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**Blaine County Hunger Coalition 2022 Final Report**

**The Value of Trust**

**Grant Amount: $20,000**

**Grant Program in Review**

The original grant was intended for our Promotoras Program, designed to mentor Latina women in our community to act as neighborhood health liaisons. Due to a dramatic influx of families with highly sensitive cases, as well as the compounding effects of inflation on the women’s work schedules, we were forced to pause the program. Thanks to your flexibility, we were able to pivot and hire three additional full-time Community Organizing and Case Management staff who have served as Promotoras in their own right. Along with two other existing team members, these ladies spent countless hours helping 55 families navigate incredibly complex and heartbreaking circumstances this winter, all while managing our already record high case load. Due to their foresight in identifying influx trends, they were able to advocate for a shelter before families succumbed to the bitter temperatures, and learned to activate a community response despite bureaucratic hurdles.

**Objectives & Outcomes**

This amazing group of women play key roles in our case management and community organizing teams. They develop partnerships with key organizations to provide resources and education for all of the families we serve, and collect and identify data and stories that guide our advocacy work. During the winter housing crisis, they helped develop an inter-organization communication strategy to allow case managers to share client information and increase the efficiency of our referral and resource pipeline. This also lessened the emotional burden on each case manager by building a support system between organizations to cope with the gravity of the stories they were shouldering every day. This new system will continue to benefit our organizations and participants. We are working on developing a crisis response policy for future issues that arise.

Here are a few things these amazing women accomplished with your support:

- Managed temporary shelter for 158 people, over one third of whom were children

- Hosted 2 vaccination clinics with the Idaho Immunization Coalition, St. Luke’s, and ISU.

- Coordinated a free, multi-week tax service for folks to obtain their ITIN numbers while

working here

- Jane Lopez was accepted into the Harvard Kennedy School’s Leadership, Organizing, and

Action program

**Budget**

| **Expenses** | **Original Request** | **Actual Expenditures** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Childcare (for meetings and education classes) | $1,000 | $0 |
| Staff time | $5,000 | $18,800 |
| Incentives-pay Promotoras for their time through contract work, gift certificates, gas cards, food etc. | $6,000 | $1,200 |
| Interpretation-written and in person interpretation | $3,000 | $0 |
| Educational consultation and mentorship from outside orgs and consultants | $5,000 | $0 |
| **TOTAL** | **$20,000** | **$20,000** |

***Left:*** *Case Managers from THC, St. Luke’s. and BCCF*

***Right:*** *Dolores Vega, Resource and Advocacy Coordinator helping a family order grocer*

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