

HOPE FAMILY SERVICES, INC

Initiative: HOPE Family Services Children's Counseling Center

FAC: Family

Organization Mission Statement: The Mission of HOPE Family Services (HOPE) is to provide safety, strength, and well-being for those affected by domestic violence in Manatee County, Florida.

Nonprofit's Description of its Organization and its History of Impact:

HOPE Family Services (HOPE) is a 501 (c)(3) organization and Manatee County's only state certified domestic violence service provider. HOPE staff members, volunteers, and board members have provided life-saving services to victims of domestic violence and their children for more than forty years and have moved the agency to one of Florida's best domestic violence service providers supporting survivors using an empowerment-based model.

HOPE was started by two women in 1979 who saw a need for services for "battered wives." The shelter began in the home of one of the founders and within a year it secured a grant to buy a small building and pay off the mortgage, thus HOPE was firmly established as Manatee County's only domestic violence Safe Shelter.

Forty years after beginning as a volunteer organization, HOPE has expanded to providing eleven key services that are offered at no charge to participants which include the Emergency Safe Shelter, 24-hour HelpLine and TextLine, victim advocacy, professional individual and group counseling, legal services, children's programs, prevention programs for teens and "tweens", farmworker outreach, and social change speakers, to name a few. Most services are offered in Spanish as well as English.

Impact100 SRQ's Description of the Initiative:

The Impact 100 SRQ grant will **FUND** the installation of HOPE Family Services Children's Counseling Center on an existing 75 X 60 greenspace on their 2.2-acre campus. The \$101,000 will fund a modular 24 X 56 feet building that includes steps, a ramp, and awnings, site design and permitting, play therapy supplies, including books, puppets, dolls, and furniture and marketing.

The Initiative's **IMPACT** on the community will be the creation of a dedicated facility for children who are victims of domestic violence to foster the children's safety and wellbeing. The Children's Counseling Center will be the centralized place for the

professional counselors to conduct individual and group therapy, play therapy sessions, family counseling sessions, and safe activities and events all geared toward children. The modular building will have 4 offices and a center room for play therapy counseling and other group activities. This dedicated facility will allow HOPE to expand its children's counseling programs and provide the flexibility to grow the services as the need arises in the community. HOPE is the only state certified domestic violence service provider in Manatee County. Last year its Children programs served over 350 children. Currently children come to HOPE for counseling services, but there is no dedicated space. The sessions are conducted in staff offices, conference rooms and the lobby area that are used for other purposes and are not designed to be a child-friendly safe environment. The Children's Counseling Center will be a space created especially for children with professional counselors to help the children navigate the trauma experienced from their exposure to domestic violence.

The Initiative will be **SUSTAINED** by budgeting annually for repairs and maintenance as HOPE does for the rest of its facility. Therefore, these expenses will be covered by the annual fundraising efforts that support all of HOPE's current services.

Please use our SRQ 5Q when you are reviewing these executive summaries.

Q1. Is the Initiative clearly defined?

Q2. Is the Initiative viable?

Q3. Is the Initiative sustainable?

Q4. Is the Initiative going to positively Impact the community?

Q5. Are we being good stewards of the dollars we have been entrusted?