

Panhandle Angels Foundation

to provide financial assistance to families with children battling cancer and/or life-threatening blood disorders

Request Amount: \$20,000 Project Budget: \$50,500 (39.60% of Project Budget)

Applicant Organization
Panhandle Angels Foundation 5000 Western, Unit 20104 Amarillo, TX 79109 Year Founded: 4/3/2008 Type of Organization: Human Services Website: http://www.pafamarillo.com

Project
IRS NTEE CODE
E: Health Care
E86: Patient & Family
Support

Mission Statement: To provide emotional and financial support to families in the Panhandle fighting childhood cancer and life-threatening blood disorders

Organization and Leadership: Panhandle Angels Foundation (Panhandle Angels) started in 2006, was founded in 2008, and is completely volunteer-led. Panhandle Angels provides the following programs:

(1) **Family Assistance.** Panhandle Angels provides the local hospitals with gift cards ranging from \$50 to \$500 that can be given to families when hospital staff identify financial stress during extended hospital stays for needs such as daily living expenses, groceries, or travel (i.e. gas) assistance for families that need to leave town for treatments/surgeries/illness related to the child's cancer/blood disorder. Panhandle Angels also provides both hospitals with gift cards to restaurants that can be given to families in need – especially those with picky eaters due to change in taste buds brought on by chemotherapy treatments. The hospitals notify Panhandle Angels when a gift card is given out. Families with greater needs are given contact information for Panhandle Angels so they can request financial assistance. The Board of Directors votes on each request. Financial assistance can be provided after the child's diagnosis, during treatment, and up to three months past the treatment completion date. Families provide Panhandle Angels with a copy of utility bills, rent statements, etc. when possible so that the bill can be paid directly. Rental assistance can be provided up to twice a year except in the event of an impending eviction or a child placed in hospice when Panhandle Angels will provide additional support. Panhandle Angels has provided over \$350,000 in support to hundreds of families over the last 17 years.

(2) **Scholarships.** Panhandle Angels awards academic scholarships for young adults living in the area who have battled childhood cancer and/or a life threatening blood disorder. Scholarships are between \$500 and \$1,500 depending on the available funds and the number of individuals who apply for the scholarship. Panhandle Angels has awarded over 15 scholarships worth over \$23,000 in the last 15 years.

(3) **Event support.** Panhandle Angels partners with Texas Tech Hematology/Oncology department in throwing a huge Christmas party for kids and their families. Typically over 250 people are served a Christmas dinner and each child in each family receives a gift from Santa worth \$50 or less. Panhandle Angels also helps with other fun activities hosted by Texas Tech Hematology/Oncology including a Wonderland Day and Halloween party.

2023 Board of Directors

Kristina Hudson, President	Carole Hamlin, Vice President	Sheri Schenck- Secretary & Treasurer
Leslie Collier	Jessica Branch	Allison Hogue

Financial Information

FYE 12/31/23 operating budget: \$50,500

Reserves: No **If yes, value of reserves:** \$0.00

Description of reserves: Panhandle Angels had plans to use an unusually large annual gift from Valero in 2020 to create a reserve account. Unfortunately, the needs of the families that Panhandle Angels serve were great and the organization prioritized helping everyone in need.

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Endowment? No **If yes, value as of the most current 990/Audit:** \$0.00

Financial notes: Panhandle Angels has been providing an average of \$35,000 per year in support. In order to continue providing assistance to families the organization must apply for more grants.

MEBF giving history to Organization			
Year	Project Title	Amount	Type
2021	Childhood Cancer Families Financial Support	\$20,000	Community-Based Grants
Total Number of Grants Awarded: 1		Total Amount Granted: \$20,000	

3 Most Recent Year End Financials	Income	Expenses	Variance	Net Assets
FYE 12/31/2022 Internal Financial Statements	\$36,115	\$58,743	-\$22,628*	\$60,682
FYE 12/31/2021 Internal Financial Statements	\$69,433	\$69,749	-\$316	\$83,215
FYE 12/31/2020 Internal Financial Statements	\$75,955	\$29,648	\$46,307**	\$83,612

*In 2022 there was a large increase in travel expenses for children who required treatment in other cities such as Dallas and Houston.

