

FUNDING APPLICATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Texas Ramp Project	Federal Tax ID#: 33-1139484	Are you a 501(3)(c) charity? Yes	
Address: P.O. Box 832065	City: Richardson	State: TX	Zip Code: 75083-2065
Website: www.texasramps.org	Fax: (214) 675-1230		

Head Of Organization

Name: John Laine	Title: Executive Director
E-Mail Address: texasramps.laine@gmail.com	Phone: (972) 618-2905

Application Contact

Name: Kay Champagne	Title: Board Member	E-Mail Address: kfchamp@iit.net	Phone: (972) 618-2905
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Previous funding received from The Gordon Hartman Family Foundation

Year	Funding \$
2013	\$5,000
2014	\$10,000
2015	\$7,500
2016	\$10,000
2017	\$10,000
2018	\$10,000
2019	\$7,500
Total	\$60,000

Has the organization applied to the Gordon Hartman Family Foundation in the past and been declined?
No

Grant Amount Requested \$:	Total Project Budget \$:	Organization's Annual budget \$:
\$12,000	\$239,300	\$1,427,000

Mission Statement:
The Texas Ramp Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides free wheelchair ramps to low-income older adults and people with disabilities identified by local health care providers. The ramps are built exclusively by volunteers following ADA guidelines. They are provided without regard to age, gender, race, religion or ethnicity.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Program / Project Title:
San Antonio Ramp Project

PROJECT TIMELINE

Start Date	End Date
01/01/2021	12/31/2021

Program / Project Description:
The Texas Ramp Project grew out of a Dallas-based ramp-building organization that was started by the Richardson Kiwanis Club in 1985. Since incorporating in 2006 as a statewide nonprofit, TRP has set up local organizations in 40 Texas regions. TRP is active in the 13 counties in the Alamo Area Council of Governments, including those served by the Gordon Hartman Family Foundation.

Over the years TRP volunteers have built nearly 20,000 ramps across Texas. These ramps would measure nearly 100 miles if laid end-to-end. In fact, in November 2020 TRP will celebrate construction of its 100th mile of ramps. Every region will participate, as it will take approximately 200 ramps to cover that 100th mile.

In 2019 the statewide Ramp Projects received over 5,000 referrals and built just over 2,100 ramps, using the donated labor of more than 3,500 volunteer builders. In 2020 TRP's goal is to build 2,300 ramps on a budget of \$1,427,000. We will fall short of that goal because the pandemic has stalled builds and even cut back on referrals. We expect referrals to surge when the pandemic wanes, social workers return to the field, and post-COVID disabilities take their toll.

Since 2006 our San Antonio volunteers have completed over 2,200 ramps (13 miles' worth) for their neighbors with disabilities, bringing safe access to not only clients but also their families and caregivers. San Antonio Ramp Project volunteers have committed 91,000 hours of their time, a \$2.4 million value.

Last year TRP received 660 referrals in the Alamo Area COG. The vast majority (437) were in Bexar County. Of the 202 ramps built in the COG, 116 were in Bexar, 22 each in Comal and Guadalupe, 11 in Kerr, 7 each in Atascosa and Medina, and 5 or less in each of the remaining counties. So far in 2020, the San Antonio Project has received 399 new referrals and built 139 ramps.

Referrals come from state and local agencies, rehab hospitals, hospices, home health companies, and other health care providers and social workers. The referral source qualifies the client as being low income according to their agency's standards. No direct referrals are accepted. The referrals are received through TRP's website and directed to the regional coordinator. A surveyor goes to the residence, assesses the property, and designs the ramp. On build day prebuilt modules, lumber, tools and other materials are transported to the site, where an experienced team leader and volunteer crew install the ramp within a few hours.

San Antonio Project coordinators are Bill Wyckoff, a retired Army nurse; Kay Geurin, a retired social services manager; and Roland Guzman, formerly of the Governor's Office for People with Disabilities and himself wheelchair-bound.

