

DISCLAIMER: This grant application was written, with permission from the nonprofit organization, during a grant certification course. It was not an official submission to a grant funder.

Name of Project: General Operating
Name of Organization: 16 Hands of Love
Contact Name: Ronda J. Brown

I. Organizational Information

1. Mission and Purpose - Enter the organization's official mission statement and vision statement, if applicable. Describe the organization's general purpose and background. Character and Spaces: (2,578 of 3,000)

The mission of 16 Hands of Love is to provide a "heart-centered, connected learning & healing opportunity" for individuals through nature and rescued animals. 16 Hands of Love was created in 2014 and was incorporated on October 3, 2016, as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. The organization was created by Angela Myers Hoover, Founder and Equinistic Healing Practitioner, based on her calling to help the kids she previously served as a teacher differently. When she left her teaching career, Angela recalled her desire to use horses to help others. Angela's creation of the organization was strongly grounded in a path to bring nature and humans together, particularly in the sense of remembering how therapeutic it can be to be outside in an undisturbed environment. As a teacher in the public school system, the students at her schools were rarely able to participate in recess. As she thought about the mission of 16 Hands of Love, she recalled how important being outside was for her and thinking if she missed being outside so much during her time as a teacher, the kids missed it as well. The organization is named in honor of her horse, Takota, because you use "hands" to measure a horse's height.

The vision of the organization is "focused on being a source of healing and re-centering for individuals through the use of nature and rescued animals," with the goals of bringing "about more awareness, peace and love in our world." Since its inception, 16 Hands of Love has come to serve as a sanctuary for its rescued animals, offering them a "forever home" where they can live out the remainder of their lives in peace while also offering their gifts to the world. Angela also works directly with people to help them rebuild trust in their intuition. Since it was incorporated, 16 Hands of Love's mission to create heart-centered, connected learning and healing opportunities has allowed it to serve approximately 500 community members per year, with a goal of increasing its outreach to serving 1,000 community members per year.

The organization envisions expanding its outreach to even more children in the local community where they and their parents can participate in a self-directed learning environment where children can explore their curiosity and interests. 16 Hands of Love also envisions expanding its outreach to provide equine mediation to local community members. These future endeavors directly support the organization's mission to provide heart-centered, connected learning and healing opportunities for individuals through nature and rescued animals.

2. Programs and Services - What programs and services does the organization provide? Character and Spaces: (3,413 of 6,000)

16 Hands of Love primarily rescues senior animals and currently provides for the housing and care of the following 14 rescued animals:

- 3 horses;
- 5 goats;
- 4 chickens and
- 2 livestock guardian dogs.

These animal family members provide engagement and interaction with local community members for their connected learning and healing opportunities through the services referenced below that 16 Hands of Love provides to local community members of all ages and from every sphere of life. The animal family members also interact and engage with local community volunteers.

16 Hands of Love provides the following services in relation to its mission, serving approximately 500 people per year:

LEARNING AND HEALING SESSIONS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS

- **Children/Adolescent Sessions:** These sessions involve “Outdoor Organic Reconnecting & Learning” to allow kids to have the opportunity to “slow down and reconnect with nature and animals,” while also learning without judgment. Kids have the opportunity to be creative and work through “real life situations,” including but not limited to listening to others, working together, being heard and finding solutions that honor what works best for everyone involved in that moment. Some of the experiences offered include teaching the rescued animals fun games, gardening, painting, nature walks and learning to care for the animal family members. There is also an option for parents and children to participate together in “Conscious Discipline techniques,” where they can calmly work through situations together.
- **Adult Sessions:** These sessions offer participation in personal healing and/or quiet meditation sessions with the horses. Participants only need to provide “an open heart, a [quiet] mind and a journal.” Sessions focus on becoming and staying present in the moment and having someone who will listen with an open heart and mind. These sessions are offered in nature, in person or via telephone.
- **Universal Animal Intuitive/Communication Sessions:** The sessions are designed to allow participants to connect to their intuition with their own animal family member(s) and “hear their universal soul level messages they want to share with” the participant. Participants may connect with animals still living or animals who are with them in spirit now. These sessions may also be used to assist participants whose animal family members “are ready to cross the rainbow bridge” by serving as a “death doula” in those situations to help bring the participant and their animal family member closer and honor the journey with compassion and faith. These sessions are offered in person, via video conferencing such as FaceTime or Zoom or via telephone.

