

 <p>The Community Foundation Serving the Counties of Riverside and San Bernardino</p>	<p align="center">S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund Grant Evaluation Form</p>	
<p align="center">Grant Period: July 15, 2012 through July 14, 2013</p>	<p align="center">Evaluation Due Date: July 31, 2013</p>	

Organization: A World For Children

Contact Name: Asnleigh Wilkes Title: General Counsel

Phone Number: (512) 415-6380 Grant Period: July 31, 2012 - July 31, 2013

Award Amount: \$25,000 Grant Number: _____

- Describe the project's key outcomes and results based on your goals and objectives. Provide the number of clients served and other relevant statistics.
- What were the challenges and obstacles you encountered (if any) in attaining your goals & objectives? How did you overcome and/or address the challenges and obstacles? What were the lessons learned?
- Describe any unintended positive outcomes as a result of the efforts supported by this grant.
- Describe the overall effect this grant has had on your organization.
- Tell us a few success stories that made an impact on your organization and/or community as a result of this grant.
- Provide a financial report on the use of your grant funds (expenditures).
- ❖ Please send copies of publicity and other promotional materials.
- ❖ All variances or time extensions must be approved by The Community Foundation's Grant Committee. Please contact us at 951-684-4194, ext. 114 immediately if a variance or extension becomes necessary.

Please return the completed form to:
Celia Cudiamat, Vice President of Grant Programs
3700 Sixth St., Suite 200, Riverside, CA 92501 or fax to 951-684-1911
Or email to: ccudiamat@thecommunityfoundation.net

All fields were answered on the attached pages.

S.L. GIMBEL FOUNDATION GRANT EVALUATION FORM

Describe the project's key outcomes and results based on your goals and objectives. Provide the number of clients served and other relevant statistics.

Objective 1: With the oversight and support of LAUNCH Specialists AWFC foster parents and case managers are interactively working with youth to teach them independent living skills. The foster parents/case managers are involved in the youth's future plans and are physically taking them to visit their college of choice, assisting them in filling out college applications and financial aid, getting them settled in their new home environment and will be staying in contact with the youth once they leave care, in order to provide the support and encouragement needed for the youth to be successful as possible.

In our Round Rock office, all but one of the seniors at AWFC graduated this year. The one that didn't graduate finished all of his coursework but was not able to pass the STAR test but is working to do so now. All of the youth had plans to attend college, go into the military, work with Job Corps or had a job. When the national statistic is that only 40% of foster children graduate high school, we feel like our program is really working. In Brownwood, the six youth who have recently graduated, all had plans to either attend a college, military, or job corp. Two of those six have already left care and are doing well and the other four will be leaving in the upcoming school year.

Objective 2: Prior to looking for a job, youth are shown how to fill out applications properly, how to follow up with a perspective employer, how to dress during an interview and review what questions may be asked on an interview. Before the youth graduates, the youth are bought an outfit that is interview appropriate, for future use.

AWFC has required our youth to sign an employment contract when they begin working which indicates how much money they will put into a savings account from each paycheck. Once the youth receives their first paycheck, they are taken to open a checking and/or savings account in their area of residence. The foster parents/case managers are then able to assist the youth in managing their money and assist them in learning appropriate budgeting skills.

All our graduating seniors were bought outfits this year and a number are learning to apply and several have obtained jobs. Abilene Transition Center partnered with one of our offices and did a group education on "how to get a job" which included interview information, application information, and overall employment training.

Objective 3: AWFC has had local community resources, Abilene Transition Center, Talk First (through Planned Parenthood) and Derek Taylor from the Williamson County Sheriff's Department come talk to our youth about health, body image, sex education, gangs and gave resources for them after care. Once they youth leave care, AWFC works to continue contact

with the teens and assists them in finding local health care facilities and go over with them how often they should have checkups and exams.

What were the challenges and obstacles you encountered (if any) in attaining your goals and objectives? What were the lessons learned?

Objective 1: Getting the youth invested in their future is sometimes a challenge. We have to remind them that they are in charge of their life and the choices they make now will affect them in the future. Our youth are told what to do and when to do it from the time they get into care. There are ongoing rules and regulations set by the State that prevent us, as an agency, and the foster parents from allowing the youth to have as much independence as we would like. Therefore, once they leave care, they are bombarded with the fact that they now have complete freedom and become quickly overwhelmed with the challenges that now face them. We have learned that it is imperative that we begin working with the youth at a younger age and begin asking them what their “plan” is from the very beginning. That is what we have started to do in our program. We want them to be thinking about their future as soon as possible. At our youth’s Individual Service Plan staffings, we cover this information and do an exit interview prior to the youth leaving care to ensure that the plan they have is in place. We may not always agree with the youth’s plan, but we are determined that our youth will never leave our care and be living on the streets.

