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:** Catalyst
- **Website Address:** www.catalystdvsv.org
- **Facebook Address:** https://www.facebook.com/CatalystDVSV
- **Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4184 Chico CA 95927**
- **Contact Name & Title:** Nat Calcutta (SHE/HER), Children's Advocate / Daryll Woodcock (SHE/HER) Children's Advocate
- **Contact Email:** natalie@catalystdvsv.org | Daryll@catalystdvsv.org
- **Preferred Phone:** (915) 343-4706 | (916) 852-5649

What is the mission of your nonprofit organization?

Our mission is to prevent and respond to domestic and sexual violence through inclusive, healing-centered services, education, and community engagement.

How does your nonprofit organization benefit women and girls?

Catalyst provides safe housing, therapy, restraining assistance, a 24hr hotline and exam accompaniment to survivors in Butte and Glenn counties. Though agency services Catalyst has been able to assist, refer, support

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

We seek funding to provide enriching outings for the children of survivors when traditional childcare is unavailable, enabling parents to attend critical appointments such as therapy sessions, housing meetings, and other essential support services with Catalyst.

Catalyst's Children's Program seeks to bridge this gap by offering child-centered enrichment activities that go beyond basic care. These activities take place in safe, engaging environments and are tailored to children's preferences, supported by parental guidance and comprehensive safety planning. Outings to local spaces, such as the Chico Children's Museum, provide children with opportunities for play, exploration, and creativity. Activities like art, music, and movement foster emotional, social, and cognitive development while building confidence, teamwork, and resilience.

Even short-term experiences can spark joy, provide a sense of normalcy, and allow children to express themselves in healthy ways. These Positive Childhood Experiences, chaperoned by a Children's Advocate or trained volunteer, help children feel valued, supported, and safe—contributing to their emotional well-being and long-term resilience.

By creating enriching opportunities away from potentially stressful settings, such as office lobbies where triggering conversations might occur, this program offers meaningful respite for children and peace of mind for parents. It reduces the need for survivors to cancel essential meetings or attend with a divided focus when traditional childcare fails, ensuring they can fully engage with the resources and support they need.

Additionally, the program supports parents in establishing long-term childcare solutions, fostering stability for their families. By funding this initiative, we can provide immediate relief, foster growth and joy in children, and empower families on their path to stability.

How many people will these funds benefit? What percentage are women and girls?
This service could help support an estimated 150 children and 80 survivors with children who have who have received support from the therapy, restraining order programs and whose need was identified. The estimated percentage of female identifying survivors this service could support is 90%.

What is the estimated cost of the project or needs of your nonprofit organization? An estimated $5,300.00

How much are you requesting? $5,500.00

How did you hear about Soroptimist? Soroptimist International of Chico has supported Catalyst over the years in a variety of ways; the remodel of the children's playroom, various essential toiletry items donations and contributions to our previous Youth Empowered conferences.

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

Were funds approved? If so, when and how much?
Yes, for $6,000 in November of 2021, presented by Billie Araiza.

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.
The funds requested were used by the Children's Program for the remodel of the children's playroom at Catalyst's confidential emergency shelter. The update included adaptable individual seating, a new sofa, weighted blankets, family games, books, new flooring, paint, and a new projector! All changes were inspired to create a safe and welcoming space for families to bond and children to play, do homework, create art. It is accessible to all ages and can be used in a variety of ways.

Public recognition of Soroptimist of Chico's contribution to Catalyst:

- Catalyst Spring Newsletter
- Catalyst Instagram Post
- Catalyst Facebook Post
- Chico ER article

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