DONATION BASED EVENTS

The organization also offers donation based events to the public including:

- equine healing and meditation;
- kids yoga and mindfulness classes;
- drumming events and
- family days, during which families can take a nature walk, have a picnic, meet the animals and learn compassionate co-existence and communication with the animal family members.

Caring for its rescued animals and providing individuals from all walks of life, without exclusion or exception, with these types of services embodies the organization’s mission. The organization’s approach and services provide participants with the ability to create peace within their own lives to ultimately bring about “more peace, love, compassion and harmony to our world.”

3. Governance and Staff - Describe the structure and make-up of your organization's governance and leadership staff. Describe your organization’s use of volunteers, if applicable. Character and Spaces: (1,361 of 1,500)

Governance: A 5-member board assists with the organization's governance. These members participate because they are passionate about the work the organization does. Some board members have participated in the offered healing sessions, further cementing their passion for the organization's mission. The board members come from different backgrounds, including real estate, sales and business ownership, and bring different perspectives to the organization.

Staff: 16 Hands of Love operates with a lean, flexible structure, relying on dedicated contract staff. This includes a contractor who specifically makes herself available on an on-call weekly basis to assist with any emergency feedings needed for the animal family members.

Volunteers: A committed group of volunteers support the organization. The organization has 8-10 volunteers at any given time. There are 3 individuals who have consistently volunteered for over a year, one of whom has volunteered for about 2 years. Volunteers assist primarily with animal feedings, which is where the organization needs the most help. Other volunteers also assist during donor sponsored events, expanding the organization's outreach into the local community. Students from Prairie View A&M University continuously volunteer, particularly based on their interest in the herding processes utilized at 16 Hands of Love.

4. Complementary Organizations - Please describe how the organization partners with others in the sector and the unique role the organization plays within those partnerships. Provide examples. Character and Spaces: (1,458 of 1,500)

16 Hands of Love values its partnerships with other organizations in the education and animal welfare communities. Although 16 Hands of Love does not rehome its rescued animals, it works with other organizations that do rehome animals. 16 Hands of Love previously fostered some of the bigger livestock guarding dogs from Three Little Pitties Rescue while that organization was looking for a new home for them.

16 Hands of Love has collaborated with local schools and entities serving children by offering non-traditional learning environments for students. 16 Hands of Love is collaborating with the Parrish School in Houston to create a self-directed learning center at its facility for local community children similar to one the Parrish School provides for its students. There, the students use non-traditional items in a creative playground setting.

16 Hands of Love's donor sponsored events ensures the community is able to participate in its outreach events. 16 Hands of Love partners with other practitioners who are invited to participate in its Peace and Healing Days, which are open to all members of the community.

16 Hands of Love also partners with the Animal Communication Collective for virtual community fundraising events where a handful of attendees receive private "mini-readings" with their animal family members, living or with them in spirit. Participants can also engage with the individuals who provide the mini-readings in a group chat.

