your Camp Fire application to support women in the burn scar area who needed direct assistance funds to support their everyday life and survival. For some women that meant $300 for work clothes, for another single mom it was a car repair. These funds helped make a significant impact in the day to day challenges in life, freeing these women from one small hurdle can often mean opening many more doors for future opportunities. We also were able to scholarship 50 youth on the Ridge with school year services through the Camp Fire grant.

Were funds approved? If so, when and how much?

2020- $7500 for scholarships and direct assistance.
2019- $7500 to support the Chico Phoenix Club
2018- $2000 to transform the Serenity Room

If Soroptimist International of Chico has contributed to your non-profit in the past, how were the funds used and publicly recognized? Please be specific.

With every major donor gift we commit to sharing with our board of directors, families and the public about our incredible partners. We have promoted through signage in our building, press releases, social media posts, our kiosk on our building, logos shared on signage and t-shirts, on our website, and in communication with families that have received funding.

Please note that our review and procedural process is about 3-4 months and that our volunteer service organization is not in session during the Summer from July 1 to August 31. Feel free to attach additional information to your application.

Send completed applications to Giving@SoroptimistChico.org