Due date is 12 months after signature on Grant Acknowledgment Form

Grant Report Form

The Joanna Foundation

Section 1. Organizational Information

Organization Name: Lowcountry Orphan Relief

Mailing Address: 1850 Truxtun Avenue

City: North Charleston State: SC Zip: 29405

Authorized Officer for this Grant: Barbara Kingsbury

Individual's Email Address: barbkingsbury@gmail.com

Individual's Title: Grants Writer

Individual's Phone Number: (919) 412-7164

Have the grant funds been fully expended? Yes (●) No ( )

If "No," stop here and contact The Joanna Foundation for consultation.

Section 2. Grant Summary

Start Date *(date on p.1 - mm/dd/yyyy)*: 06/01/2024

Grant Amount: $ 4,000

Project Title: Care Kits for Foster Children

Overall Purpose *(select one)*

- Operating support [ ]
- Administrative/technical support [ ]
- Seed money/startup funds [ ]
- Specific project/program [✓] *(insert title or one sentence summary below)*
- Matching funds [ ]
- Capital campaign [ ]
- Facilities/equipment [ ]

Care Kits for Foster Children

Were major changes made to the project after the grant was received? Yes ( ) No ( )

If "Yes," please explain why and summarize the changes as part of your Summary of Impact.

Section 3. Summary of Impact

Separately, using software of your choice, write a concise summary of how the grant helped achieve the objective of the request. For example, you may mention activities to date, progress toward milestones, participation by volunteers, partners or audience members, and/or significant achievements. You may use metrics to show change or anecdotal examples to illustrate impact. You may use bullets or lists. Describe the difference that The Joanna Foundation grant made to your organization in this time frame. We recommend one page of text or less. You may add items that showcase your work, such as a photo, graphic, chart, media article, testimonial, or link to a short video.

When you are satisfied with your draft, save your Summary of Impact in pdf format, attach any additions, insert your material after this page, and submit the combined file (consisting of this 2-pg form + your materials) as a single pdf file.

Lowcountry Orphan Relief 2024 Grant for The Joanna Foundation

The $4,000 grant from the Joanna Foundation enabled Lowcountry Orphan Relief to supply 38 Care Kits to foster children and other children suffering from abuse or neglect living in Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties. The cost of each Care Kit in 2024 was between $105- $125. In each Care Kit our volunteers (we have 4,000 annually) put in colorful, sturdy duffle bags age and gender appropriate pairs of pants/shorts/skirts; tee shirts or other tops; underwear (including bras); socks; pair of shoes when we have them; pajamas; hygiene kit containing tooth brush & paste; soap; deodorant; ethnic hair products or other shampoo; feminine products); school supplies; books and a stuffed animal. This grant from the Joanna Foundation is vitally important for Lowcountry Orphan Relief to continue our 22 year mission in helping Soth Carolina's most vulnerable children, and over these many years we have helped 80,000 children throughout the state.
Because of our impact Lynn Young, founder of Lowcountry Orphan Relief, was awarded the Order of the Palmetto by Governor McMaster in 2023 (photo attached).

Lowcountry Orphan Relief supports at-risk kids

BY ERIC FENNO
efenno@postandcourier.com

Boxes of diapers fill the room to the brim. It feels like if you open the door they might all come tumbling out. Down the hallway, stacks of shirts line the walls, divided by gender, then by season, then again by size. Some piles reach the ceiling; others have only a couple of boys' size 7-8 T-shirts.

A team of volunteers packs colorful pillowcase-sized bags, stuffing them with two weeks' worth of clothes, shoes, essential toiletries, school supplies and books. The smile of a stuffed animal pokes out of the opening, the cherry on top of the sundae of goodies inside.

These "emergency care kits" include any materials a child might need after being taken out of an unsafe household and placed into foster care. Social Services, as well as over 200 other agencies geared toward helping children in dire situations, turn to these kits — brainstormed by one notable person — to help thousands of at-risk kids in South Carolina each year.

That person is Lynn Young, and her organization is Lowcountry Orphan Relief.

After being removed from an abusive or unsafe household, kids are not allowed to return to their homes for their belongings or clothes. They enter foster care usually with only the clothes on their backs. Lowcountry Orphan Relief provides a care kit within 48 hours of a child being removed from their home to comfort and support the child early in their transition into a new environment.



PROVIDED

Lynn Young, founder of Lowcountry Orphan Relief, has received the Order of the Palmetto.

After 20 years of delivering around 42,000 care kits to these children, Young has been presented with the Order of the Palmetto, considered the highest civilian honor in the state. It recognizes "individuals who have selflessly given of their time, resources and goodwill through a variety of different causes and pursuits to the benefit of their neighbors, fellow citizens and the fabric and prosperity of South Carolina."

Young was one of 25 people to be recognized this year. She joins her husband, Jerry Young, as a recipient. The Youngs are one of the few couples to be bestowed the Order of the Palmetto for starting separate nonprofits in South Carolina; he started the Charleston Leadership Foundation.

A South Carolina native, Lynn Young raised five children before becoming a schoolteacher in Philadelphia. After moving to Charleston, she became a guardian ad litem, a person appointed by a court to represent a minor or an incompetent adult in a lawsuit.

In 2003, Young began to collect clothes and construct care kits in her living room. When agencies like Social Services started asking for orders of these kits, she decided to expand.

Now located on 1850 Truxtun Ave. in North Charleston, Lowcountry Orphan Relief distributes thousands of emergency care kits each year, all of which are packed by volunteers. Though proud of her organization's work, Young at the same time laments the number of kits needed each year.

"It's a sad number," she said. "We shouldn't have that (child neglect) in our beautiful state of South Carolina or in beautiful Charleston."

In 2022, Young opened a branch of the organization in her hometown of Columbia called Midlands Orphan Relief. Volunteers have begun packaging care kits for children further inland, too, now servicing 13 counties across the state.

Young says that volunteers "are our bloodline."

In addition to making the care kits, Young and volunteers work with Title 1 schools in the area to provide "Just In Case Closets." The closets house clothes and supplies so that, in the event of an accident that might rip or stain their clothes, the child's day is not entirely disrupted.

The organization also hosts annual carnivals, beach days and other events for foster children.

"When you can see the faces of those children you think, 'Oh my gosh, this is why we do what we're doing'," said Christina Lope, Lowcountry Orphan Relief program director.

The outings can be eye-opening, she said.

"A lot of the kids who come to these events, let's use Beach Day as an example, have never seen the ocean, never put their toes in the sand," Lope said.

"The work is hard, and it's emotional," said Young. "But you think, if you could just take care of one child and change that one child's life, you know you've done a great thing."

For more information on Lowcountry or Midlands Orphan Relief and to learn how to help, visit lowcountryorphanrelief.org.


12/50
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MEDIA