

Natures Edge Summary Report

Information about the Applicant

Who we are, our need, and goals:

Nature's Edge Therapy Center has been in operation since June of 2001 recently celebrating 20 years of family successes ! At Nature's Edge speech and occupational therapy is provided in a home-like setting with the help of animals and nature. Licensed and credentialed therapists provides skilled medical treatment to patients (primarily children) living with a variety of disabilities including autism, brain injury and cerebral palsy. Using our 65-acre ranch as a "clinic without walls," we strengthen conventional therapy methods and accelerate rehabilitation by incorporating animals and nature into our treatment plans. Hippotherapy (using the movement of the horse), animal-assisted therapy and horticulture therapy are regular components of each treatment plan. In our sensory-rich environment, we see patients thrive and progress rapidly, achieving treatment goals that focus on functional skills that improve their independence. We target necessary gains in communication , movement, and daily living skills in therapy sessions. The home-like setting with therapy sessions on a ranch helps patients to more easily transfer skills gained through treatment into everyday living situations. Carryover of skills learned at Nature's Edge transfer more easily to home, school and community settings.

Statement of Need

We would like to provide our innovative therapies to as many families as we can - regardless of their ability to pay . Insurance availability, access to networks, high premiums and deductibles, limited resources available to people with disabilities, and much more can deter families from seeking out effective and necessary care for their loved ones. Therapy at Nature 's Edge is much less expensive than most other medical facilities. However, many patients who would benefit from therapy at Nature's Edge simply cannot afford it. By awarding need-based scholarships to our patients, we have been able to increase access to our therapy services which target life and communication skills often unresolved in conventional therapy settings. Patients and their families complete an Application for Scholarship to receive the help they need to give their child their best life.

Project Goals and Expected Benefits

Our project goals are to provide medically-based speech and occupational therapy, incorporating family members as a key component for carryover and independence, utilizing a motivational setting with all things a ranch has to offer -wide open spaces, fresh air, sunshine, loving animals, a trout stream, and all the beauty and serenity nature has to offer. We make therapy fun and exciting which translates into increased motivation , better results, in less time.

Project Implementation Plan

To keep the cost of our services at Nature 's Edge as low as possible, each staff member assumes multiple roles in accomplishing our mission. As director and a speech path ologist I have donated my time since Nature's Edge was formed. Vol u n teers, donors, continuing sponsors, and granting organizations make significant contributions to our effort to not turn away anyone in need of therapy.

Evaluation Plan

We prov ide standardized assessments and implement functional , daily activities with the help of animals and nature to progress goals. Our patients must be referred with a physician 's order, we

evaluate as per our license and credentials of standardized assessments, document progress, and complete 90-day certifications of the goals that are reviewed and assessed by the physician. Our goals that are set are objective and data is tracked. The Speech and Occupational Therapists are responsible per their licensing requirements to implement treatment plans and document progression to the ordering physician at regular intervals until discharge.

Budget

The Wispact grant would be used only for therapy sessions for eligible patients who otherwise have no means of paying. If you choose to award the \$ 10,000 grant to Nature 's Edge, we have a commitment from DNS Family Trust to match your grant dollar for dollar. Your grant alone will cover 10 sessions for 6 patients. With the matching funds, and a modest \$20 patient copay, we would be able to provide 127 1-hour therapy sessions, or 10 therapy sessions for 12 patients in need.

Staff Recommendation

The grant application can be recommended for approval. The grant aligns with the initiatives of the foundation and will provide a scholarship giving a direct benefit to persons with disabilities who receive therapy at the nature preserve.