The San Antonio Project supports 24 trained team leaders. They represent the Fort Sam Houston Men of the Chapel; Community Bible, Northwest Hills United Methodist, and Abiding Presence Lutheran churches; Selah Tribe; UT Health Science students; and Bexar County Juvenile Services, all in San Antonio; St. John's Episcopal Church, First UMC and Kiwanis Club, New Braunfels; St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Canyon Lake; Friedens United Church of Christ, Geronimo; First Baptist Church and First UMC, Seguin; Rebecca Creek Baptist Church, Spring Branch;

Also, Knights of Columbus, Helotes; New Fountain UMC, Hondo; South Texas Electric Cooperative, Pearsall; Schertz UMC; First UMC, Boerne; First UMC and Bethany Lutheran Church, Fredericksburg; and Hunt UMC, Kerrville.

In all, more than 40 churches, civic groups, businesses, military units, and college student and alumni groups help build ramps in San Antonio, although about half of them are currently on hiatus due to the pandemic. Local volunteers committed nearly 7,700 hours to ramp construction in 2019. We have donated warehouse space in New Braunfels, Hondo and Seguin.

About 219,000 people in Bexar County are age 65 or over, and 150,000 are veterans. About 27% of the 65+ population--some 59,000 people--report an ambulatory disability. Another 72,000 people under 65, including children, also report an ambulatory disability. We expect similar percentages to prevail across the AACOG. The poverty rate in Bexar County is 17.2%, clearly demonstrating a need for TRP's services. Low-income residents with disabilities in the other counties are equally vulnerable. People in rural areas are particularly in need because they have few services.

TRP's ramp-building activity improves the safety and welfare of people of all ages with disabilities, including children and veterans. The new ramps allow clients to safely enter and exit their homes without requiring a caregiver or EMS to lift them. They gain independence, improved quality of life, and easier escape in the event of a fire or other emergency. Their caregivers, often elderly spouses, also gain relief from having to assist their patient on steps or dilapidated ramps. Family members and caregivers no longer need to be present every time the client must leave the home. This may allow them to return to work.

In many cases, the ramps also allow clients to age gracefully in their homes, avoiding costly nursing home care at taxpayer expense. An \$800 ramp from the Texas Ramp Project can save taxpayers \$80,000 per year for an uninsured client. And the clients remain where they really want to be, surrounded by family and neighbors who love and care for them.

With our overall estimated 2021 budget of \$239,300 for the 13-county Alamo Area COG, we hope to serve as many as 245 clients, their caregivers and their communities. Cost per ramp has escalated this year due to pandemic-related lumber shortages and cost increases. The budget also includes tools for four new teams (one each in Bexar and Comal and two in Atascosa).

A \$12,000 grant from the Gordon Hartman Family Foundation will purchase materials and supplies to build 13 to 15 wheelchair ramps (depending on length) in Bexar and surrounding counties. About 10% of the funding would support executive management, travel by the executive director for training and development, and administrative services including liability insurance, website and database management, and office expenses.

Evaluation Plan:

The benefits of a new wheelchair ramp to the clients and their families are assumed, and TRP does not follow up on clients after they receive their ramps. Thus, our evaluation is based mainly on the number of ramps built and the efficiency with which we build them. Our 2021 goal for the San Antonio Project is to build 245 wheelchair ramps (average length 26 feet) and equip four new teams on a budget of \$239,300. These are aggressive goals, especially with the enduring pandemic, but the need is great and will only grow.

Referrals come to the database via our website, www.texasramps.org. The referrals are automatically directed to the appropriate area coordinator. The referral includes the client's contact information, age, and race or ethnicity; caretaker's contact information; social worker's name, agency and contact information; and confirmation of financial need. It also includes the desired location of the ramp (front or back door); description of obstacles, such as number of steps; details of the client's mobility; if there is an unsafe existing ramp; and whether the client is a hospice or dialysis patient, living alone, or a veteran.

The Texas Ramp Project installed a robust database seven years ago. The database is used to track ramp construction from referral through build. After a ramp is surveyed and built, the team leader records information about the ramp, including build date, length, materials cost, team leader, number and source of volunteers, and hours to build. This data is entered into the database, which is capable of generating reports in a variety of configurations. These details help us determine such metrics as cost per foot and average hours to build the ramp. It provides a detailed record of ramp activity and is totally searchable to the county level.

TRP monitors key metrics monthly. These metrics, along with funding, referrals and staffing in each region, allow us to detect problems, such as an unusually high cost per foot or a sudden drop in funding or volunteers, early on. We can then take immediate steps to remedy the situation and avoid a shutdown of construction, which for us is a worst-case scenario. While a shutdown may be necessary, it is harmful to the local project and can result in the loss of key volunteers and create uneasiness with funding sources. Fortunately, this has rarely been necessary.