II. Community Need

5. Community Need - Describe the need in the community that your organization and project intend to address. Include at least two reputable citations. Character and Spaces: (5,743 of 6,000)

The importance of learning and healing by connecting with animals cannot be overstated. Further, the connection between people and animals and the important role of nature in the lives of adults and kids can be critical. Across numerous environments, children—particularly at a young age—are curious about and intrigued by animals, which can help them learn about themselves and their connection to others (Born, 2018). Failing to

allow and encourage kids to interact with animals, particularly in nature, neglects their ability to learn some of the key life skills they need to survive in the world (Rymanowicz, 2016; Born, 2018). Engaging with animals also creates a less stressful, more enjoyable environment for both adults and kids (Born, 2018; Machová et al., 2020). Doing so as a volunteer can have a similar impact on individuals by improving moods and decreasing depression (Yotopoulos, n.d.). Not providing volunteers with sufficient information regarding local volunteer experiences that would be of interest to them, however, prohibits them from engaging in tasks and activities that could vastly improve the quality of their lives.

Kids are among the community members who have had a chance to engage with the animals at 16 Hands of Love in an environment that allows them to “slow down and reconnect with nature and animals.” Not providing kids with space where they feel secure to learn information of their own volition that is meaningful, worthwhile and interesting to them, however, can prohibit them from learning valuable life skills to help them thrive and survive in the world (Rymanowicz, 2016). Insufficient self-directed learning environments that provide a fun and engaging atmosphere can fail to spark kids’ curiosity and prevent them from feeling safe to develop their knowledge and appreciation for nature in the world (Born, 2018). It is worthy to note kids are spending much less time outside now than they did previously. In one poll conducted with parents, the survey team found one in ten (that’s ten percent) of parents reported their kids played outside only once a week ... or even less often than that (Gray, 2025)! Instead, kids are spending less time outside and more time inside playing video games, watching television or using smartphones and tablets (Gray, 2025; HeadStart.gov, 2019). This trend significantly impacts young kids’ development and health (HeadStart.gov, 2019).

Simply being around calm animals, which typically occurs outside in nature, can have a significant impact on both kids and adults. People experience less stress and better moods when they are able to interact with calm animals (Machová et al., 2020), which can lead to more positive engagement among community members. Research supports this conclusion. In one study using animal-assisted activities, a group of adult female participants interacted with dogs certified to perform animal-assisted activities in a calm setting. These interactions resulted in a statistically significant improvement in moods by approximately 34% and perceived stress levels by nearly 21% after participants engaged with the dogs for a mere 10 minutes (Machová et al., 2020).

Along the same lines, volunteering helps improve physical health, moods and relationships (Yotopoulos, n.d.). Numerous volunteers have had the phenomenal experience of working with the animals at 16 Hands of Love. Research shows, however, that while over 90% of Americans want to volunteer, barriers such as not having enough information about volunteer opportunities available to them result in only about 25% of them actually doing so (Yotopoulos, n.d.). Without sufficient details about the volunteer opportunities available and of interest to them, community members miss the chance to engage in activities that could vastly improve their overall happiness.

In 2023 alone, approximately 16% of adult Texans reported having a mental health concern over a 14-day period and 29.3% of adult Texans reported having a mental health concern over a 5-day period (Texas Health Data, n.d.). To put this into further context, nearly 4.8 million adults in Texas have some kind of mental health condition. Among kids between the ages of 12 and 17, a little over 11% seriously contemplate suicide each year and nearly 17% experience a major depressive episode each year (NAMI, 2025).

In Waller County, Texas, where 16 Hands of Love is currently located, the population was estimated at 65,109 people in 2024, of which approximately 30% were under the age of 18 years (U.S. Census Bureau, n.d.). That means 70%, or approximately 45,576, of the population in 2024 was adults who could potentially volunteer at 16 Hands of Love if interested in doing so and if they had the knowledge about the volunteer opportunities available. Again, those figures only include adults. Some portion of the approximate 30% of kids can also volunteer, depending on their age and the type of volunteer activities in which they engage.

