

SOAR Fox Cities Summary Report

Information about the Applicant

SOAR Fox Cities' mission is Empowering People with Differing Abilities. SOAR Fox Cities was originally established as the ARC of Outagamie County and the ARC of Neenah-Menasha in the 1950s by a dedicated group of parents who wanted more for their children with disabilities than institutionalization, which was the norm at the time. Starting as a day school, we grew to offer adult education, social opportunities, respite programming, job training, fitness opportunities, advocacy support, and more. In 2006 these agencies merged to collectively serve the disability community as Arc Fox Cities, and in 2014 with input from parents, participants, staff, and volunteers, the board voted to change our name to SOAR Fox Cities. This name better reflects our mission of Empowering People with Differing Abilities and entirely removes the association with the "R" word our former name held. SOAR currently offers nine programs to youth and adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities, survivors of traumatic brain injuries, and their families. Annually, we serve over 1000 individuals through our programs. Many of these individuals are beneficiary recipients, and data could be collected through caregiver and participant surveys. We also would be happy to host Wispact at our parents/caregiver resource nights and support groups to share information on the benefits of a Wispact Trust.

Statement of Need

SOAR Fox Cities is requesting a grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 to support our Camps Program, which provides traditional overnight camp experiences to youth and adults with developmental disabilities through two camps, Camp Onaway and Adult Fall Weekend Camp. Camp Onaway is a five-day summer camp that includes traditional camp experiences such as boating, fishing, crafts, songs, field games, swimming, and more. Camp Onaway is available to campers 13 years and older and is one of our most popular and highly anticipated programs of the year, hosting approximately 60 campers annually. Adult Fall Weekend Camp is a three-day camp available to campers 18 years and older and hosts approximately 30 campers. This camp offers a more relaxed experience with less physically intense activities and is a better fit for some campers who are overwhelmed by the length of Camp Onaway or cannot take time off work to attend.

Project Goals and Expected Benefits

The purpose of the Camps Program is to provide people with differing abilities the opportunity to have a traditional camp experience, build relationships, and improve their life skills. It also prevents caregiver burnout and protects family relationships through the respite it provides. This aligns with Wispact Foundation's priority area of Education/Recreation by simultaneously providing a unique recreational opportunity while naturally promoting self-care and social skill development. There are several measurable objectives, as follows:

- 70% of campers improve their score of social appropriateness
- 70% of campers increase ADL competencies
- 80% of caregivers report a more positive attitude toward caregiving after respite
- 80% of caregivers report an increased feeling of support

Project Implementation Plan

The Camps Program is an existing and ongoing program of SOAR. Camp Onaway is hosted annually in June, and Adult Fall Weekend Camp is held in September. The Camps Program is run by the Director of Adult Services, LeeAnn Stein, and the Youth Services Manager, Lisa McCallister. LeeAnn has been employed at SOAR for over 25 years, and Lisa has been employed at SOAR for nearly 20 years. Both have specialized training in working with individuals with disabilities and provide exceptional programs for

our participants. The Camps Program is also supported by 30 plus volunteer counselors, activity leaders, assistants, and nurses.

Evaluation Plan

Progress towards the Camps Program objectives is measured through pre-camp and post-camp surveys completed by campers and caregivers. This data is evaluated annually to determine the program's overall success and identify areas of strengths to be enhanced and weaknesses to be changed/improved. LeeAnn provides these assessments to participants, collects responses, and analyzes the data with our Executive Director each year.

Budget

Expenses	Amount	Amount Paid by Grant	Revenue	Amount
Salaries/Benefits	\$34,314		Wispect	\$5,000
Program Expenses	\$24,898	\$5,000	Fees for Service	\$29,939
Office Expenses	\$700		United Way Fox Cities	\$20,933
Travel	\$500		Agency contributions	\$5,500
In-Kind	\$2,680		In-Kind	\$2,680
Occupancy	\$960			
Total	\$64,052		Total	\$64,052

Staff Recommendation

The grant request in the amount of \$5,000.00 can be recommended for approval the proceeds would be applied to program expenses line item of the budget which directly benefits persons with disabilities. The use of the proceeds aligns with the initiatives of the foundation.