Objective 2: We work with many youth who are emotionally and socially delayed. It would be wonderful if all our youth at the age of 16, would be ready to find employment, but unfortunately that is not the case. We have to treat each youth individually and know where each youth is developmentally. When we will feel the youth is at a place in their life in which they are able to obtain employment, we staff it and then proceed forward.

Many of our youth find it difficult to understand the banking process and therefore we have to find other material and information that is more developmentally appropriate for those youth. We continue to work with that youth, however, so that hopefully they will be able to manage their money on their own, in a way that is comfortable to them.

Objective 3: Most of our youth have been abused or neglected. One of the results of that is the youth have low self esteem/confidence. They do not care about their bodies or how they look. They have poor hygiene issues and would not take care of themselves if there was not someone in their lives guiding them in this area. Once a youth leaves care, we show them the resources available and hopefully by the time they leave us, they are in the right frame of mind to follow through with personal care. We provide them with continued education regarding health and hygiene, whether it be by the foster parent, case manager, or outside community resources, the entire time they are in our care.

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

The individual time spent with these youth has created a deeper bond with the foster parents and case managers. The youth see that there are adults who do want to assist them and truly do care whether the youth are successful or not.

Additionally, our youth have been invited to other agencies trainings and events because they know that the Launch Specialist will ensure the youth are there timely, be transported to the event, behave while attending, and have the necessary supplies. Though that does not sound like a lot, it is with the population we serve. The teens feel special and like someone has gone out of their way to take care of them. This increases their confidence.

Describe the overall effect this grant has had on your organization.

This grant has allowed up the opportunity to work with youth who are transitioning out of care, by assisting them in learning the independent living skills necessary and by preparing them for a life out on their own. If there was no one taking the time to do this, they would be left to fend for themselves, which could result in not only personal failure for the youth, but as a society we would be responsible for these youth in the form of government assistance, taxes paid for incarcerated individuals, homeless shelters, etc.

As an agency, we have been able to tell others of the success we are having. This allows us to recruit more teen homes, to make a bigger impact, as well as work to make this problem more well-known and hopefully, at some point, get more transitional resources for these youth.

Tell us a few success stories that made an impact on your organization and/or community as a result of this grant.

We are so proud that many of our seniors graduated this year and have plans after care. This is quite an accomplishment. Not only are those teens given hope but they are a beacon for the ones following in their footsteps.

The youth we serve have always been labeled as “foster children.” They believe that their life will be defined by that term and they do not have the right to a life like their peers. We are working to not only teach the teens life skills but to also teach them they should have dreams and can meet them should they work hard. This is a complete change in their way of thinking and we believe that it is not only imperative for the teens we serve but also for the communities in which they will live after care.

The youth attending college from our Round Rock office have stated that without AWFC’s efforts to prepare them for their transition, they would have never dreamed of going to college and thought it impossible.

Our foster parents and staff are being shown these success stories, as well, which increases their passion to make more of an impact. The excitement is growing.

The following story is just one that shows what an impact this program is making: J.R. went to Western College because he wanted to become a football coach. He has made it through his first year at college and is planning on returning in the fall to South Plains College. He is currently working at Jason's Deli and has recently asked to take a few vacation days off in order for him to be able to attend our Launch Camp in August. He wants to be able to tell his story and to help others that are in the same situation he was in.

We hope to have many more stories, just like J.R.'s. That is what this program is about. Other agencies have applauded AWFC for being the first of its kind in Texas to have a person within the agency working with and assisting youth in meeting a plan. With the grant, we have been able to track our kids during care and ensure that they are still succeeding after care. Thank you to The Community Foundation for giving the funding to allow this to happen.

Provide a financial report on the use of your grant funds (expenditures).

We spent the funding on exactly the items for which it was originally requested. \$21,000 was spent on the salaries and benefits of our LAUNCH Specialists. These staff members dedicate 100% of their time to ensuring that the teens in our care make a successful transition out of care and are ready to thrive.