The build and financial data are shared with the area coordinators and relevant team leaders on a regular basis. This allows them to check that all builds have been entered and accounted for and also to keep tabs on their region's income and spending. If builds are missing, they can send their data to our volunteer data coordinator, who will enter it for them. If there is concern about income vs. expenses, they work with the executive director and treasurer to determine how to proceed. The database also allows TRP to generate specific reports back to its donors.

Plans to sustain project beyond the term of this request:

Because we assist low-income people and do not sell a product, we will continue to depend on support from donors. The San Antonio Ramp Project received grants from a variety of foundations last year and into this year. Our largest donor has been the Kronkosky Foundation, which has provided \$50,000 per year for many years. Other funding comes from the Baptist Foundation of San Antonio, San Antonio Area Foundation, The Greehey Family Foundation, McKenna Foundation, Home Depot Foundation, David Weekley Homes, Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country, St. Luke's Lutheran Health Ministries, and the South Texas, Central Texas and Medina Electric Cooperatives. We have also received generous gifts from churches, service clubs and individuals.

In 2019 we received two challenge grants: one for \$35,000 from the Ed Rachal Foundation of Corpus Christi and another for \$25,000 from the Carl C. Sr. and Marie Jo Anderson Charitable Foundation of Austin. We have requested another \$35,000 grant from the Rachal Foundation, and we already have another \$25,000 from the Anderson Foundation. These grants are unrestricted and can be used anywhere in the state. The Texas Ramp Project is using these funds to encourage our Ramp Project volunteers to seek donations from their local churches, civic clubs, businesses and individuals with the promise of matches. Local funding is needed to help balance foundation giving, which is sometimes not as available in rural areas and smaller cities.

TRP is also aggressively seeking contracts with local Area Agencies on Aging and educating our volunteers in the field as to how to access fee for service payments from them. The board is reaching out to corporations that are willing to provide funding as well as opportunities for their employees to participate in ramp building as a service activity. So far TRP has succeeded in building these relationships with Home Depot, David Weekley Homes, State Farm and Toyota. We also have relationships with a number of electric cooperatives around the state, including the ones stated above plus CoServ in North Texas, Farmers Electric in East Texas, and TVEC in North and East Texas. We do find that it takes months and sometimes years to build these relationships.

The Texas Ramp Project has a record of steadily increasing financial support. Since 2006 TRP has received \$10 million from churches, foundations, corporations and individual donors. Over \$1 million of this amount was in fees for service. We maintain a reserve of about six months of funding on hand. Our balance sheet is healthy, and our endowment stands at \$80,718. We are not currently drawing from the endowment.

Line item Budget:

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Gordon Hartman Funds Allocation
Materials, transport, trailers	\$199,000	\$9,800
Warehouse (rent, utilities)	\$5,400	\$0
Tooling for four teams + tool upgrades	\$11,000	\$1,000
Travel/training/development in region	\$6,700	\$0
Project management	\$10,200	\$0
Central administrative	\$7,000	\$1,200
TOTAL:	\$239,300	\$12,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LIST OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Name & Office Held	Corporate Affiliation
Garner McNett, President	Cargo Data Management (retired)
Peter Heinkel, Vice President	Occidental Chemical Corp. (retired)

Donna Burton, CPA, Treasurer	Donna Morris Burton, CPA (self-employed)
Molli Harris, Secretary	Strasburger & Price, LLP (retired)
Brock Bayles, Board Member	Vice President, Toyota Financial Services
Kay Champagne, Board Member	Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas (retired)
Stephen England, Board Member	Martin Marietta (retired)
Gary Gatzlaff, Board Member	Manufacturer's Representative (retired)
Roy Harrington, Board Member	Texas Instruments, Inc.
Myron Knudson, Board Member	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (retired)
Sandra Knutson, Board Member	National Opinion Research Center (retired)
Matt McGillen, Board Member	24 Hour Fitness
Marge Oberg, Board Member	Garland ISD (retired)
Suraj Pelluru, CPA, Board Member	EmpowerMX
Gary Stopani, Board Member	Texas Instruments, Inc. (retired)
Madison Lopez, Ex Officio Board Member	Student at Southern Methodist University, SMU Board Fellow