

#47

**COMPLETE**

Collector: Web Link 1 ([Web Link](#))
Started: Thursday, October 29, 2015 1:28:18 PM
Last Modified: Friday, October 30, 2015 12:51:00 PM
Time Spent: 23:22:42
IP Address: 12.12.192.66

PAGE 1

Q1: Name of your organization.	Orangewood Foundation
Q2: Grant #	20140619
Q3: Grant Period	10/15/2014 to 9/15/2015
Q4: Location of your organization	
City	Santa Ana
State	California
Q5: Name and Title of person completing evaluation.	Annie Song, Grant Writer
Q6: Phone Number:	714/619.0248
Q7: Email address.	asong@orangewoodfoundation.org

PAGE 2: Key Outcomes and Results

Q8: Total number of clients served through this grant funding:	585
---	-----

Q9: Describe the project's key outcomes and results based on the goals and objectives:

Support from S.L. Gimbel Foundation enabled Orangewood Foundation to provide much needed services to former foster youth who are struggling to attain stability and self-sufficiency. The Orangewood Resource Center (ORC) continued to offer resources to meet the most basic needs of clients such as hunger and emotional support. During the grant period, the ORC provided 980 bags of groceries, 789 bags of toiletries, and 2,837 hot meals to 585 youth for a total of 5,040 visits. As clients generally visit the ORC to have their immediate needs met and are often in crisis, such as homeless or at immediate risk of becoming homeless, staff first work to develop trust and rapport. After that relationship is developed, ORC staff and youth work together to develop a plan to help move youth towards self-sufficiency. During the grant period, 97 youth were assisted in finding a more stable living arrangement, 133 youth were assisted in developing job-readiness skills, and another 107 youth found stable employment. Staff support provided to youth in reaching these accomplishments is a vital component of the ORC. In a recent ORC client survey conducted in June 2015, 71% of youth stated the emotional support they receive has been the most beneficial service. This level of personalized care and attention would not have been possible without S.L. Gimbel Foundation's investment in the salary of three full-time ORC staff and other direct program services.

Q10: Please describe any challenges/obstacles the organization encountered (if any) in attaining goals & objectives.

Although Orangewood Foundation celebrates the success of our youth, challenges also arise which present learning opportunities as well as opportunities to enhance service delivery to clients. Former foster youth struggle once they age out or emancipate from the foster care system. Former foster youth experience homelessness, incarceration, un/underemployment, develop substance abuse issues, struggle with mental health issues, and depend on public aid for their needs at a much higher rate than their peers who have never experienced foster care. These unfortunate outcomes are related to a number of underlying factors, such as past trauma and its impact on brain development. Furthermore ORC clients have experienced chronic instability and poverty to the point where they are unable to plan for the future as they focus on the present. ORC clients continue to struggle with mental health issues and the lack of health insurance presents a barrier in accessing the services they require. ORC also lacks a formal program related to workforce development making it challenging to help clients find gainful employment. Lastly, with placing foster children with relatives opposed to placing them in foster/group homes, Orangewood Foundation as an organization has found outreach of services a challenge.

Q11: How did you overcome and/or address the challenges and obstacles?

Orangewood Foundation currently does not provide formal counseling services for clients; ORC staff rely on partnerships with community organizations and will often refer youth to outside sources. However, just recently, a dedicated volunteer with clinical counseling experience has started to meet one-on-one with ORC clients. Initial feedback from clients has been positive and we hope to continue with this specific service. Orangewood Foundation is also fortunate for the continued support from corporate partners. Corporate partners who regularly cook meals for ORC clients also recognized the need for gainful employment and will begin to host workshops to teach youth basic job-readiness skills and have also agreed to offer part-time positions at their respective companies. These committed partners understand our clients and their challenges and therefore know the importance of workplace mentorship. With more and more foster children being placed with relatives instead of foster/group homes, we have observed an overall decrease in services utilized. Orangewood Foundation has historically depended on group homes to connect their young residents to the organization so they are aware of services available. As this number is decreasing, Orangewood Foundation understands the need to enhance outreach efforts. Now in the second year of a comprehensive strategic planning process, community outreach is one of four key areas of focus. Orangewood staff will work this year to develop a plan to educate caregivers and the foster youth in the community of its services. Orangewood Foundation also recently hired a part-time program assistant whose main priority includes conducting orientations of services directly to caregivers and youth in the comfort of their home.

Q12: Describe any unintended positive outcomes as a result of the efforts supported by this grant.

As previously mentioned, a survey was conducted of ORC clients in June 2015. While it was expected that youth found tangible resources such as groceries, warm meals, and toiletries to be beneficial, it was not expected that 71% of respondents stated emotional support was the most important service received. This demonstrated the impact of providing youth access to three full-time ORC coordinators. Each of the three ORC coordinators either have personal experience in foster care or have worked with the foster youth population for many years. They possess a deep understanding of youth and their struggles. Through the emotional support and guidance they provide, ORC clients are able to envision a positive future and develop personal goals. In fact, in another pleasantly surprising survey result, 96% of youth stated they envision their future positively. These positive results were only made possible through S.L. Gimbel's investment in direct ORC program services such as staff salaries.

Q13: Briefly describe the impact this grant has had on the organization and community served.

