

## Casa San Jose

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

### ***Casa San Jose***

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# FollowUp Form

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## *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.*

Casa San Jose

**Project Start Date (from Grant Proposal)\***

05/01/2024

**Project Start Date (Actual)\***

06/01/2024

***Grant Information***

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**Grant Amount Awarded\***

\$25,000.00

**Award Amount Spent\***

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

No

***Population Served***

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**Number of Program/Project Participants (Proposed)\***

130

**Number of Program Participants (Actual)\***

170

**Number of Participants Ages 0-17 (Actual)\***

170

**Number of Participants Ages 18-30 (Actual)\***

0

**Number of Participants Ages 30+ (Actual)\***

0

**What neighborhoods do your project participants represent?\***

Banksville

Beechview

**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 6

## *Work Conducted*

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**Proposed Project/Program Activities\***

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

**Casita In-School Program**

- Operates in eight schools across Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS).
- Provides mentorship opportunities to reduce risky behaviors.
- Acts as a liaison between parents and schools to improve communication and engagement.
- Offers referrals to Casa San José's other programs, including: Mental health services, healthcare access and case management service coordination

**Jóvenes con Propósito Weekend Program**

- Serves Latino youth aged 14-18, primarily from Beechview.
- Combines educational and recreational activities to foster socioemotional development.
- Provides mentorship opportunities to reduce risky behaviors.

Creates safe spaces for youth to engage in difficult conversations on topics such as: Mental health and emotional well-being, community violence and trauma, dating violence and healthy relationships

**Workshops and Trainings**

- Workshops on community violence, dating violence, and emotional coping skills.
- Mental health workshops aimed at normalizing discussions around mental well-being.

- Events that build trust and improve relationships between youth and local police officers.

## 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?

In partnership with Dr. Maya Ravagan and a team of pediatric researchers at UPMC, we successfully facilitated workshops on dating violence and substance use disorder. Dr. Ravagan's cultural competence and deep understanding of Latino youth allowed her to lead discussions that were both age-appropriate and informative for participants. These workshops were designed for teens and their parents/guardians.

Additionally, we hosted a Situational Awareness Workshop and Q&A session with the Pittsburgh Police Department's Zone 6 officers for participants in our Jóvenes con Propósito program.

Through our Casita program in various school districts, we conducted a workshop titled "No More Bullying!" which focused on emotional intelligence and resilience. This workshop was tailored to different age groups, serving youth ages 8-17.

## Status of Project Plan\*

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

We continued with our Casita and Jóvenes con Propósito programs. Through these we facilitated the following workshops:

- Situational Awareness training and Q&A session for our teenagers and their parents with zone 6 PPD
- Dating Violence in Teen Relationships Workshop
- Understanding Mental Health
- No More Bullying! (Emotional Intelligence and Resilience)

## Proposed Outcomes\*

Safe and Supportive Spaces

Youth develop socioemotional bonds, feel a sense of belonging, and build strong connections with their peers.

Mental Health and Coping Skills

Participants gain awareness of mental health and develop strategies to manage stress and challenges.

Reduction in Risky Behaviors

Our programs help reduce risky behaviors and conflicts driven by socioeconomic factors and racial profiling.

Access to Essential Resources

Youth receive education on violence prevention and mental health, often unavailable in their home environments.

#### Program Growth

Casita expanded to eight school districts (up from three last year), and Jóvenes con Propósito is at capacity, with a waitlist for new participants.

### Progress\*

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

- We have significantly expanded the Casita program, with more school districts requesting our support as they learn about our positive impact on Latino youth.
- High Participant Retention in Jóvenes con Propósito: The program achieved a 90% return rate for this school year, exceeding expectations. Based on feedback from participants and their families, we've tailored our activities and workshops to better meet their needs.
- We've helped schools develop language-accessible materials and provided individualized support through one-on-one meetings to address the socioeconomic challenges faced by youth.
- Successfully facilitated multiple workshops on violence prevention, bullying, and mental health.
- Continued to create safe spaces for Latino youth in schools, where they often face feelings of isolation as a minority.

