

Working Woman's Home Association 2023 Grant Application

Within the City of Montgomery and its environs, the intent and purpose of the Working Woman's Home Association is:

1. To aid and assist distressed and abused women and children
2. To aid in the education of women to the end that they may become self-sufficient
3. To aid and assist women in providing emergency housing
4. To aid and assist elderly persons, particularly women, in meeting their basic needs

Instructions: Please complete the following questions and submit form at the end. This form allows information from another document to be inserted or pasted in the question response space. It is also possible to edit information on the form after submission.

Email attachments to secretary@wwhassn.org.

** This grant application is requesting funds to be awarded in January 2023. NO grant applications will be able to be submitted after the deadline - 5:00 pm on Monday, June 13, 2022.

Name of Organization/Agency *

Embrace Alabama Kids, a ministry of the United Methodist Children's Home

Address *

4001 Carmichael Rd, Ste 220

City, State, and Zip *

Montgomery, AL 36106

Website Address *

www.embracealkids.org

Executive Director Name *

K. Blake Horne, Ph.D.

Telephone *

800-239-3575

Email address *

blake.horne@letsembracekids.org

Project or Program Proposal Contact Person (if different from above)

Rebecca Morris

Telephone

2517164752

Email Address

grants@letsembracekids.org

Funding Requested *

\$35,000

Briefly state the purpose and goals of this project or program. *

Since 2020 Embrace Alabama Kids has been implementing our mission through Mary Ellen's Hearth (MEH). The goal of MEH is to provide transitional housing for homeless women and children in the River Region, and offers supportive services to prepare the families to live independently. The population we serve at MEH became homeless for a myriad of reasons, including addiction, poverty, domestic violence, or simply minimal relational or financial resources. MEH staff offers instruction on life skills, financial literacy, parenting, healthy relationships, cooking and nutrition, and living on a budget, all while providing the basic needs of shelter, food, and clothing.

Briefly describe your plans for administration of this project or program request? *

Mary Ellen's Hearth (MEH) provides transitional housing for homeless women and children in the River Region, and offers supportive services to prepare the families to live independently. MEH staff offers instruction on life skills, financial literacy, parenting, healthy relationships, cooking and nutrition, and living on a budget, all while providing the basic needs of shelter, food, and clothing to homeless women and their families. MEH's Program Manager and Family Intervention Specialist each have their Master's or Bachelor's Degree in a related field. Our Program Manager has almost two decades of experience in providing care and support to special populations. MEH staff are overseen by Embrace Alabama Kids' Director of Programs, Lori Foreman. Lori has her Master's Degree in Social Work and is a Licensed Social Worker. Embrace Alabama Kids' CFO, Amanda S. Freeman, will oversee the financial aspects of the grant. Amanda has her Master's Degree in Accounting and is a Certified Public Accountant.

How will you evaluate the success of this project or program? Or how have you evaluated the success of this project or program in the past? *

To ensure that MEH is providing a high-quality program we evaluate our impact through the following goals and objectives:

Program goals:

Guide homeless mothers and their children from crisis to stability.

Provide relevant, interesting classes for residents to learn needed skills to equip them in all areas of their lives.

Provide a safe, home-like, family environment for homeless women and their children.

Interrupt the generational cycle of poverty.

Objectives:

By the end of the project period, provide services to at least 10 women.

By the end of the project period, at least 80% of MEH residents will achieve progress on their treatment goals as measured by progress on quarterly Service Plan Reviews.

By the end of the project period, provide parenting and life skills classes on site as measured by implementation of the project timeline.

By the end of the project period, 90% of MEH residents will attend on-site classes as measured by attendance sheets.

We are currently meeting these objectives and have seen the success of our program through the success of our MEH women becoming self-sufficient. MEH has an unprecedented success rate of current residents being gainfully employed and/or working towards a college degree. In 2021 we successfully provided services to 26 women and 47 children. MEH's Program Manager oversees the entire evaluation process. More than 80% of MEH residents achieved progress on their treatment goals as measured by progress on quarterly Treatment Plan Reviews. MEH's Family Intervention Specialist completes the treatment plans for each woman to document progress and determine next steps.

