

## **Bridge the Gap Summary Report**

### **Information about the Applicant**

Since its inception (2008), BTG has successfully grown its non-profit organization from a support group of a few families with children on the autism spectrum to an organization that provides numerous successful programs such as daily living skills, individual/group therapies, summer camps, preschool, sensory swim, children, teen and adult programs, mentoring programs, individualized education plan (IEP) assistance, social skills classes, friendship groups, employment and community support. BTG is proud to be an autism education consultant to area businesses, community organizations and school districts.

BTG's mission is to provide a safe, non judgmental environment for those with Autism and all special abilities to reach their full potential as they journey from childhood through adolescence and into adulthood. Our purpose is to provide individualized client programs and therapeutic interventions, strengthen familial ties through education, and raise public awareness of Autism and other special abilities. BTG believes our programs align with Wisconsin's ideals of creating "more opportunities" for improving the lives of persons with disabilities across Wisconsin.

In 2020, BTG opened its very own BTG Special Education Academy in Shawano, WI! BTG partners with 6 surrounding school districts to provide their specific schools' special education curriculum to students on the autism spectrum with their special education curriculum in an autism friendly environment (i.e. small instruction size, sensory pleasing for those with sensory disorders, etc).

In April, 2021 BTG opened a second sister location in Green Bay, WI to accommodate the abundance of clients that were coming from the Green Bay area to our Shawano location. All programming is mirrored off of the Shawano location. In the first year of operation, BTG serviced 107 clients at our Green Bay location. BTG also has a BTG Special Education Academy at the Green Bay location which began the school year of 2021/2022 which served 5 students.

In 2021 our Green Bay location serviced 107 clients, while our Shawano location, which is more rural, serviced 83 clients. For the school year of 2021/2022 the Shawano Special Education Academy serviced 8 students.

### **Statement of Need**

BTG is respectfully requesting \$7,450 for "program/outing and travel expenses" for our Summer 2023 Teen/Young Adult daily living skills group to go on their "life skill building" community outings at our "Shawano" Community Outreach Center location. (Shawano County pop. 40,859/poverty rate=10.3%). BTG also services the Menominee Indian

Reservation which is located in Menominee County and is located adjacent to Shawano County (Menominee County pop. 4,289/poverty rate= 22.6%)

County funding pays for salaries and operating expenses such as rent, utilities, etc, but does not cover the cost of community outing expenses.

### **Project Goals and Expected Benefits**

The purpose of this program is to build trust, engage teens and young adults in social situations, empower them to speak up positively for themselves and their peers, to extend a feeling of welcome, defining roles and responsibilities, promote skills development in the community, and to model appropriate behaviors both in the center and on outings. These groups are related to Wisconsin's ideals in that they make "lasting community impacts" by teaching useful, "life long skills" that will assist those with all abilities to become happy, healthy productive citizens as they journey throughout their lives.

Goal 1: Increase the physical health of the client Goal 2: Increase the mental health of the client Goal 3: Increase the emotional health of the client

Measure 1: client will exhibit 2 physical safety skills of creating identification cards for their wallets and learn to call 911 for appropriate emergencies. (will be documented per staff member in client's file at end of program)

Measure 2: client, family member and/or staff will report on survey a decrease in anxiety pertaining to attending community outings after participating in mentoring outings in community at completion of the program.

Measure 3: client will learn 2 friendship skills by end of mentoring program which will increase their emotional well being. (will be documented per staff member in the client's file at the end of the program).

### **Project Implementation Plan**

Due to the HIGH request for mentoring programs, BTG broke groups in half. Each group meets weekly. There are 20 clients per each teen/young adult group per 5 trained staff members. See itinerary for timeline for both teen/young adult groups Staff include: 1 center director, 4 highly trained line staff.

### **Evaluation Plan**

Measure 1: client will exhibit 2 physical safety skills of creating identification cards for their wallets and learn to call 911 for appropriate emergencies. (will be documented per staff member in client's file at end of program)

Measure 2: client, family member and/or staff will report on survey a decrease in anxiety pertaining to attending community outings after participating in mentoring outings in community at completion of the program.

Measure 3: client will learn 2 friendship skills by end of mentoring program which will increase their emotional well being. (will be documented per staff member in the client's file at the end of the program).

### **Budget**

Total Budget for Teen/Young Adult Group = \$12,890

Overall Program Costs for Teen/Young Adult Group = \$5,250 (Wisconsin/pending)

Overall Staff Costs for Teen/Young Adult Group = \$5,440 (County/secured)

Overall Travel Costs for Teen/Young Adult Group = \$2,200 (Wisconsin/pending)

Teen/Young Adult Daily Living Skills Summer Program 2023 Scavenger Hunt Around Shawano

Cost=\$50, Staff=\$400, Travel=\$100

Discussion and out for dinner

Cost=\$400, Staff=\$400, \$50

Talent Show, lunch and discussion

Cost=\$400, Staff=\$400, Travel=\$50

Discussion and try new foods

Cost=\$100, Staff=\$400, Travel=\$0

Farmers market (Green Bay) w/ dinner

Cost=\$400, Staff=\$400, Travel=\$100 Bay

Beach Trip (lunch & tickets)

Cost=\$400, Staff=\$400, Travel=\$100

Green Bay Center day out to eat

Cost=\$400, Staff=\$400, Travel=\$100

Discussion at Center/mini golf/lunch

Cost=\$700, Staff=\$400, Travel=\$100

Wisconsin Dells Trip (lunch, dinner, tickets)

Cost=\$1400, Staff=\$1400, Travel=\$1500

Jake/Jannas Swimming Day

Cost=\$400, Staff=\$400, Travel=\$100

Serve it up for families Cost=\$300, Staff

\$400, Travel=\$0

End of Summer Party

Cost=\$300, Staff=\$400, Travel=\$0

*Total Weekly Program Costs:: \$5,250 (Wisconsin/ pending)*

*Total Weekly Staff Costs= \$5,440 (County/ secured) Total*

*Weekly Travel Costs= \$2,200 (Wisconsin/ pending) Overall*

*Program Cost= \$7,450*

**Staff Recommendation**

The grant application can be approved. The proceeds provided to Bridge the Gap would be applied toward program and travel expense associated with their offerings. These funds would directly benefit the persons with disabilities and are qualified costs.