**Income for FYE 12/31/2020 includes a \$50,000 donation from Valero.

Staff		Board Giving/Volunteering	
Full Time	0	Does your organization require board members to make a “meaningful” financial contribution to your organization according to their ability?	No
Part Time	0	If yes, what percentage of your Board of Directors made a “meaningful” financial contribution to your organization during the current fiscal year?	
Volunteers	6	What percentage of your Board of Directors volunteered time and/or services to the charity – beyond attending board meetings?	100

Funding Sources as per most recent IRS 990 or Audit (in percentages):

Religious Organizations:		Special Events:	
Civic Clubs:		Endowment or Interest Income:	
Corp/Bus Donors:	29	Fees or Earned Income:	
Individuals:	13	Government Grants:	
Foundations:	58	Government Contracts:	
		United Way:	
		In-Kind Contributions:	
		Other:	
		Explain Other Funding Sources:	
		Total % of Funding Sources:	100.00%

Age Group: All Ages	Gender: Both	Program Area: Human Services
Ethnicity: Multiple Ethnicities/Races	Counties Served: All Counties	Type of Support: General Operating Support
Beneficiaries: Children or Youth, General Populations		# of Beneficiaries: 100

*Beneficiary Clarification: Panhandle Angels is currently aware of 20+ families in need

Project Description:

Families of children with a childhood cancer diagnosis or a life threatening blood disorder are under great stress. The lives of the families are disrupted and turned upside down while dealing with their child's illness which could span years. The financial strain and burden these families experience can be tremendous. Individuals on Medicaid are low-income. Medicaid covers most of the medical expenses; however, the parent's or parents' job/s bring in very little money to cover bills. One parent often misses work to care for the child which leads to a loss of income. Some families are single parent families with little to no support from the other parent. Some parents lose jobs completely due to excessive absences. Many families who do not qualify for Medicaid do not make enough to pay for health insurance or the health insurance they are able to afford has extremely high premiums, co-pays, and deductibles. Many families are forced to choose between caring for and being with their child during treatments or working to pay the household bills.

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Panhandle Angels provides financial assistance to families of children who have been diagnosed with childhood cancer or life threatening blood disorders which can be a huge help during an already very stressful time. Needs can include groceries, restaurant gift cards, gas for vehicles, utilities, daily living expenses, car payments, unplanned expenses, rent, medical expenses, and/or travel expenses. Panhandle Angels serves approximately 35-40 families every year.

Panhandle Angels works closely with MTK Foundation to help families with financial needs. Panhandle Angels and MTK Foundation sometimes join forces to serve larger families and share the burden of the larger expenses. Panhandle Angels refers families to Children's Miracle Network for assistance when they have a large medical bill or copay not covered by insurance and then Panhandle Angels takes care of what CMN does not cover. Panhandle Angels helps children with cancer and other life threatening blood disorders such as sickle cell anemia and aplastic anemia while the MTK Foundation specifically helps children with cancer. MTK Foundation supports childhood cancer research and gives college scholarships to graduates interested in pursuing a future in cancer research and/or treatment while Panhandle Angels only provides scholarships to childhood cancer survivors. Children's Miracle Network only provides assistance to families for treatment-related travel and medical expenses. Panhandle Angels works directly with local businesses such as Texas Tech Hematology/Oncology, Texas Oncology, and ValMed Pharmacy to cover medication and/or chemotherapy expenses that families cannot pay. The staff at Baptist Saint Anthony's, Northwest Texas Hospital, and Texas Tech Hematology/Oncology are able to provide information about Panhandle Angels to their patients and their families in the event that they need assistance. Panhandle Angels has gift cards from \$75 to \$500 at both hospitals to assist with urgent needs such as gas, groceries and emergency travel during their patient's hospital stay. Panhandle Angels is not able to know the family's situation or identity due to HIPAA. Texas Tech also has gift cards for \$75 to hand out for gas during clinic visits with families.

Three letters of support were included with the grant application.