It is crucial to provide space for community members, including kids, to learn and heal by connecting with healthy and calm animals and to ensure they have the education and information they need to volunteer in this same space. Community members who have visited 16 Hands of Love summarize best how critical it can be to provide that space for humans and animals to interact. One visitor stated community members who have visited 16 Hands of Love and engaged with the rescued animals have “come away with their own healing experience.” Another visitor—a parent—commented about how much fun her “city kids” had playing in the creek at 16 Hands of Love and stated, “But the best part ever was 16 Hands of Love got my teenager to smile (moms you know that’s no easy feat).”

References

- Gray, D. (2025, October 22). *1 in 10 young American children play outdoors just once a week*. Newsweek. <https://www.newsweek.com/1-in-10-young-kids-play-outside-just-once-week-children-10889087>
- National Association on Mental Health Texas [“NAMI”] (2025, May). *Mental health in Texas*. <https://www.nami.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Texas-GRPA-Data-Sheet-8.5-x-11-wide.pdf>
- Machová, K., Procházková, R., Vadroňová, M., Součková, M., & Prouzová, E. (2020, March 28). *Effect of dog presence on stress levels in students under psychological strain: A pilot study*. International journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 17(7), 2286. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17072286>
- HeadStart.gov (2019, November 26). *The current state of outdoor play and exploration in the United States*. <https://headstart.gov/learning-environments/supporting-outdoor-play-exploration-infants-toddlers/current-state-outdoor-play-exploration-united-states>
- Born, P. (2018, November 30). *Regarding animals: A perspective on the importance of animals in early childhood environmental education*. International Journal of Early Childhood Environmental Education, 5(2), 46. <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ1180030>
- Rymanowicz, K. (2016, August 3). *The importance of self-directed, engaged learning for young children*. Michigan State University Extension. https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/the_importance_of_self_directed_engaged_learning_for_young_children
- Yotopoulos, A. (n.d.). *Three reasons why people don't volunteer, and what can be done about it*. Stanford Center of Longevity. <https://longevity.stanford.edu/three-reasons-why-people-dont-volunteer-and-what-can-be-done-about-it/>
- U.S. Census Bureau (n.d.-b). *Quickfacts: Waller County, Texas*. (<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/wallercountytexas/>)
- Texas Health Data (n.d.). *Mental health*. <https://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/mental-health/mental-health>

III. Request Information and Financial Information

6. Project Name - If your organization requests funds for a specific project, program, or campaign, please enter the name of the project, program, or campaign. If you are requesting funds for general operations, please enter "General Operating" as the Project Name. Character and Spaces: (17 of 100)

General Operating

7. Brief Summary – Please provide a sentence or two about your request. This should be a statement that we can post on our website to describe the grant if awarded. Character and Spaces: (396 of 400)

16 Hands of Love seeks funding to continue to provide an environment where local community members can learn and heal by connecting with rescued animals and nature. The funds will be used to provide housing and care for the rescued animals, information to educate local community members about volunteer opportunities and a safe space for local community kids to engage in self-directed learning.

8. Geographical Impact - Please identify the primary geography that this project will positively impact (List only the State, County, City, and Neighborhood, as applicable). Character and Spaces: (31 of 60)

Texas, Waller County, Hempstead

9. Amount of this Request. Must be between \$1,000 to \$50,000. Please note that we do not typically fund more than 50% of a total project unless the project is less than \$10,000. Character and Spaces: (7 of 20)

\$50,000

10. Funding Type - Select one from the list.

General Operating

Capacity Building Project

Capital or Comprehensive Campaign

Program Support

Program Development

Seed Grant

11. Project Budget. If you are NOT applying for general operating dollars, please insert the amount of the total project, program, or campaign budget. If you are applying for general operating dollars, please put "0" in the box below. Character and Spaces: (2 of 20)

\$0

12. Amount Raised Towards Goal - How much has your organization secured (received or pledged) towards the project goal to date? Character and Spaces: (7 of 20)

\$31,236

13. Fundraising Plan. Explain whether this grant request is the sole source of funding for this project or if there will be multiple sources of support. Describe the plan for raising any additional funds needed to complete this project. Character and Spaces: (2,906 of 4,000)

This grant request is not the sole source of funding for 16 Hands of Love's general operating budget. The organization's total operating budget is \$112,742. To date 16 Hands of Love has raised approximately \$31,236 from a specific grant as well as individual donations. Accordingly, the organization still needs \$81,506 and is seeking \$50,000 in relation to this specific request.

