

Curative Connections Summary Report

Information about the Applicant

For almost 75 years, Curative Connections has helped people find support and care due to aging, dementia, brain injury or disability. We began as a polio clinic in 1948 and have evolved based on community needs. In the 1980's, our name was N.E.W. Curative Workshop, and our focus was on rehabilitation, training and employment services.

Today, we provide individualized programs for more than 1,200 people each week and we meet each person where they are in their journey to help them navigate options that support their goals for independence. The 13 programs offered allow clients to build skills, have a better quality of life, a more independent way of living, and an enriching opportunity to grow. Programs include training and employment services, dementia and healthy aging services, home and community services, adult day services, specialized transportation services, and brain rehabilitation services.

Curative Connections defines the supported individuals as adults age 60 and older and people with disabilities who utilize our Specialized Transportation Services to access medical appointments, grocery shopping, jobs, and social outings.

Statement of Need

We request funding to support our Specialized Transportation Services, which provide door- to-door transportation ANYWHERE in Brown County, to adults age 60 and older and people with disabilities, allowing them to lead a more fulfilling, self-sufficient lifestyle. These rides are critical as clients rely upon us to get them to doctor appointments, jobs, grocery shopping, social outings, and more. A large vehicle fleet includes cars and accessible vans/buses to accommodate various mobility levels. The program is staffed primarily by volunteers, which enables Curative Connections to offer rides for more than 200 individuals each day, at an affordable rate.

Increased gas prices are impacting everyone, but they are especially affecting our Specialized Transportation Services, which is projecting an unexpected \$40,000 shortfall by the end of 2022. In addition to increased fuel prices, we have also been affected by driver shortages. Prior to Covid, we operated with more volunteer drivers. We now need to hire more full-time and part-time drivers to accommodate rider's needs and these wages and benefits continue to increase.

Specialized Transportation Services is funded through the following streams:

- Some riders pay an agency rate through Family Care funding.
- Some riders self-pay. We had been charging \$3 per self-pay ride for the past 6 years, until we raised to \$4 per ride as of 7/1/2022. This rate is subsidized by the 85.21 Specialized Transportation Assistance Program, grant dollars received through Brown County. These 85.21 dollars have been capped from 2021 to 2022 and appear to not be going up for 2023.

In addition to the above mentioned and this grant request, the Director of Transportation Services was interviewed by three local news stations who allowed us to share our situation

and ask for donations on their websites. We also sent out a summer appeal to 1,206 past donors and community members asking for support of Specialized Transportation Services. As of August 5, 2022, we have raised \$5,928.48 reducing our deficit to \$34,071.52. Finally, we have applied for two other grants

and are hopeful they will support our efforts in the amount of \$10,000 each. We are requesting Wispact Foundation's support in the amount of \$10,000 to help us reduce the deficit to protect this valuable community resource for people who need assistance to get to and from important appointments and trips that many of us take for granted.

Finally, in addition to requesting funding, Curative Connections is being strategic in the way we offer rides by utilizing smaller vehicles that require less fuel to operate and ridesharing whenever possible.

Project Goals and Expected Benefits

Curative Connections Specialized Transportation Services provide door-to-door transportation ANYWHERE in Brown County, to adults age 60 and older and people with disabilities. Again, these rides are critical as clients rely upon us to get them to doctor appointments, jobs, grocery shopping, social outings, and more.

Our project relates to the Wispact Foundation's priority areas of Transportation and Education/Recreation, as transportation allows people with disabilities to access educational and recreational opportunities.

Our project goals are:

- Fill the \$40,000 gap so we can continue these critically important transportation services
- Determine how to adjust for the future so we are prepared for unexpected costs, etc.

Project Implementation Plan

Specialized Transportation Services have been in place through Curative Connections since 2016. Director of Specialized Transportation Services, Tina Whetung, has and will continue to carry out the management of this service area. Tina handles intake of new riders, schedules 53 drivers each week and manages staff members who coordinate rides for those in need. Vice President of Finance, Kurt Raddant, works with Tina to manage the service area budget. Kurt, Tina, and Denise Misovec, Vice President of Operations, set the budget and work with Brown County to ensure the needs are met and all available resources are applied.

Timeline for implementation would be immediate.

Evaluation Plan

We will document progress by tracking donations and grants received to help us reduce Specialized Transportation Service's financial gap. We will also track how utilizing smaller vehicles that use less gas as well as ridesharing impact the budget. Vice President of Finance, Kurt Raddant is and will track donations received and grant dollars awarded. Director of Transportation Services, Tina Whetung, will track and report on internal practices of using smaller vehicles and ridesharing.

Budget

REVENUE	
85.21 Funds plus County Match	662,930
Passenger Revenue (Agency plus Self Pay)	450,000
Local Match (donations)	10,000
Total Revenue	1,122,930
EXPENSES	
Wages & Benefits	567,403
Vehicle Gas	128,821
Vehicle Maintenance	24,000
Facility Rental	40,359
Vehicle Insurance	47,640
Phones, Dispatch system	36,389
Program Admin	86,924
HR, Payroll, IT	64,953
Exec, Finance	99,514
Other Expenses	26,927
Total Expenses	1,122,930
NARATIVE JUSTIFICATION	
Wages & Benefits as of 6/30/2022	10% ahead of Budget
	30% ahead of 2021
Vehicle Gas	42% ahead of Budget
	82% ahead of 2021
Vehicle Maintenance	100% ahead of Budget
	33% ahead of 2020

Staff Recommendation

The grant application can be approved. The grant will provide ongoing access to transportation for persons with disabilities in Brown County. The grant aligns with the initiatives of the foundation and directly supports the disabled individuals.