

100 Shares

T A M P A B A Y

MINISTRY GRANT REPORT

Name of organization: Shepherd's Village

Date of report submission: September 30, 2024

In fulfillment of September OR Final Report (include year): September 2024

Name of individual filling out Grant Report: April McKnight

Title: Executive Director

Email Address: april@shepherdsvillage.com

Phone Number: 727-687-9632

Date Grant funds were received: April 2024

Grant amount received: \$66,952.54

Total grant amount spent to date: \$14,797.24

Grant amount remaining: \$52,155.30

Purpose of Grant:

- Over the last four years we have seen a dramatic increase in the need to walk alongside single mothers and their children. The pandemic ripped families apart at an alarming rate, divorce and homelessness have become the norm for single mothers, many who are now living in sub-par housing, or even in their cars. As a result, we are not only providing services for the women who live at The Village, but

we are now needing to offer services to single mothers in the community. Additionally, we are regularly fielding questions from ministries in the Tampa Bay area, and beyond, who are investigating how to help with the single mother's crisis in their communities. A grant from 100 Shares Tampa Bay would allow us to expand our services and help the most mothers possible in two significant ways:

- o By expanding Shepherd's Village's life coaching, mentoring, and case management services to include non-residents of Shepherd's Village.
- o By expanding Shepherd's Village Online University to include a paid password protected online toolkit for churches, ministries, and other organizations interested in replicating our services. One-on-one coaching services would also be available by the hour. It's important to note that this training program would become an income stream for our ministry.

GRANT USE SUMMARY

Please answer all questions below as they pertain to your ministry and grant request. If a question does not apply, please enter "N/A" rather than deleting the question.

1. Compare original objectives/timeframes with actual results. Explain any variances.

On target – We are on target to reach 44 single moms with coaching and case management. Currently we are serving 22 single moms with services beyond housing needs with coaching, goal setting, classes, and additional resources with other local organizations.

Room for improvement – We are a little behind target on launching the Shepherd's Village Online University toolkit. This platform will be called "Build a Village" strategies to build a village of support. We have started building the platform with our marketing team, Vers, and look forward to launching in January instead of the Fall of 2024. The good news is we have 3 ministry/ pregnancy centers that are interested in the discovery phase of this platform and will be interested in trying it out as soon as we launch.

2. Explain the specific ways that this grant has helped you to expand significantly or propelled your ministry forward. Please include specific examples.

Specifically, we have doubled the number of moms we have helped just in these first 6 months. These moms called us looking for resources and connected with us through our Tuesday night classes. These moms have engaged in classes, coaching, and have started goal setting. With the online tool kit, even though it's not built to completion, we have not stopped receiving inquiries from other pregnancy centers and ministries interested in how to help single moms. Knowing that we have a toolkit coming we are excited to help these organizations when we are launched.

3. Based on the measurable project goals and methods of evaluation on your original grant application (Question #12 on the Grant Application), how has this project measurably expanded an existing initiative or established a new initiative?

We are on track with our project goals and see that our system of tracking is working. By using a system called "One Tap" we have created a sign in system for single moms to check in for classes and appointments, this system allows us to send reminders of classes and track how many kids are registered for childcare and how many volunteers we will need. With this new method we know exactly how many single moms and kids we are serving with whole family healing. With the second part of this grant, being the creation of Build a Village for ministries wanting to serve single moms, we continue to get inquiries without any additional advertisement. We know that as soon as this platform is launched, we are going to provide a great service to walk alongside these groups.

4. How have the grant funds furthered evangelism and discipleship in your local community?

The biggest way we have seen evangelism and discipleship increase is by being able to provide more resources for single moms. For example, when we get a call from a single mom and they think they need housing, and we can't provide that, we tell them about

our classes and mentorship, and they show up. We have seen more single moms come to class and receive encouragement and prayer. We have also connected with 3 new churches to refer single moms to when they need a church home. We have seen the church go beyond its buildings and walls and show up and volunteer with our families. We have prayed with over 600 single moms on the phone and in person. We have started two additional small groups one at Grace Family in Clearwater and one at Indian Rocks Church to engage with single moms in the church. These conversations are building trust and allowing single moms see and experience the love of Jesus.

5. What impact has the grant had on the population you serve? Your staff? The community?

This grant has been a huge blessing to our entire ministry. We know that God has called us to walk alongside these single moms and this grant has allowed us to offer mentorship, dinners, classes, and career help to double the single moms in just 6 months. That means when a single mom calls us or stops by, I have something to offer her. Here is one story: A single mom walks into our office and starts crying saying her landlord doesn't care that her house is messed up and refuses to fix it. I listened to this mom for 40 minutes. And really honestly, I couldn't change anything about her situation. But she just needed someone to listen and hear her. I gave her a box of trolleites, laundry soap, and a coupon for a free coffee at the local coffee shop. I prayed with her and hugged her, and she felt human again. That day my life was changed even though I felt like I didn't do anything, I gave her what she needed. A listening ear, prayer, and a good cup of coffee.

6. What were the primary lessons that you and your staff learned from this grant project?

This grant project has been such a blessing. We know there is a great need to walk alongside these single moms. And we believe we can do it better together with organizations like 100 Shares. Additionally, these moms need lots of resources and people that care, so we continue to expand our resources list and vet more volunteers.

7. Based upon current conditions, are there things that you would do differently in utilizing the grant award? If so, what?

We originally included expenses for a rental facility to hold our larger classes in. Currently, we have a facility that does not charge us a fee, I wonder if we can reallocate this expense to something that could make a direct impact to families, such as, help with food or gas needs in the form of a gift card when they complete a class or coaching session with us. Another thought that was mentioned in our grant process was to use these funds to help with teen and child mentoring to allow them to do activities or camps with mentors. This line amount in the grant is \$2500 (the city of Belleair Bluffs rental cost).

8. If the grant project is part of a larger campaign, please provide a status report on the campaign. N/A
9. If the project involved collaboration with other organizations, please comment on its effect on the project. N/A