### 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.

- We successfully launched multiple workshops concerning violence prevention, bullying and mental health for participants and their parents and guardians. We plan to give continuity to these.
- We continue to create safe spaces for Latino youth in public schools where they are a minority and might feel isolated, with great feedback from teachers, parents and students.
- We have grown our Casita program to 8 different school districts, 5 more than than last year. Our Jovenes con Proposito program is at capacity, with a waitlist for new participants to enroll.
- We have referred 7 participants to our mental health department, to help them navigate challenging situations in school or at home that may have otherwise led to risky behaviors such as self harm or violence towards others.

## Learning and Adapting

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

We aim to build on the success of the workshops we launched last year by ensuring consistent programming and introducing quarterly events in collaboration with the Pittsburgh Police Department. Additionally, we plan to place part-time bilingual staff in our partner schools, providing immediate support and personalized attention to meet the needs of the youth we serve.

## Challenges

Describe any ongoing challenges.

One of our biggest challenges to implementation is staffing for youth programs. Casa has developed trust and buy-in with the community and our youth programs always reach, and sometimes exceed, their enrollment targets. The biggest challenge is having enough bilingual staff and capacity to properly serve all of our youth programs. We often receive in-kind services in terms of space rental, volunteer hours, and supplies for our programs, but the biggest challenge is having qualified staff that can develop, lead, and facilitate these programs throughout the entire year.

We also encounter challenges in encouraging parents and guardians to actively participate in our workshops. Offering monetary incentives has proven effective in boosting attendance and engagement. Additionally, transportation occasionally poses a barrier for youth participation in our weekend programs, limiting access to these valuable opportunities.

## Budget

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### 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](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)

STV Budget Reporting Form CSJ May-Dec.xlsx

## Share Your Story

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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.

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One story that stands out is Kim's—a 16-year-old who joined our Jóvenes con Propósito program after experiencing severe bullying and struggling with suicidal thoughts. As a young Latina in a predominantly

white school, Kim faced significant challenges in forming friendships and was often excluded from social groups due to her ethnicity. Her mother, seeking a supportive environment for her daughter, came to Casa San José after hearing from a community member about our programs.

During Kim's first session at Jóvenes con Propósito, she was hesitant to stay and shy about engaging with others and participating in the activities we had planned. However, after about 30 minutes, Diana, one of the other participants, approached her and started a conversation in Spanish. Kim's face immediately lit up, and she smiled for the first time that day. As they continued talking, two more girls joined their conversation, and the group bonded quickly. They participated in the activities together, helping Kim feel more comfortable and included.

When her mother arrived to pick her up, Kim ran to her with excitement, exclaiming, "Mom! I made friends!" Her mom's eyes filled with tears of joy as she saw her daughter smiling again.

Since that day, Kim has attended Jóvenes con Propósito without missing a session. Her mother often shares updates about Kim's progress at home and school—how her social life has blossomed and how her academic performance has improved as well.

## Photos and Digital Clips

Please attach any photos or videos illustrating your work.

## Verification

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### Name of Organizational Representative Completing Report\*

Paula Miranda

### Title of Organizational Representative\*

Development Coordinator

### 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\*

01/10/2025



## File Attachment Summary

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### *Applicant File Uploads*

- STV Budget Reporting Form CSJ May-Dec.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]

Casa San Jose

Grant Process

[4]

Stop the Violence

Grant Start / End Dates: [2]

01-May-24

to

01-Apr-25

Report Period: [5]

01-May-24

to

31-Dec-24

Approved Grant Amount: [3]

\$ 25,000

(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	\$ 18,295	\$ 0	\$ 9,148	\$ 9,148	\$ 9,147
Professional Development/Training	\$ 4,690	\$ 0	\$ 2,345	\$ 2,345	\$ 2,345
Subgrants to Organizations		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Materials and/or Supplies		\$ 0			\$ 0
		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>Subtotal Direct Costs</b>		\$ 0	\$ 11,493	\$ 11,493	\$ 11,492

Indirect Costs			\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Totals	*	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 11,493	\$ 11,493	\$ 11,492

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]

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] \$25,000.00

Please explain significant budget variances where indicated  
[11]

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

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US\$.