16 Hands of Love intends to raise the additional needed funds by seeking grants from other foundations and corporations such as The Howard T Petrie Charitable Trust Grant, the Brown Foundation Grant and the Folke

H. Peterson Foundation Grant. 16 Hands of Love also intends to increase its presence on its social media platforms to educate individuals about the organization, its programs and services, and its animal family members to encourage those individuals to donate more funds. 16 Hands of Love will also continue to partner with the Animal Communication Collective to co-host an annual virtual fundraising event for local community members.

16 Hands of Love has successfully procured grant funds from Petset, a local 501(c)(3) public charity, from 2022 through 2025 and will request grant funds again in 2026 in furtherance of the established relationship between the organizations. 16 Hands of Love has also successfully raised funds from individual donors who are passionate about the organization's mission since 2021.

Your support will have a significant impact on meeting the organization's general operating budget for the year. 16 Hands of Love will use the \$50,000 requested to assist with the general care of the rescued animals, to provide adequate housing for the rescued animals, for insurance and other general operating costs associated with running the facility and for hiring a contract CPA to address the increased budget and 16 Hands of Love's general accounting and financial needs anticipated thanks to the additional expected funding. The funds will also be used to assist with resources to increase volunteer participation as well as to provide and create the space for local community kids to feel empowered to guide their education.

Your investment of \$50,000 would close approximately 61% of our remaining funding gap, ensuring uninterrupted care for our 14 rescued animals while we expand self-directed learning opportunities for local community children. The funds you provide will ensure local community members and volunteers can improve the quality of their lives by engaging and interacting with nature and 16 Hands of Love's rescued animal family members in a calming, safe and comfortable environment. Within this same environment, these funds will allow the organization to create a space for local community kids to explore their curiosity about animals, nature and whatever else piques their interest to help them thrive and learn life skills to assist in their survival as they grow.

IV. Project Description

14. Description of Project. Describe how this project will work. List the primary goal and objectives (in a numbered list) of this project, and provide a timeline and work plan. If this request is for a specific program or project, please tell us about that work. If this request is for general operations, describe how funds will likely be used to achieve organizational objectives. Character and Spaces: (5,464 of 6,000)

The overarching goal of 16 Hands of Love is to ensure local community members experience healing and personal growth through connections with nature, rescued animals and their own animals. This goal aligns perfectly with 16 Hands of Love's mission to provide a heart-centered, connected learning & healing opportunity for individuals through nature and rescued animals, and its vision to be a source of healing and re-centering for individuals through the use of nature and rescued animals to bring about more awareness, peace and love in our world.

To meet this goal, 16 Hands of Love will utilize an outdoor, natural setting to provide local community members with weekly facilitated animal-assisted wellness sessions with the rescued animal family members as well as universal animal intuitive sessions with their own animals. 16 Hands of Love will also educate and inform local community members about available volunteer opportunities to create excitement about and interest in engaging and interacting with the rescued animal family members. To ensure local community kids have an environment where they feel safe and that sparks their curiosity, 16 Hands of Love will create and provide a space where they can engage in self-directed learning when not interacting and engaging with the rescued

animal family members. When local community kids visit 16 Hands of Love they will enter a space where they can interact directly with the rescued animal family members, interact with each other in the self-directed learning center where they will be able to create art projects, participate in cooking activities and/or read quietly in a small library area dedicated to them, or do a combination of these activities.

