



**Bay Area News Group & Contra Costa Crisis Center
Share the Spirit
Grant Program Overview**

PURPOSE:

The Share the Spirit campaign's purpose is to 1) illuminate the needs of residents in our community; 2) generate interest and awareness of nonprofit service agencies and encourage civic philanthropy; 3) provide funding for programs that serve East Bay children, individuals, and families.

GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

The Share the Spirit program has been helping people and organizations in our community for more than two decades. Beginning prior to Thanksgiving Day and continuing through early January each year, the Bay Area News Group publishes a series of Share the Spirit stories illustrating specific community needs and offering readers a direct opportunity to make donations.

The funding for Share the Spirit is raised by donations from readers in response to articles in the Bay Area News Group member media outlets. Readers' donations allow the Crisis Center to grant funds to support needs like therapeutic equipment for children with autism, computers to help homeless people look for jobs and housing, sleeping bags for the homeless, holiday gifts for children in foster care, and much more in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Recipient agencies eagerly anticipate this campaign each year and offer their client stories to illuminate the good work of the funds, and the recipient organizations, during the holiday season and beyond.

Organizations eligible for grant funding are 501(C)3 nonprofits, schools, and other public entities located in or serving the communities in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

To be considered, requests must address:

- Grantees will use Share the Spirit funds to enhance the winter season or enrich the on-going necessities of life for their program participants during November, December, and/or January 2017-18.
- Grantees must provide individual and organizational topics for use in developing stories for Bay Area News Group media outlets AND cooperate with News Group personnel.
- Share the Spirit grantees will be required to articulate a significant positive program impact for Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.
- Share the Spirit grantees will represent a wide diversity of programs, populations and geographic areas with particular emphasis on youth, families and seniors across both counties served. (Note: Services must be provided in one or both of these counties regardless of agency location.)
- Grantees must be a 501(c)3 organization in good standing (EIN, IRS letter or equivalent for public entity). Having an active GuideStar/Charity Navigator profile strongly recommended.
- Grantees must have capacity to manage the grant and the receipts/ accounting required.

STORY TOPIC AND PUBLICATION:

Applications must contain a specific topic for a feature story for publication in the East Bay Times for the Share the Spirit campaign. A story in the East Bay Times (and other Bay Area News Group media) about your organization is an additional and extremely valuable benefit of being selected as a Share the Spirit Grant recipient. This publicity can do much to raise awareness of your program and organization, and the needs of the community.

Not all grantees will be selected for a story, but all applicants must be willing and able to provide story topics.

- Cooperation with Bay Area News Group reporters is essential. If selected for a story, the representative from your organization provided in your application will be contacted and prompt and courteous response is necessary. Time is required to coordinate for the interviewee, reporter, photographer and publish date, so delayed response can mean that the reporter will select a different organization for the
- Stories with personal interview of a past or current program participant/beneficiary are helpful in bringing social issues to light and appealing to readers. Please secure consent from your interview subject prior to applying if possible. We understand that some may not be willing to share personal story and have photograph in the newspaper for privacy or other concerns. *However, strong consideration will be given to applications with willing interview subject(s).*
- Choosing quality story topic: A good story needs to be compelling, unique, emotional, and relatable. For samples of previous stories visit story archives: <http://www.sharethespiriteastbay.org/stories/>
- Choosing the right interview subject: There are many factors to consider when choosing one of your program participants or graduates or volunteers for an interview. The reporter will coordinate with your organization to make sure that the subject feels comfortable and is appropriate topic.
 - Confidentiality will need to be considered. For the most part, it is preferred to have an interviewee that is willing to share their story, and also image and identity. This makes the subject more real and relatable, and the reporters will be compassionate and professional. We understand that some organizations may have strong considerations around confidentiality. In those cases, some accommodations can be made to change/withhold names. Ultimately, it would help to select a subject without those confidentially considerations if possible.
 - It will be important to have a good photo opportunity. Typically this will be scheduled at same time as the interview opportunity, but not always. A good photo includes many elements. It is helpful to have an action based photo versus a static composition. In other words, a photo of a person completing a physical task or at play is more interesting than a posed, seated, static photo. A photojournalist will be taking the photo but preparation can help the photo be more evocative.
 - Assess your interviewee's capacity to participate. They should have some time to allot to the interview and ability to articulate how your program or assistance has helped them personally. There should also be thought given to the safety and security of the location and people in attendance.

ADDITIONAL/EXTENDED MEDIA:

- The Bay Area News Group and Contra Costa Crisis Center, in addition to the grant recipients social media and email outreach is another great opportunity to highlight your work, the News Group's story, and your organization overall. The overall reach of the individual stories and overarching campaign can spread lasting impression of nonprofit work and community need.
- Some sample posts, tweets, and emails are available in media kit provided to Grantees and also posted on the Share the Spirit website.
- Citation matters- please attribute work, articles, and names appropriately.
- Permission matters- confirm client's consent to social media posts prior to use.
- Please view the Share the Spirit MEDIA KIT and other information at <http://www.sharethespiriteastbay.org/get-started/>

AMINISTRATION:

The program is administered by the Contra Costa Crisis Center. As the program administrator, the Contra Costa Crisis Center manages the application/proposal process, distribution of grant funds, and reporting forms for recipient agencies. The Crisis Center maintains website and social media presence for the program. The Crisis Center provides donor pledge processing, reporting and receipt accounting for all donations and serves as a bridge between non-profit agencies and the Bay Area News Group in developing effective story content.

FUNDING:

- Project funding is raised by donations from readers in response to articles in the Bay Area News Group member media outlets. Funds raised each year are distributed during the next funding season.
- Approximately 30- 40 grants will be awarded (range \$2,000-7,000)
- Grants will be awarded to nonprofit organizations in Alameda and Contra Costa counties and no other counties.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- See annual calendar posted on "Nonprofit Information" page on the Contra Costa Crisis Center (<http://www.crisis-center.org/programs/share-spirit-project/>) and/or Share the Spirit websites (<http://www.sharethespiriteastbay.org/get-started/>).

PROGRAM HISTORY:

The Share the Spirit Program has been assisting East Bay residents for more than 25 years. Started by the Dean and Margaret Lesher family and the Bay Area News Group, the program has deep roots in the community. The scope of the program was expanded by the News Group and Volunteer Center of the East Bay in recent years, and since 2016 has been undergoing more upgrades and expansion, including a dedicated website and digital application process, by the News Group and current program administrator, the Contra Costa Crisis Center.

INFO & LINKS:

If after visiting the Nonprofit Information page, including FAQs from applicant section, on the Share the Spirit website and after reading the grant overview, grant parameters, and media guidelines (www.sharethespирiteastbay.org), you have questions, you may submit those questions to the project coordinator via website (<http://www.sharethespирiteastbay.org/>) or email - sharethespirit@crisis-center.org. Thank you for your interest!