S.L. Gimbel Foundation has had a profound positive impact on Orangewood Foundation and the community at large and we are thrilled to have had the opportunity for the partnership. The ORC continues to be a safe haven for former foster youth who endure chronic struggles and who often feel lost. While the immediate goal is to provide the most basic needs for clients, ultimately, we have a goal to develop trust then work to help youth move out of crisis, develop a realistic plan, and help youth envision a positive future for themselves. Young adults who are gainfully employed, are educated, and have access to the tangible resources such as financial assistance are less reliant on public aid, do not engage in criminal activity, and become contributing members of society. Those ORC clients who are making progress serve as positive role models to their younger peers and demonstrate that with the right level of support can defy the odds.

Q14: Please provide a brief narrative on how the funds were used to fulfill grant objectives.

Support from S.L. Gimbel Foundation enabled Orangewood Foundation to provide much needed services to some of our community's most vulnerable clients. Of the \$25,000 grant, \$2,000 was allocated to support the 2014 holiday drive which has consistently been aligned with an increase of clients served. During the 2014 holiday drive, Orangewood Foundation was able to fill wish lists for 318 youth of donated holiday. \$1,500 was allocated to purchase food from Second Harvest Food Bank to fill ORC refrigerators and pantries. While Orangewood Foundation largely depends on generous community supporters to donate food items, we had to purchase food on 39 occasions during the grant period to ensure an adequate supply was always available. S.L. Gimbel Foundation also enabled Orangewood Foundation to provide even more tangible resources such as bus passes and gift cards to those youth working towards personally established goals. Through S.L. Gimbel's support, the ORC was able to help former foster youth obtain their legal documents such as birth certificates, purchase household items, purchase groceries in order to learn basic cooking skills with ORC staff, and purchase clothing appropriate for job interviews. Regular access to a computer and the Internet continues to be one of the most utilized ORC services. Through S.L. Gimbel's support, the ORC was able to provide clients access to six computers so they may complete job applications and their schoolwork. As ORC clients also find printing services to be beneficial, S.L. Gimbel's grant was partially used to upgrade the printer and purchase supplies as needed throughout the year. Perhaps most importantly, \$15,000 of S.L. Gimbel's grant was used to support staff salaries. As youth find emotional support to be the most important service of the ORC, being able to provide access to three full-time staff is vital. ORC staff not only spend time within the walls of the ORC but also regularly meet with clients offsite in order to offer support during a court hearing or to provide last minute coaching prior to a job interview.

PAGE 4: Success Stories

Q15: Please relate a success story:

Raquel was first placed in foster care when she was 15 years old after being removed from an unsafe home environment. She was first connected to Orangewood Foundation one year later in 2008 as she was eligible to participate in workshops designed to teach valuable independent living skills to current foster youth. Although Raquel aged out of the foster care system at 18 and was on her own, she knew she could rely on Orangewood Foundation for extended support. She continued to utilize the Orangewood Resource Center (ORC) for services such as groceries, toiletries, access to warm meals, and consistent emotional support from staff.

Observing Raquel now, it is hard to imagine just a few years ago she did not see college in her future nor did she have any real career aspirations. Raquel did have seasonal part-time jobs but was never truly self-sufficient. After persistent encouragement from ORC staff, Raquel decided to enroll in community college. Orangewood staff provided one-on-one assistance as she completed all required applications, helped Raquel develop a manageable schedule, and toured the college campus with her so she would not be lost on her first day. Raquel was also eligible to receive an Orangewood college scholarship for financial support and continues to receive that support to this day. Although there are computer labs on campus, Raquel feels more comfortable utilizing ORC computers to complete her homework and turns to Orangewood staff for tutoring support. As one of her course requirements is to complete an internship with a non-profit organization, Orangewood Foundation once again provided another valuable resource. Raquel is now an official intern in the ORC and provides clerical and administrative support. Through this formal internship, Raquel will gain hands-on workplace experience, meet her course requirement, and serve as a role model to other ORC clients. For the first time in her life, Raquel has college and career aspirations. Now in her third year of community college, she hopes to earn her degree in Human Services and ultimately become a social worker so she may help other foster youth like herself.

Raquel is now 23 years old, a young mother, and is taking the necessary steps to break the cycle of poverty and abuse so her daughter may never experience foster care. Thank you for helping youth like Raquel, and so many other former foster youth like her, obtain supportive, tangible resources such as food, develop trust in others, and find hope in themselves in order to make progress towards self-sufficiency. We are truly grateful for S.L. Gimbel's partnership and support.

Q16: Please relate a success story here:

Respondent skipped this question

S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund

Q17: Please relate a success story here:

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 5: Organizational Information

Q18: Which category best describes the organization. Please choose only one.

Youth Development,
Other (please specify) foster youth

Q19: What is the organization's primary program area of interest?

Youth

Q20: Percentage of clients served through grant in each ethnic group category. Total must equal 100%

Respondent skipped this question

Q21: Approximate percentage of clients served from grant funds in each age category.

Respondent skipped this question

Q22: Approximate percentage of clients served with disabilities from grant funds.

Respondent skipped this question

Q23: Approximate percentage of clients served in each economic group.

Respondent skipped this question

Q24: Approximate percentage of clients served from grant funds in each population category.

Respondent skipped this question
