**The Bella Grace Charity**

**Application one:**

1. **What does your project involve?**

The Bella Grace charity uses animal therapy to help children recover from emotional trauma. We were established in 2014 and have helped so many children find fredom since that time. We use dogs, rabbits and cats, which the children look after during a 2 hour therpy session each week. Counsellors work alongside the children to provide advice and guidance. We now want to expand our work too help more children.

1. **Why is your project needed and what evidence is there to show the project is needed?**

We need your help so that we can continu to support and provide animal therapy to these children, without your help we can’t look after the animals, run the centre or employ experienced councillors. It is so vital that these children have access to our service, without it they are simply suffering alone. We are interested in the social and emotional development of disadvantaged children and young people as well as there learning.

1. **What change/difference is your project going to make?**

The children that come to our centre have been through some terrible experiences, without our work, they would not find any soluton to their troubles. They love seeing the animal and playing with them, stroking the animals and feeding them is so relaxing and provides an environment where they can open up to other people and find healing. Parents also need a break from looking after these troubled children. There is a café onsite which they can go to and relax or they can just go home and come back for the children following the session. They tell us how much there children have changed since coming to the charity for support.

1. **Budget**

There is a huge waiting list of children who need our help but we are coming to the end of a Reaching Communities grant in March 2017 and need funding from you to carry on and expand our work. We are only partly funded by other means and without your funding to fill the shortfall, we won’t be able to continue helping these desperately suffering children. Please consider funding this vital work.

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| Salaries | £8000 |
| Counselling Resources  | £3500 |
| **Total** | **£11000** |
| **Grant requested** | **£10000** |

**Application Two:**

1. **What does your project involve?**

The Bella Grace Charity provides a safe environment for children to come and receive animal therapy. The children involved are those who have experienced trauma as a result of abuse, bereavement, bullying. We hold 10 weekly 2 hour sessions for children whereby they play and interact with the animals alongside an experienced counsellor who provides advice and guidance. Each week 100 children attend our sessions and each course lasts 3 months. We also offer up follow up courses once a child has completed the full 3 months where the child involved needs additional support.

1. **Why is your project needed and what evidence is there to show the project is needed?**

30% of children here in Cheshire East are suffering with emotional trauma as a result of abuse, bereavement, bullying or some other trigger that equates to half a million children struggling right here in Cheshire East. These children are suffering in silence with little support to help them move forward. There are no other organizations within the county offering the same type of help. The nearest organization to offer animal therapy is based in Leeds, which is too far for many families to go on a weekly basis. Research shows that access to animals such as cats, dogs and rabbits, can help to ease the symptoms of anxiety, stress and depression. In fact, these symptoms have been shown to ease within just two weeks of animal therapy.

1. **What change/difference is your project going to make?**

The impact has been incredible. When Freddie first arrived at the centre, he was quiet and withdrawn. He shied away from anyone who came near him. However, when he saw the animals he tentatively reached out to stroke and feed them. He grew attached to our rabbit Daisy and gradually began to open up and share with us his trauma. Freddie's mum told us, 'I was at my wits end. I just didn't know what I could do to help him. But since coming to the Bella Grace charity, he's like a different person. The grief is still there, but he's chatty, playful and even laughs now. I can't thank you enough.' In the last year, 400 children have received support through our work. When asked 98% of families reported that attendance at our groups has improved/significantly improved their child’s wellbeing. We measure the mood of each child at the start and end of each session. On average 80% of attendees indicated that their emotional mood has improved by the time they are ready to go home and 90% state that they feel more confident in their day to day lives.

1. **Budget**

We want to bring freedom and healing to more children like Freddie. We are currently funded through a variety of means such as regular donations and business sponsorship; however, in order to expand our work we need a grant of £10k. Please would the Foundation support this expansion with a grant of £10k? This would cover the salary costs of a highly trained counsellor for 5 additional sessions per week and would mean we could support 50 more vulnerable children like Freddie.

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| Salaries | £8000 |
| Counselling Resources  | £3500 |
| Care of the animals | £2000 |
| Management/Admin | £1000 |
| Travel expenses | £500 |
| Volunteer expenses | £250 |
| **Total** | **£15250** |
| Cheshire East Council Grants | £500 |
| Business Sponsorship | £2250 |
| Fundraising events | £2500 |
| **Income already raised** | **£5250** |
| **Shortfall** | **£10,000** |
| **Amount requested** | **£10,000** |