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PROGRAM SUMMARY

Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity respectfully requests a Recognition Grant of \$4269.00 from Texas Rural Communities. These dollars will benefit our ReStore Outlet's recently launched Green Pick Up Program by allowing for the purchase and installation of a lift gate for the 24' box truck.

The ReStore Outlet, whose proceeds benefit Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity, is the region's only source for recycling building materials and furniture in our region. The Green Pick Up program will provide on demand pick up service of building materials and furniture in the 10-county area that includes the following rural counties: Victoria, Dewitt, Jackson, Lavaca, Goliad, Calhoun, Refugio, Colorado, Bee and Gonzales.

The Green Pick Up Program is expected to increase ReStore donations by 25%, resulting in a 25% increase in landfill diversion, a 25% increase in ReStore Outlet sales, and a 25% increase in the ReStore's contribution to Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity.



I. CONTACT INFORMATION

a. Contact Person

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b. Organization Contact Information

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II. ORGANIZATIONAL DESCRIPTION

Recognizing the dire need for affordable housing in our community a dedicated group of community leaders founded Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity (GCHFH), an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, in 1994. GCHFH is a nonprofit, Christian ecumenical housing ministry that builds quality, simple decent houses in cooperation with low-income homebuyers and the South Texas region of Victoria, Goliad, Lavaca and Jackson counties. Our mission is: *“Seeking to put God’s love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build Homes, Communities and Hope.”*

Qualified, low-income families earning between 35-50% of area median income, work alongside community volunteers to build the houses, which are funded by local individuals, civic groups, churches and corporations. The families then purchase the home at cost and repay the 0%-interest mortgage over thirty years. The funds from the repaid mortgages create a sustainable income source for the construction of future homes.

In 1999, the Board of Directors established the ReStore Outlet as a vital component and revenue source for GCHFH. The ReStore accepts donations of new and used building materials, housing fixtures and furniture from diverse sources, uses these materials when possible in the construction of new GCHFH homes and sells the remainder through the retail outlet, located at 1101 N. William Street in Victoria. These materials would have otherwise been discarded. To date, the ReStore Outlet has diverted an estimated 2.6 million pounds of refuse from the landfill. Proceeds of the sale of these items support our mission to build simple, decent houses. In FY 2013, the ReStore is budgeted to contribute \$70,000 of net proceeds to Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity, enough to fund an entire house.

III. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Statement of Need

Poverty and lack of affordable housing remain a dire need in our community:

- 1 in 4 U.S. working households experience a severe housing cost burden, defined as spending more than half their income on housing. (Center for Housing Policy's Housing Landscape 2013)
- In Victoria County over 16% of the population lives in poverty. (Census Bureau)

Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity remains the only provider of new affordable house construction for families earning less than 50% of area media income and is cited in the City of Victoria's 20-year Comprehensive Plan as integral part of the plan to reduce substandard housing. (Vision Victoria 2025, City of Victoria Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 5) <http://www.victoriatx.org/developmentservices/compplan/CompPlan07update.pdf>

Program Description

As stated, proceeds from the ReStore Outlet help fund the houses that address this need. Currently, the ReStore Outlet is the only building material recycling center in the Golden Crescent Region. Therefore these unwanted items are either donated to us, sent to landfills or in worst case scenarios irresponsibly burned or discarded of in ditches or rural properties.

Often these types of materials are bulky and hard to move so people opt not to recycle them because of logistical challenges. To address these challenges, GCHFH recently began implementing a "Green Pick Up Program," featuring a 24' box truck, with lift gate, that will provide on-demand pick up service in 10 counties, all of which meet the Texas Rural Communities definition of rural.

Program Beneficiaries

The ReStore Outlet's Green Pick Up Program has two primary beneficiaries: the residents of the Golden Crescent and the Habitat partner families. First and foremost, by providing on demand pick up service of building materials and furniture, the program will benefit a 10-County region that includes the following rural counties: Victoria, Dewitt, Jackson, Lavaca Goliad, Calhoun, Refugio, Colorado, Bee and Gonzales. The pick up service will be available to all residents, regardless of age, ethnicity, or income. In total, 89,685 households will have access to this service.

Additionally, because the proceeds from the ReStore Outlet are used to fund Habitat for Humanity homes, the implementation of the Green Pick Up Program, which increases the ReStore Outlet's revenue, also benefits the families partnering with GCHFH to build their homes. On average, GCHFH builds four homes each year in the rural counties of Victoria, Goliad, Lavaca and Jackson.

Futhermore, through its positive environmental impact, the program benefits all residents of the 10-County region, regardless of whether or not they participate. The ReStore Outlet also provides a source for purchasing low-cost building materials and furniture for residents, many who could not otherwise afford the costs.

Impact

While GCHFH is applying for a Recognition Grant, not an Impact Grant, it is worth noting that as the only source for recycling building materials and furniture in our entire 10-county region, the ReStore Outlet and the Green Pick Up Program is incredibly unique and innovative and results in a huge positive impact for these communities. The ReStore Outlet diverts an estimated 150,000 pounds from the landfill each year.

Program Budget

GCHFH is requesting a Recognition Grant from TRC and would gratefully accept an amount less than what is proposed if TRC is unable to fund the full amount.

ITEM DESCRIPTION	COST	TOTALS
24' Box Truck	\$8500*	
Lift Gate, Installed	\$3969	
Minor Repairs to Truck	\$300	
Painting Truck	\$2250	
Wrapping Truck	\$3500	
TOTAL COST OF PROGRAM		\$18,519.00
Total provided by GCHFH (Revenue from Annual Giving Campaign & Local Foundations)		\$15,019.00
<i>Total proposed to TRC</i>		\$4269.00

*A used truck was sold to GCHFH at less than half of Blue Book value due to our charitable mission.

Outcomes and Accomplishments

The Green Pick Up Program will have a significant impact on both the ReStore Outlet and the mission of GCHFH, by realizing the following goals:

1. Annual donations to the ReStore Outlet of building materials, fixtures and furniture will increase by 25%, resulting in a 25% increase in landfill diversion.
2. Annual ReStore Outlet store sales will increase by 25%.

3. Annual ReStore Outlet contribution to GCHFH will increase from \$70,000 to \$84,000.

Program Timeline

The 24' box truck was recently purchased and implementation of the program has begun in a limited capacity due to the inability to lift items over a certain weight without a lift gate. Upon receipt of funding, the lift gate, which has been identified, will be installed and the minor repairs necessary for this installation will be done at that time, completely expending the grant funds. The program will be fully up and running within one month of funding.

Prior Funding

Golden Crescent Habitat for Humanity has never received funding from Texas Rural Communities.