To help illustrate the impact of our work at MEH, we share with you the story JW. JW is a current resident at MEH. Prior to entering MEH, JW was working for the State of Alabama and experienced hardship due to COVID-19. She was not able to recover swiftly. JW is a current student at Troy University-Online where she is obtaining a degree in Business Administration. She currently has one year plus one semester left in the program and she is also currently employed. Her goals are to become a salaried employee again, become a first-time homebuyer, and save \$20,000. JW has been making major strides to achieve each of her goals with the community resources and services that Mary Ellen's Hearth provides.

This project or program will impact Montgomery in the following areas (check all that apply) *

- Distressed and abused women and children
- Education of women and life skills development
- Emergency housing for women and children
- Assist elderly persons, particularly women, in meeting their basic needs
- Other:

How does this project or program funding request fit into your organization's mission and, more specifically, the mission of your project or program? *

What started as an orphanage in 1890 in Summerfield, Alabama with the name of the United Methodist Children's Home has grown to serve thousands of children and families throughout Alabama and the panhandle of Florida as Embrace Alabama Kids and Embrace Florida Kids. Our mission is: In response to God's word, we embrace and nurture vulnerable children and families by providing homes, healing and hope. We are a network of group homes, foster homes and family service providers. In 2021, we served 2,050 babies, children, teens, young adults and parents through our many successful programs. We are accredited through the Council on Accreditation which ensures that we meet or exceed best practice standards. Since 2020 Embrace Alabama Kids has been implementing our mission through Mary Ellen's Hearth (MEH). The population we serve at MEH became homeless for a myriad of reasons, including addiction, poverty, domestic violence, or simply minimal relational or financial resources. Family homelessness is the second leading cause of children being in foster care, behind abuse and neglect. That's why our work at MEH – equipping families to stay together in a safe, healthy home – is an important part of Embrace Alabama Kids' mission.

How does this project or program funding request fit into the mission of the Working Woman's Home Association? (stated at top of form) *

This program is a natural extension of the Working Woman's Home Association mission in that Mary Ellen's Hearth exemplifies aiding and assisting distressed and abused women and children through providing care and assistance. Our goals are similar in that our work at MEH is designed to support women through teaching life skills and providing access to formal educational classes so that women become self-sufficient. MEH provides supportive housing for women with no other options. The Working Woman's Home Association mission is strongly aligned with the work EAK accomplishes at Mary Ellen's Hearth.

Will this project or program initiate a new service in Montgomery? *

- Yes
- No

If not, explain the features of this project or program that distinguish it from other organizations in Montgomery that provide the same or similar services. Identify those organizations in Montgomery providing the same or similar services.

MEH staff are active participants in the Montgomery Area Coalition for the Homeless, which serves the homeless population in the Montgomery area. When our staff determine that our participants need other residential community resources, we collaborate with those organizations to best serve the target population.

There are very few organizations in our community that provide the unique combination of programs, services, and supportive housing that families need to transition out of poverty, from crisis to stability. There are a handful of short-term shelters in our area that accept families, and most do not provide the home-like environment that we offer at MEH. We are the only transitional shelter in the area. Our program is specific to equipping mothers and their children with the tools that they need to succeed once they leave our home. We believe that our caring environment offers the reliable structure that families need to transition to independent living.

How many people will be served by this project or program funding request? *

20

Will a grant from the Working Woman's Home Association enable your organization to receive matching funds? *

- Yes
- No

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Is there another resource that can assume financial responsibility for this project or program upon completion of the commitment of the Working Woman's Home Association? *

Yes

No

List other organizations or grants from which you have requested funding for this project or program and the status of such requests. *

River Region United Way: awarded

River Region United Way Emergency Food and Shelter Program: awarded

Central Alabama Community Foundation: awarded

Frazer United Methodist Church: awarded

First United Methodist Church of Montgomery: awarded

Montgomery Rotary: awarded

Montgomery Kiwanis: awarded

City of Montgomery Community Development Block Grant: pending

In addition to submitting this project or program funding request, the documents below are required for this application to be accepted as complete. Please email current documentation in PDF format to: secretary@wwhassn.org. (You may check the box below when the item has been emailed.)

Detailed proposed budget for this project or program request

Proposed budget for your organization for the current year

Copy of Statement of Revenues and Expenses and Balance Sheet for the current and most recent fiscal year completed for your organization

Copy of your most recent audit. If an audit is not available, please include a copy of your most recent 990 form

List of Officers and Directors

Copy of your IRS Letter of Determination of 501(c)(3) status