

Bible Center Church-The Oasis Project

*2023-2024 City of Pittsburgh STOP the
Violence Community Investment Grants*

Bible Center Church - The Oasis Project

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FollowUp Form

City of Pittsburgh STOP the Violence Mid-Year Progress Report

The City of Pittsburgh established the STOP the Violence grants as part of the City's comprehensive approach to ending violence. Through the STOP the Violence Community Investment Fund, the City partnered with your organization to build new insights and stride toward our mutual goals. Thank you for your efforts to take proactive steps with individuals who exhibit risk factors for violent behavior, support those individuals to overcome the risk factors, avoid violence, and lead healthy and productive lives.

With these grants come the expectations of midterm and final reports. This interim report provides space for your organization to tell the City about the progress of your originally-stated activities, outcomes, and goals. It also offers an opportunity to share any challenges and triumphs thus far. This critical feedback helps us:

1. Keep focused on the investment made and the anticipated project results;
2. Understand if our grantees are on track for success to bring about their anticipated project results (midterm reports), and
3. Analyze our work, learn from your experiences, and make choices for the future.

WHAT SHOULD I INCLUDE IN MY REPORT?

This report should include grant-related activities and projects from when your organization received funds through the first six months.

We are interested in knowing

1. what you did;
2. what you learned;
3. what questions your work answered, and what questions remain;
4. what follow-up work do you plan to do?

When reading the narrative report, we understand that no project proceeds entirely as planned. Some strategies work better than hoped; others do not. An honest assessment of what worked and what did not gives us additional context to gauge the impact of the grants and consider the implications for future collaboration.

Put your project into a larger context of reflection and interrogate its assumptions and method. Your report should include these considerations.

1. How did your strategies and design work?
2. What might you or others do differently in the future?
3. What do you see now about your problem or question that would press you to do things differently?
4. Progress and Results: Please briefly describe (in 300 words or fewer) the key actions, activities, or products resulting from the grant funding, as well as any resulting benefit to the organization or the people it serves.
5. Please explain any significant variance from your planned use of funds as stated in your grant proposal. For example, have there been changes in your project timeline or expenditures?
6. Please describe the challenges the funded project encountered, and explain how you overcame them (or plan to overcome them).
7. Photos, Stories, Social Media Posts/Reels, and Testimonials: Your participant/event stories, reels, and photographs provide a critical piece of the puzzle for us. They give us the materials needed to inspire others to engage, celebrate, and continue to support your violence prevention and intervention efforts.

Organization Name*

Please enter the name of your project/program in the box below.

Bible Center Church-The Oasis Project

Project Start Date (from Grant Proposal)*

01/01/2024

Project Start Date (Actual)*

09/01/2024

Grant Information

Grant Amount Awarded*

\$20,000.00

Award Amount Spent*

Has your organization spent the awarded STOP the Violence funds in their entirety?

No

Population Served

Number of Program/Project Participants (Proposed)*

400

Number of Program Participants (Actual)*

250

Number of Participants Ages 0-17 (Actual)*

250

Number of Participants Ages 18-30 (Actual)*

0

Number of Participants Ages 30+ (Actual)*

0

What neighborhoods do your project participants represent?*

East Hills
East Liberty
Homewood North
Homewood South
Homewood West
Larimer
Lincoln Place
Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar

Participant Contact Information*

Our team maintains a list of complete names, addresses, and contact information for all or almost all of the program participants in the project/initiative.

Yes

Police Zone Served*

Zone 5

Work Conducted

Proposed Project/Program Activities*

Provide a list of project activities/initiatives from your proposal.

The Oasis Project (TOP) serves Homewood and surrounding areas whose youth experience the greatest rates of violence in the region, based on the City of Pittsburgh's Interactive Violence Dashboards. Frequent exposure to widespread violence can result in high levels of toxic stress, hypervigilance, mismanaged aggression triggers, the normalization of interpersonal and community violence, and the expectation of it. TOP's The Maker's Clubhouse (TMC) out-of-school-time (OST) program provides an afterschool program for children in grades K-5 from PPS's Faison and Lincoln Elementaries, and a 7-week summer camp for community children ages 5-13. In addition to STEAM (science, technology, engineering, agriculture, and math) activities, daily programming includes social and emotional learning (SEL) and activities in the Too Good for Violence online curriculum.

Dr. Khirsten Scott and Eric Blackwell, BCC-TOP Videographer, will work with the TMC team to lead three term-long creative projects in the spring, summer, and fall. Each project group will hold a project showcase and discussion for the community.

TOP's CHAPEL (Community Health Assistance Programming, Engagement, and Leadership) mental wellness Community Care Workers will be available to TMC families to support them with counseling and wellness care referrals or guidance.

CHAPEL will hold three (spring, summer, and fall) forums on the impact of violence on child development for the TMC staff, volunteers, parents, and the community.

Collaborations

Please comment on the collaborations presented in your project proposal. Did you collaborate as anticipated in the proposal?

Circumstances to consider:

- Have roles and responsibilities shifted?
- What unanticipated changes did you experience?
- What impact does the collaboration make on the project and the population served?
- What circumstances would improve collaboration among STOP the Violence grantees?

