



# 2018 NOMINATION AND APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

We want every applicant to be as successful as possible through this nomination process. With that in mind, we have pulled answers from past PPHA applications to help guide you in what we are looking for in answers to the questions.

As a nominator, we are looking to understand your passion for the nonprofit and their work, as well as how you personally have been impacted by the nonprofit (as a volunteer). A few easy things to ensure a successful nomination are:

- Use full sentences and correct grammar. Tell a story or capture specific examples whenever possible
- We recommend developing your answers in a separate word document, then pasting into the application. This will also create a back-up in case of a computer error.
- Be aware of character counts for each response. While you do not need to use every character you are allowed, we encourage you to submit a robust and complete answer to each question. On average, 1,800 characters equates to roughly 325 words - 3 short paragraphs. Spaces **are** included in character counts. When reviewing your character counts, be sure to check the setting: Characters (with spaces). Responses that exceed the character count are disqualified.
- Use specific examples to tell a compelling story about your experience with the nonprofit. The more you can draw the reader in, the better.
- Each answer needs to be unique to the nomination. We are not looking for you to copy and paste information from the nonprofit website. Please use your own words to illustrate the mission and purpose of the organization. We are looking for why you, as the nominator, are moved by this organization.

## **SAMPLE RESPONSES FROM PAST RECIPIENTS – MEMBER NOMINATION**

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### **EXPLAIN HOW THIS NONPROFIT FITS INTO THE CLASSIFICATION/ SUB-CATEGORY CHOSEN.**

Advancing education (Pre-K through college) - Educational Materials and Programming

"We offer an after-school program five days a week throughout the entire school year to help students with academic as well as social and community needs. Through this learning program, students receive one-on-one assistance with homework, as well as additional academic materials to help them advance their knowledge in areas such as math, reading, geography and more. It is more than an after-school club; they help meet the family's needs of building community by offering free meals, holiday gifts, and back-to-school items to help those with items that they otherwise would not be able to afford. We bridge the gap when it comes to academic success, providing students with the means to advance, utilizing supplemental worksheets, mentorship, and access to computers."

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## HOW DOES THIS ORGANIZATION BRING THE CREDIT UNION PHILOSOPHY OF "PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE" TO LIFE?

"This organization lives the philosophy of people helping people by creating a "ripple effect." Each dollar is one more dollar that can help one more person. Each therapy session is one more therapy that improves one more day in one more life. By taking each individual step, by making each contribution of time, of money, of energy, we spread the positive ripples that change and improve the lives of those we touch. And, we too, are changed by the act of giving and of seeing those rippling effects around us.

The co-founder herself suffered a traumatic brain injury and knows firsthand how difficult and expensive it can be for those with neurological injuries, disorders, or diseases to access effective therapies. The problem is compounded when those very neurological issues make communicating or advocating for one's own health that much more difficult. She saw the need for advocates and resources to bring skilled, compassionate health professionals, workshops focused on mental and physical improvements, and access to physical, water and other therapeutic treatments to those with the greatest need. Thus, the organization was born. It was one small ripple she could begin herself.

Going into our third year, the ripple effect is already rapidly expanding. Over \$50,000 has been given to fund 300 months' access to aquatic therapy, 125 therapeutic horseback riding lessons, over 30 months of yoga/Pilates therapy, and free workshops in art, MELT Method, and Zumba. These therapies would not have been covered by insurance and were beyond the means of grant recipients. The ripples continue to grow as more people learn about the work the foundation does, become involved, and raise more money to help more people."

## SHARE A STORY ABOUT YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH THIS ORGANIZATION.

"Just yesterday a woman veteran from the Gulf War era (who didn't realize she could receive a pension) called about getting her car repaired so that she could keep her job. We were able to inform her of an emergency fund: She can receive assistance to have the repair, helping her stay employed so she can keep her children housed. During our conversation she was informed that she could apply for a pension as she is a war-era veteran. We went over how to do that. She was surprised to find out she has that right and relieved to know that she could avoid certain homelessness by receiving a pension. I asked her to follow-up so I could know what her results were. Serious women always call us back. She said she went to the office and it closed just prior to her arrival, but she went back down there today and started the process. We were then able to go over some additional things to aid her in staying on track. She will be able to stay employed, keep her children, stay in an apartment, and have a life, thanks to the services of this organization and our community referrals."

## WHAT KIND OF VOLUNTEERING HAVE YOU DONE FOR THIS ORGANIZATION? (MEMBER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR)

"I have been lucky enough to spend a large portion of my time working with this wonderful organization. I am especially passionate about their Meal Programs - both the warm-up breakfasts and the dinners. I am in charge of cooking dinner for 100+ individuals each Friday night. I help locate donations of food as well as recruit volunteers to help me. I also love filling special requests of our residents. Many of them travel around and one of their greatest wishes was razors and socks, so I work to find donations from local companies to be able to fill this need. I enjoy filling any special requests, as it makes me use all my creative thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as delights our residents when I reveal I have fulfilled their wishes. In addition to the weekly meal program that I help run, I am the secretary of the Governing Board and a member of the Building Search Committee."