“Here at BSA we provide care to children in this area that are diagnosed with childhood cancer and hematologic disorders. Children that are newly diagnosed are provided detailed discharge information along with local and national resources to assist these families during their journey. The Panhandle Angels Foundation has knowledgeable community resources to help decrease the financial burden for these families allowing them to focus more attention on their child. Panhandle Angels Foundation supplies the hospital with gift cards for the families to the local restaurants, grocery stores, and gas cards as instant gifts while in the hospital. This organization also provides assistance financially by providing funds for travel, utility payments, medications, and groceries. Please consider Panhandle Angels Foundation for this grant. They are a great asset to these children and their families in their time of need.”

Alice Conner, RN at BSA Health Systems

“We are a part of the caring team to children diagnosed with childhood cancer and hematologic disorders. Newly diagnosed patients are provided detailed discharge information along with local and national resources to assist these families during their journey. Panhandle Angels Foundation is a great point of contact and a local resource to help decrease financial burden allowing them to focus more attention on their child. Panhandle Angels Foundation allows us to provide instant gifts to these families in their times of need by supplying our local hospital with gift cards that can be given to the families. In some cases it is for financial assistance, travel, medications, or even a food gift card just to have a little something different. Please take Panhandle Angels Foundation into consideration for this grant. They are a great asset to these children and their families in their time of need.”

Emily Langley, BSN, RN at Northwest Texas Healthcare System

“We have been receiving assistance from the Panhandle Angels Foundation for our pediatric oncology children who have difficulty paying for their prescriptions. Specialty medications can be very expensive, and often take a toll on these families who are already struggling with so many other things. When you have a child that is sick, wondering how to pay for the medications can be very stressful, and there are many who are low income and simply would be unable to afford their treatment without help. Panhandle Angels has truly been a Godsend to these families.

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Our process is as follows: If we receive a medication with a high copay (or the patient is uninsured), we will call the patient and discuss the copay with them. If they are unable to afford the medication, we then reach out to Panhandle Angels. They have never turned a child down, and we have had parents in tears because they are so touched that a foundation they have never given to is willing to help them, no questions asked. We are so appreciative of the help they have given, and we know if a family is struggling we can turn to them for financial assistance. Panhandle Angels is very deserving of the Bivins Grant, and there is no doubt that they will use the funds to help more families like the ones we have seen.”

Kyle Artho, Pharm D and Nicole Sandoval CPhT at Texas Oncology Pharmacy services

The travel needs of families served by Panhandle Angels has greatly increased over the last year or year and a half. Some children have received up to \$2,500 in travel money for treatment that keeps them away from home for more than a month or two. There seem to be more children needing to seek treatment for various reasons outside the Panhandle than the organization has seen in past years. Gas cards have increased from \$50 to \$75 and grocery gift cards have increased from \$250 to \$350 to try to keep up with inflation.

PANHANDLE ANGELS FOUNDATION	
PROJECT BUDGET: Assistance to Families	
Fiscal Year End 12/31/2023	
Anticipated Income to be Used	
<i>Source</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Foundations (requested Circle of Friends)	\$6,000
Foundations (requested Bivins Grant)	\$20,000
Foundations (requested Children's Miracle Network)	\$5,000
Business/Corporation (received/requested)	\$5,290
Individuals (received)	\$500
Total Income	\$36,790
Anticipated Expenses	
<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Gift cards for groceries	\$10,000
Gift cards for gas	\$2,000
Travel expenses	\$20,000
Rent	\$3,000
Medications/copays not covered by insurance	\$500
Utilities	\$5,000
Social events	\$4,000
Scholarships	\$6,000
Total Expense	\$50,500
Variance (Income less Expense)	-\$13,710
PROJECT DESCRIPTION:	
Assistance to families to include groceries, gas, travel for medical treatments, rent, utilities, and copays/medications not covered by insurance; other needs may be included as needs arise.	

Panhandle Angels will continue to provide financial assistance to families with children who have been diagnosed with childhood cancer and life threatening blood disorders if grant funding is not provided. Panhandle Angels considers it a success that they have never had to say no to a family due to lack of funds; however, the risk of needing to do so would be greater without grant funding.