The SEL Music Program exemplifies a well-structured collaborative approach that brings together diverse expertise to benefit 4th- and 5th-grade students. The program's core collaboration involves three key partners: a consulting music therapist, The Maker's Clubhouse's assistant director, and a Public Allies member. This staffing structure represents a modification from the original project design which focused on videography, writing, and interviewing skills.

The collaborative framework supports the program's innovative blend of music education and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). Each team member brings unique strengths to the twice-weekly 60-minute sessions, enabling comprehensive delivery of activities ranging from songwriting and poetry to storyboarding and video production. This multifaceted approach requires a coordinated effort from all team members to facilitate students' creative expression while developing crucial SEL competencies.

The modification in staffing structure, while maintaining the same project outputs and outcomes, suggests an evolution in how the collaboration was initially envisioned. This collaborative model demonstrates how different expertise—therapeutic, educational, and community-based—can be effectively integrated to create a cohesive program that serves both artistic and social-emotional development goals.

Status of Project Plan*

What activities/events from your proposed project plan have been implemented?

The implementation of our SEL Music Program has progressed through several key phases, adapting to scheduling constraints while maintaining our commitment to social and emotional learning objectives. During the summer program from Jun. 24 to Aug. 9, while we were unable to implement the special music project as originally envisioned, students engaged meaningfully with the Too Good for Violence curriculum and participated in various SEL activities. This work maintained our focus on developing essential social and emotional competencies.

Planning for the 2024-25 academic year afterschool program has been comprehensive, incorporating our innovative educational initiative that combines music education with Social and Emotional Learning for 4th- and 5th-grade students. The program has successfully launched at both Lincoln and Faison, currently serving 139 students. This implementation represents a significant milestone in our project plan, as it brings together our core team consisting of a consulting music therapist, The Maker's Clubhouse's assistant director, and a Public Allies volunteer.

Professional development has been a key component of our implementation, with a dedicated week of preparation for the afterschool program. Students are engaging in the planned diverse activities, exploring emotions through different music genres and participating in creative expressions. The program continues to incorporate hands-on elements like lyric writing and spoken word performances while maintaining our strong focus on social and emotional development.

Our weekly engagement activities, such as lyric matching and music charades, have been successfully implemented as planned, helping to keep students engaged while developing both artistic abilities and SEL skills. The modified staffing structure, supported by our budget reallocation, has proven effective in delivering the program's core components while maintaining the intended outcomes and outputs of the original project plan.

Proposed Outcomes*

- Students are enrolled in TMC after school at both schools. goal enrollment is 150 (75 at each school)
- The students participate in online violence prevention curricula, have daily SEL lessons, and are offered daily and field trip transportation.
- TMC participates in the annual Lights on Afterschool Celebration in October.
- CHAPEL will present a Mental Health Summit on the impact of community violence on children, resources for trauma care, and a teen workshop on mental health and wellness on October 25, 2024.
- The Maker's Clubhouse students will present their fall-holiday showcase in December.

Progress*

Please provide an overview of the project achievements/highlights to date. Provide any appropriate data supporting your statements.

The Maker's Clubhouse (TMC) continues to demonstrate strong community engagement and comprehensive student support through its diverse programming. Currently serving 139 students in its afterschool programs (75 at Lincoln and 64 at Faison), TMC maintains a robust presence in both locations. Including summer enrollment (111), 250 students participated in online violence prevention curricula and daily SEL lessons. TMC showcased its innovative approach at its annual Lights on Afterschool Celebration on Oct. 24th, featuring engaging STEAM activities and Music SEL program lessons. This event highlighted the program's commitment to combining creative learning with social-emotional development.

Additionally, CHAPEL's Community Care Workers offered vital support by connecting TMC families with resource and mental health assistance. While the Mental Health Summit originally scheduled for Oct 25th, has been postponed, the program maintains its dedication to comprehensive family support services.

Do you believe that your project or program impacted violence?*

Do you believe that your project or program contributed to violence prevention or violence intervention rates in the communities served?

Yes

What has this project done to reduce or prevent violence?*

1. Describe your actual outcomes.
2. Describe the impact of your project.

The project implements a comprehensive approach to violence prevention through multiple integrated strategies. At its core, 250 students participate in dedicated online violence prevention curricula, complemented by daily Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons. The summer program specifically incorporated the Too Good for Violence curriculum, demonstrating our commitment to explicit violence prevention education.

The SEL Music Program serves as an innovative violence prevention tool by developing crucial competencies such as emotional regulation, empathy, and collaboration. Through creative activities like songwriting and poetry, students learn constructive ways to express emotions and develop self-awareness. These skills are fundamental to preventing violent behaviors and promoting positive conflict resolution.

Additionally, the project provides wraparound support through CHAPEL's Community Care Workers, who connect families to mental health resources and assistance. This mental health support component is crucial for addressing underlying factors that may contribute to violent behavior. The upcoming Mental Health Summit in Spring 2025 will further strengthen these prevention efforts by providing additional resources and support to our community.