## SAMPLE RESPONSES FROM PAST RECIPIENTS - NONPROFIT APPLICATION

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### WHAT IS YOUR MISSION? PLEASE TELL US HOW IT ALIGNS WITH THE PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE PHILOSOPHY.

"City Fruit promotes the cultivation of urban fruit in order to nourish people, build community, and protect the climate. Urban fruit trees are a valuable community resource, yet often fruit goes unused because people are not sure when to harvest it, how to best use it, or they are put off by damage caused by preventable disease and pests. We are reclaiming the urban orchard, showing people how to harvest what they need, and to share the rest with others. We help tree owners grow healthy fruit, provide assistance in harvesting and preserving fruit, promote the sharing of extra fruit, and work to protect urban fruit trees.

People helping people and neighbor helping neighbor is at the heart of our organization. When neighbors work together, everyone benefits. Some neighbors have additional fruit that they won't use, which is where we come in- our volunteers pick the additional fruit and then allocate it out to local food banks and organizations who can match it with other neighbors in need. We are the connectors of the neighbors, a role we love."

### PLEASE DESCRIBE THE POPULATION YOU SERVE.

"Our population is made up of women who served in the Armed Forces of the United States. That includes the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, and the National Reserve Bureau (all the reserves) and any other woman serving or who have served the United States as a part of the Armed Forces.

The reason — we need to have a place where we can find out information relevant to our lives as military members. It is important to find other women who served: find your friends, your community. Create networks with others to have the support for your future. Also as important, is finding the rules, the laws, the rights, the benefits, and the ways you can find your way to the future you deserve."

### EXPLAIN HOW THIS NONPROFIT FITS INTO THE CLASSIFICATION/ SUB-CATEGORY CHOSEN.

Strengthening Local Communities - Neighborhoods

"Our organization fits into the category above through our 11 successful years of efforts to lift up the innate assets of the local residents for a positive response to a host of challenges.

Rainier Beach is Seattle's most diverse neighborhood with residents from around the world: immigrants, refugees, historically marginalized groups such as African-Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, Southeast Asians and others. The challenges of recent years include poor academic achievement in the schools, common (and at times severe public-safety issues), deep-seated poverty, lack of accessible, quality, affordable housing and a reputation as a place to avoid rather than embrace. We have gained significant traction in lifting up positive activities as countermeasures to these realities and pressures."

## WHAT IMPACT COULD THE FUNDING HAVE ON THIS ORGANIZATION AND SPECIFICALLY, HOW WOULD YOU SPEND THE FUNDING, \$15,000, \$30,000, \$40,000 OR \$50,000?

"We would specifically use the funds to bolster our Mobile Food Bank. This service consists of vans that safely and efficiently deliver food to people in need, yet have very limited mobility.

**With \$50,000**, we would be able to purchase one delivery van and pay for maintenance on our existing fleet for two years. This would allow us to reach an additional 500 seniors annually, as we would be able to add an additional route in a more rural community that we currently cannot reach with our existing routes and vans. It would also ensure no interruption of service to our existing clients, as we wouldn't have broken-down vans.

**With \$30,000**, we would purchase a van as well as increase our distribution of fresh fruits and veggies. We would add a new route (as mentioned above). Our clients currently receive only one fresh fruit or vegetable item per week; with the funding left over from a used van (\$19,500 cost), funds would be used to purchase wholesale fruits and veggies.

**With \$15,000**, we would be able to launch a mail-order foodbank that would reach 200 new clients. We would purchase shipping materials and ship bi-weekly overnight food boxes (refrigerated) to clients who we cannot currently serve."

## SHARE A STORY THAT ILLUSTRATES THE IMPACT OF YOUR ORGANIZATION.

"Several years ago we began working with a homeless father, Josh, who had two pre-teen children. At the height of the economic downturn, he was struggling to support his family: His part-time sales job required him to travel back-and-forth across a three-county area, and fuel costs ate up much of his salary. We moved his family into our Transitional Housing program and provided him with a small, fully furnished apartment which fit his family perfectly. We began working with him on developing financial disciplines, paying down debt, and saving for the future. Josh proved to be an able student, and was soon effectively managing his finances. After a few months, he changed jobs and began to build some savings. He told us that it was a great stress reliever to have some savings in place for his family.

In the meantime, we began working with Josh on a long-term goal of developing the skills to earn an affordable wage. Through our work, Josh was able to land a grant for retraining at a local community college as a welder, and was able to complete the welding curriculum with flying colors. As Josh neared graduation, he was recruited for several permanent welding jobs and began working full-time.

Josh finally left our program after about 18 months with a full-time high-paying job, a substantial amount of savings including a fully funded emergency fund, the financial disciplines to sustain his family into the future including plans for a college education for his kids, and the personal confidence to be successful at whatever the future may hold for him. Today, Josh has remarried and has established a long-term career as a full-time welder.

Josh is just one of many examples of how our organization provides basic needs and skills for people who are looking for a hand up – we offer everything we can to help our clients be successful. We believe that we are able to help the greater community by helping each individual, one at a time."