



May 10, 2023

Women's Fund El Dorado - Frinal Report

**List the goals and objectives of the project/program followed by the progress made toward achieving each goal and objective.**

The ASPIRE Outfitters program was created to provide clothing for our most vulnerable youth. ASPIREKids partners with schools and social workers to provide clothing to youth experiencing homelessness, living in very low income circumstances or placed in foster care. Our goal for the 2022 was to serve no less than 100 youth in our community. We far exceeded this goal with serving 185 youth. Our goal for 2023 was to serve 200 youth. As of May 10, 2023 we have provided clothing to 81 youth, so are well on our way to meeting or exceeding our 2023 goal.

**What difference did this grant make in your community and for the population you are serving? Please provide specific outcome results and/or data to support your impact (e.g. age groups, number of unduplicated clients, ethnic populations, etc.)**

Receiving this grant allowed us to put resources toward improving the organization of our space as well as purchase gift cards for teens and personal or specific items for youth as they were needed rather than the rent for our space. We are now more able to assist youth in need and to handle the requests in a timely manner.

From June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023 we served 227 youth ages 0-18.

**Did you meet any unexpected challenges during the project/program? If so, how did you handle them?**

There weren't any unexpected challenges throughout the project.

**Describe lessons learned. What would you do differently?**

The programs we offer are ever evolving and we are constantly trying to learn how to serve our community better. Over this year we learned that there are better organization strategies to assist in having clothes more readily available. However, specifically with the purpose of this grant, covering facilities costs, we would not change anything.

**Has this grant helped a) attract new funds? Or b) increase volunteer involvement? If so, how? Quantify as feasible.**

We did receive a few donations, approximately \$300, specifically due to the exposure that came from the Women's Fund Grant process.

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ASPIREKids

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**Please provide at least one success story from the project/program that was a direct result of the WFED's funding. Stories do not need to be lengthy (250 words or less is typically sufficient) and should be written in third person. Please feel free to attach pictures.**

In March 2023 we received a request for a teen girl at a local high school that was homeless and sleeping on her friends' couches. She had to leave her home with only a few items and really needed clothes and some other supplies so that she could continue going to school. This is a quote from the Public Health Nurse that referred her to us.

*"She was so excited! She went through the bag saying that she would give me back the things that wouldn't fit so we could give them to someone else in need. She kept every single thing and is so thankful! Her social worker gave her a backpack and she was so excited to fill it with the school supplies. I wish I could take pictures to share with you. Seeing their faces light up is so great! What you are doing to help these kids goes far beyond clothing them. Giving them these gifts builds trust and rapport with me and opens the door to letting me help them with medical and behavioural health needs. I was able to help her contact her therapist who she hasn't seen in a long time and get that ball rolling. Thank you for all you do!" - Public Health Nurse*

Another quote from the Dean of Student Services at a local high school regarding two low-income teens that were in need of clothes and personal items:

*"What a blessing, thank you so much! The girls are incredibly appreciative. Being able to offer this to them has been a complete game changer in their perceptions of school and attitude toward staff in general this week. Thank you for what you do."*