Learning and Adapting

Are there any changes to any aspect of your proposed plan? If "Yes", please explain.*

Going forward in the Spring term, we do not anticipate further modifications to the project plan.

Challenges

Describe any ongoing challenges.

Ensuring we had enough staff focused on the Music SEL project was challenging. We resolved this by engaging a Public Allies member to support the Music therapist with organization and planning of the project.

Budget

Current Budget Overview*

1. Click here to download the Budget Reporting Form.
2. Complete the form.
3. Upload the completed form. https://www.grantinterface.com/Documents/Download/f17c57b0-f6cc-4be9-a9d5-2dce30b11bcbhttps://docs.google.com/document/d/1jM3sEoOobpMJQuc8W-irhCr_7KXZVtRM/edit?usp=sharing&oid=101637342679599276330&rtpof=true&sd=true

BCC-TOP STV Budget Reporting 12-17-24.xlsx

Share Your Story

For services supported in whole or in part by your **STOP the Violence** grant, share a story about a client (without sharing any personally-identifying information), service, or community initiative that could be shared with other stakeholders.

*

As the students have not advanced to designing their final project, a specific story has yet to evolve. However, we can share the students have a precious enthusiasm for this project. We are impressed by their diverse knowledge of music genres and how lyrics impact a person's thoughts, beliefs, and actions.

Photos and Digital Clips

Please attach any photos or videos illustrating your work.

Verification

Name of Organizational Representative Completing Report*

Patricia Phillips-Best

Title of Organizational Representative*

Director of Development and Communications

Authorization*

By entering your signature information above and clicking "*I agree.*" you certify that: I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that all information included in this report is correct. The tax-exempt status of this organization (*or fiscal sponsor organization*) is still in effect.

I agree.

Date of Submission*

12/31/2024

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- BCC-TOP STV Budget Reporting 12-17-24.xlsx

Grant Financial Report

This is a protected worksheet. Complete only those sections that are shaded. See additional instructions below, indicated by corresponding number.

Organization: [1] Bible Center Church Grant Process [4] Stop the Violence

Grant Start / End Dates: [2] 01-May-24 to 31-Dec-24 Report Period: [5] 01-May-24 to 30-Nov-24

Approved Grant Amount: [3] \$ 20,000 (in US\$)

Budget Category [7]	Approved POISE Fdn Budget [8]	Amount Spent in Previous Periods [9]	Amount Spent in Current Period [10]	Total Spent to Date	Unexpended Balance
General Operations	\$ 12,318	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 12,318
Professional Development/Training	\$ 1,800	\$ 0	\$ 39	\$ 39	\$ 1,761
Other	\$ 3,000	\$ 0	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000
Materials and/or Supplies	\$ 1,000	\$ 0	\$ 132	\$ 132	\$ 868
Subtotal Direct Costs	\$ 18,118	\$ 0	\$ 2,171	\$ 2,171	\$ 15,947

Indirect Costs	\$ 1,882	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 1,882
Totals	\$ 20,000	\$ 0	\$ 2,171	\$ 2,171	\$ 17,829

The line-by-line budget should match those specified in your proposal.

A red "*" indicates that you must include an explanation of the budget variance. This variance will require Foundation approval.

By submission of this report you hereby certify that the individual submitting this report is authorized to submit it on behalf of you compliance with the requirements of the grant letter, and that any funds expended have been expended in accordance with the |

Name and Title: [12]

Patricia Phillip

Date:

E-mail Address: [13]

Phone Number: [14]

Instructions

1. Enter the organization's legal name.
 2. Enter the approved start and end dates of the grant.
 3. Enter the approved grant amount.
 4. Enter your grant program or process for which you received funding.
 5. Enter the current reporting period from and to dates.
 6. Enter the total amount of POISE Foundation funds received through the end of the reporting period. Specify amount in US\$.
 7. Select Budget Categories which match your proposed grant budget. Select categor(ies) from drop down menu on right of cell
 8. Enter the approved POISE Foundation budget for each budget category. All figures should be reported in US\$.
 9. Enter the sum of amounts spent in each budget category for all previous reporting periods. All figures should be reported in US\$.
 10. Enter the amount spent in each budget category for this reporting period. All figures should be reported in US\$.
- The total spent to date and unexpended balances will be computed automatically.
11. If the expended amount in a budget category significantly exceeds the total direct costs by 35%, an explanation is required. Lines requiring explanations will be indicated by a RED "**".
 12. Enter the name and title of the individual who certified the information contained in the report.
 13. Enter the e-mail address for that person.
 14. Enter the phone number for that person.

Total received to date (US \$): [6] \$20,000.00

Please explain significant budget variances where indicated
[11]

Will use these funds for Spring 2025 program Jan - April

Will use these funds for staff training on spring program

Too Good for Violece Curriculum was under \$3,000. We will use the remining \$1,000 for Materials and Supplies

Will use these funds for Spring 2025 program Jan - April

ur organization, that the organization is in
purposes of the grant.

os-Best, Director of Development and Communications

12/17/2024

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US\$.