

The Ascienzo Family Foundation 2015 Basic Grant Application Form

Use this form to submit an unsolicited grant proposal for an amount less than (or equal to) \$5,000.
Please mail all requested information postmarked by November 1.

Name and Title of Applicant: Brittany Mosher, Ascienzo Family Ambassador
Georgia Granger, Director of HABIC
Jasmine Marie, HABIC Trainer and Denver Coordinator

GRANTEE INFORMATION

Name of Non-Profit Organization: Human-Animal Bond in Colorado (HABIC)

Street/Mailing Address: 1586 Campus Delivery, School of Social Work, Colorado State University

City: Fort Collins **State:** CO **Zip Code:** 80523

Telephone Number: (970) 491-2776 **E-mail:** habic@colostate.edu

Website: habic.chhs.colostate.edu

Amount of Request: \$5000

GRANT PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

On an attached sheet, please describe the grant proposal in 1,000 words or less including:

- (a) The intended goal(s) and planned timeline for the proposed program or project;
- (b) The budget for the proposal, including a description of the total expenses and what other sources of funding are available and/or are being applied for;
- (c) Describe how the success of the proposed program or project will be evaluated and what its ongoing benefits will be; and
- (d) Describe your organization's work and provide a link to such information on the organization's website.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that all the information contained in this proposal is valid and correct. The organization's IRS tax-determination letter (proof of their 501(c)(3) charitable status) is attached.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Printed Name with Title: _____

Postmark by November 1 to: The Ascienzo Family Foundation, 60 Penstock Lane, Lake Katrine, NY 12449

Organization Information:

In 1993, Georgia Granger founded Human-Animal Bond in Colorado (HABIC; www.habic.chhs.colostate.edu) with the mission to: "Improve the quality of life for people of all ages through the therapeutic use of companion animals." HABIC has grown to encompass over 150 volunteer teams, serving over 700 people in need each week. HABIC volunteers work with 50 programs and institutions including public schools, long-term care and rehabilitation, hospitals, hospice, mental health, youth corrections, residential treatment, Veterans Affairs, and other health and social service organizations in Colorado. Public schools make up the majority of programs, and HABIC has teams in 30 different Colorado public schools this year, providing animal-assisted therapy (AAT).

My Experience with HABIC:

After completing HABIC's obedience training course in December 2013, my dog Sheeba and I became official HABIC human-animal team volunteers. Each semester, we work with two students at Dunn Elementary School in Fort Collins, Colorado. Under the direction of a counselor, we provide therapy focused on goals tailored to individual needs of each student.

The children I have worked with have been at-risk, due to either their situation at home, or to a physical, mental, or emotional disability. Students experiencing these difficulties are often disruptive and their behavior acts as a barrier to academic success for themselves and for their fellow classmates.

I have seen first-hand how HABIC has motivated children to be focused in class and to communicate better with peers. Some changes I have seen include: increased interest in schoolwork, improved behavior, increased self-confidence, new-found empathy, improvement in ability to problem-solve, and a reduction in depression and anxiety. With these improvements in social behavior, not only do the students I work with benefit, but so do the children in their classrooms, potentially reaching hundreds of children in each school.

Goals:

We request a grant of \$5000 from The Ascienzo Family Foundation to create sponsorships to help HABIC reach more people in need in 2016. To do this, we would like provide two types of sponsorships.

1. We request \$4500 to sponsor schools, child programs, and nursing homes that are currently unable to pay HABIC's entire annual program fees. Each facility will be encouraged to contribute what they can towards program fees, with grant funds to supplement costs when needed.

- **Schools:**

- HABIC school program = \$600
 - Includes entire school year; up to 3 human-animal teams (\$200 per team)
 - Number of teams and students can increase with an additional fee
- One HABIC team provides 30-min individual sessions for two students weekly (~36 weeks)
- Schools who need assistance:
 - Lincoln Elementary School Loveland, Colorado
 - Berthoud High School Berthoud, Colorado
 - West Lake Middle School Broomfield, Colorado
 - Mortensen Elementary School Littleton, Colorado
 - McMeen Elementary School Denver, Colorado
 - McMeen is a potential new school that has taken on Syrian refugee children who could greatly benefit from AAT during this transitional time in their lives.

- **Programs for Children:**
 - Respite Care is a non-profit that provides short-term care for children with developmental disabilities. Respite Care currently needs assistance paying the full \$600 fee.

 - **Nursing homes:**
 - HABIC annual cost = \$900
 - Includes entire year weekly for up to 3 human-animal teams (\$200 per HABIC team)
 - Teams spend an hour every week visiting with individuals and/or large groups providing relief of pain and loneliness, companionship, and a reduction in depression and anxiety
 - Some of the nursing homes accept Medicaid patients and are committed to creating a comfortable and engaging community for low-income elderly residents
 - Facilities who need assistance:
 - Spring Creek Healthcare Center Fort Collins, Colorado
 - Garden Square at Spring Creek Fort Collins, Colorado
 - New Mercer Commons Fort Collins, Colorado
2. We request an additional \$500 to sponsor potential volunteers who are interested in joining HABIC but cannot afford the entire startup cost. Students, elderly, or low-income individuals who are willing to volunteer their time helping others are sometimes unable to become volunteers due to the financial strain of joining HABIC. Each prospective volunteer will be encouraged to contribute what they can toward training, donation, and background check and grant funds will be used to supplement costs when needed.
- Initial cost to become a HABIC volunteer:
 - Training fee = \$90
 - Membership donation = \$30
 - Background check = \$25 (if volunteering in a school)
 - **Total = \$145**

Evaluating Success and Long-term Benefits:

If we are successful recipients from The Ascienzo Family Foundation, we will compile an end-of-year report for the Board of Directors in fall of 2016. This report will include:

1. A detailed description of the schools, programs, and nursing homes who received funds.
2. Testimonials from counselors, family members of participants, and participants.
3. The number of new HABIC volunteers who received funds.
4. Any published news or research articles related to the facilities that received financial assistance.

HABIC’s success can be measured in different ways. Firstly, the return rate of schools is near 100%. The schools that have “dropped” the HABIC program have been due to financial struggles, and not due to dissatisfaction with the program.

Secondly, every student’s progress and goals are documented after every HABIC session. This formal documentation allows for continuous evaluation or modifications to AAT sessions. The records are filed yearly and were used as data in a research project (e.g. 2011 Thompson School District study: <http://www.habic.chhs.colostate.edu/research.aspx>).

Conclusion:

HABIC strives to help children reach their full potential and to improve quality of life for elderly. This grant will allow us reach more people by assisting programs that struggle financially, and by expanding our volunteer force, and we are certain that this investment will return great dividends to our community in the future.