

# 2024 Program Long - Round 1

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## Jefferson Foundation

### Project Name\*

Character Limit: 100

Hero's Harvest: A Community Garden

### Project Description

Character Limit: 2000

Second-Hand Heroes intends to create a community garden at the local Grace Presbyterian Church lot, down the street from our brick-and-mortar shop. This garden would give community members a place to teach, learn, and grow together. Second-Hand Heroes will contribute the amount of food that can be produced on 320 square feet of raised community garden beds in one year to the local food pantry.

The food grown in the garden will be donated to the food pantry. Produce donations to the church will also help create meals for the unhoused, ensuring members of our community who are in need receive healthy food.

This project is essential because the food insecurity rate in Jefferson County is 10%, which directly affects residents and children, causing nutrition deficiencies, health problems, financial strain, and developmental delays.

To begin the project, in the early fall, we would hire a local fencing company to create a fenced-in garden to protect it from animals. We would also use the Fall season to place the garden shed, compost, and trash bins and gather tools and educational supplies.

The food would be grown in ten 4 x 8-foot raised beds. The community garden volunteer teachers will make the raised beds as a learning opportunity in the Fall. This would pass the skill on to the community so that others know how to create raised beds while preparing the garden for planting in the Spring. An irrigation system would need to be installed after the beds are crafted.

The winter would be spent gathering seeds and planning. In late winter, lessons would be planned on planting seed starts in a greenhouse. This is a good life skill to cultivate and an excellent way to utilize the garden in the winter. If it is too cold, the church basement can be a space to meet for these lessons.

Spring is the time to plant and get busy with plants that need to be moved out of the greenhouse. There is a transplanting lesson here. The plants that will start from ground seeds will also be planted now. Green bean poles need to be installed before the beans are planted, offering another lesson opportunity here.

Summer would be for harvesting and measuring the success of the garden. Weighing out the food produced would be an excellent way to track the quantity produced. Lessons would be done in the summertime, covering subjects such as starting seeds in a greenhouse, transplanting starts, creating wildflower seed paper, painting garden rocks, crafting birdhouses, and many more!

Fall is the end of the community garden time frame, and we will evaluate its success and start the process over.

Hero's Harvest would teach gardening lessons for adults and children throughout the year.

## Amount Requested

Character Limit: 20

Second Hand Heroes requests \$25,500.00 for Hero's Harvest: A Community Garden.

## Number of Clients Served Annually

Character Limit: 50

Second Hand Heroes serves 14,600 clients annually

## Grant Topic

The requested funds will primarily be used for the following purpose (select primary topic only):

### Choices

Academic Scholarships

#### **Basic Needs**

Dental Services

Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Exercise and Healthy Lifestyle Education Foster Care and Adoption Services

Health and Health-Related Education Homeless and Domestic Violence Services Medical Equipment

Mental Health Counseling Obesity

Physical and Mental Disabilities Prescription Assistance Preventative Health Care

Safe Housing Transportation Assistance

## General Agency Information

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### Agency Mission Statement

Character Limit: 1000

Our mission is to offer families and individuals the necessities and resources to live a high-quality lifestyle.

### Brief Agency Description

Include information on current programs, activities, number of clients served annually, and accomplishments.

Character Limit: 1500

Second-Hand Heroes' brick-and-mortar store accepts donations, sorts them, and displays them for individuals in need to shop for free. This store offers various items, such as food, clothing, home essentials, hygiene products, and children's and baby items.

Current activities at Second Hand Heroes include running our shop, which includes collecting donations, sorting donations, organizing, and cleaning. We also commit a significant amount of time to connecting people to other resources. Sharing information on Facebook about other resources helps many people. Second Hand Heroes helps 30-50 people per day.

## General Request Information

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### Briefly describe the impact the requested grant will have on the program:

Character Limit: 2000

The requested grant would have a massive impact on the program. With the grant funds, the program would be possible, and a real impact on food insecurity in our community would be made. This would put food in the mouths of hungry children and mothers, veterans, or any community member down on their luck. Without the grant, Second Hand Heroes would not be able to launch this community garden initiative. There could be no impact made through the community garden to help with food insecurity.

### Briefly describe how the grant funds would be used:

Character Limit: 2000

The funds will be utilized to purchase the necessary materials to establish the community garden's infrastructure. This includes fencing, raised garden beds, soil, an irrigation system, a compost bin, a trash bin, signage, a shed, locks, a picnic table, and a greenhouse. The funds will also be used for initial start-up needs such as tools, hoses, seeds, and starts. The educational program will also be funded, including activities, snacks, and water supplies. This fund will also cover ongoing expenses like the water bill and liability insurance. All of this is listed in the detailed budget attached.

### Geographic area served by the program (list all counties):

Character Limit: 1000

Jefferson County

## Detailed Program Information

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### Program Goals

Describe the program goals.

Character Limit: 2000

Hero's Harvest community garden program aims to teach fundamental life skills and enrich lives through gardening projects, while feeding the people facing food insecurity in our community.

### Activities

Describe the activities that will be implemented to achieve these goals.

Character Limit: 3000

To achieve these goals, activities will include building the garden's infrastructure, tilling flower beds, planting flowers, building raised garden beds, starting greenhouse seeds, planting seeds, watering and maintaining plants, transferring plants outdoors, harvesting, weighing produce, distributing produce to the food pantry, composting, and winterizing the garden. Gardening educational lessons will also be held in the community garden, covering subjects such as starting seeds in a greenhouse, transplanting starts, creating wildflower seed paper, painting garden rocks, and crafting birdhouses.

## Expected Impact

Describe the expected impact on the community.

Character Limit: 2000

The expected impact of the Hero's Harvest project would be to positively impact the food insecurity issue in Jefferson County and foster positive relationships within the community. We intend to explore opportunities to expand the project and determine long-term goals. Fruit trees could be planted, berry bushes could be added, and other food sources could be added.

## Evaluation Strategy

Describe the evaluation strategy to track program effectiveness and achievement of program goals.

Character Limit: 2000

Hero's Harvest would track the amount of food produced from the garden and compare that to the expected Harvest of a 320-cubic-foot garden. Cross-tracking how much food is donated to the food pantry would also show whether the project succeeded in growing food.

We would conduct surveys assessing the educational lessons being taught to get feedback from the community on what they liked and didn't and how to improve for future lessons. We would also track feedback from volunteers and community members through an anonymous drop-off box by the garden gate; this would allow people without internet access to leave their input.

## Attachments

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Please upload the following attachments.

### Organization Budget for Current Fiscal Year\*

File Size Limit: 2 MB

### Budget for Requested Funds\*

Provide a line item accounting of how the requested funds would be used.

File Size Limit: 1 MB

### Current Board Roster\*

File Size Limit: 2 MB

### 501(c)(3) Determination Letter

Attach a 501(c)(3) determination letter if this is your first application to the Foundation. This is the federal letter from the IRS. Please note that this does not apply to government entities.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

### Audited Financial Statements

If request is for more than \$100,000.00

File Size Limit: 10 MB

### Electronic Signature\*

Type in your name

Character Limit: 100

Ashley Schaefer

### Title\*

Please enter your title as it relates to the agency

Character Limit: 200

Student

### Today's date\*

Character Limit: 10

April 22, 2024

By entering your signature information above and clicking "I Agree" below, you certify that the statements contained in this application are true and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief.\*

### Choices

**I Agree.**

I Do Not Agree.