To that end, 16 Hands of Love’s organizational objectives are to:

- A. **Adult and Children/Adolescent Sessions:** By the end of the first year, engage at least 52 local community members (*i.e.*, an average of one (1) per week) in adult and children/adolescent animal-assisted wellness and healing program sessions in nature with rescued animals;
- B. **Universal Animal Intuitive/Communication Sessions:** By the end of the first year, engage at least 3-4 local community members (*i.e.*, approximately one (1) per quarter) in universal animal intuitive sessions in nature with their own animals;
- C. **Volunteer Engagement:** During each quarter, highlighting one (1) volunteer’s experience at 16 Hands of Love on each social media platforms currently utilized by 16 Hands of Love;
- D. **Increasing Volunteer Participation:** By the end of the first year, sign up 20-25 local community members who have not volunteered previously to volunteer at least once a week for 1-2 hours per week;
- E. **Create self-directed learning center for local community children:** By the end of the first year, sign up 25-30 children in self-directed learning activities;
- F. **Provide a “creative” playground area for local community children:** During the first quarter, acquire 5-10 donated items such as old shopping carts and tires to be used in the playground area; and

Work Plan and Timeline:

<i>TIMEFRAME</i>	<i>MILESTONE</i>	<i>OBJECTIVE</i>	<i>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</i>
Spring 2026	Identify potential contract or part-time social media content creator	C - Volunteer Engagement	Founder with input from Board of Directors
Spring 2026	Interview potential candidates and make final selection for contract or part-time social media content creator	C - Volunteer Engagement	Founder with input from Board of Directors
Spring 2026	Create 50 volunteer toolkits containing relevant information for potential volunteers	D - Volunteer Participation	Social Media Content Creator
Spring 2026	Post information from volunteer toolkit on social media platforms	D - Volunteer Participation	Social Media Content Creator
Spring 2026	Purchase items for children to use including 20 art supply kits and 20 sets of kitchen products	E - Self-directed Learning Center	Founder

	(dishes, cookware and utensils)		
Spring 2026	Purchase shelves for the kitchen area or hire a contractor to build shelves	E - Self-directed Learning Center	Founder
Spring 2026	Purchase bookshelves for the small library area or hire a contractor to build bookshelves	E - Self-directed Learning Center	Founder
Spring 2026	Contact local libraries to seek donated books appropriate for children/adolescents	E - Self-directed Learning Center	Founder
Spring 2026	Research organizations/facilities/companies willing donate items for the playground area	F - Creative Playground Area	Founder in coordination with the Parrish School
Summer 2026	Determine which volunteer's experience to highlight and create a post on Facebook	C - Volunteer Engagement	Social Media Content Creator
Fall 2026	Determine which volunteer's experience to highlight and create a post on Instagram	C - Volunteer Engagement	Social Media Content Creator
Winter 2026	Determine which volunteer's experience to highlight and create a post on Facebook & Instagram	C - Volunteer Engagement	Social Media Content Creator
Winter 2026	Determine if additional social media platform accounts would be beneficial	C - Volunteer Engagement	Social Media Content Creator with input from Founder
Ongoing	Facilitate and coordinate wellness healing sessions; track number of participants	A - Adult and Children Sessions	Founder (Equinistic Healing Practitioner)
Ongoing	Facilitate and coordinate wellness healing sessions; track number of participants	B - Animal Intuitive Sessions	Founder (Equinistic Healing Practitioner)

Ongoing	Track number of new volunteers	D - Volunteer Participation	Social Media Content Creator
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15. Description of Target Population – Please describe who will directly and indirectly benefit in the community from this proposal. Character and Spaces: (1,422 of 1,500)

16 Hands of Love services local community members without exception or restriction. The community base for 16 Hands of Love is expansive and inclusive, serving people of all races/ethnicities, ages—including children, genders, religions, socioeconomic backgrounds, veteran’s status, etc. This community base includes individuals who participate in wellness healing sessions as well as volunteers. 16 Hands of Love also seeks volunteers specifically from local universities, in particular Prairie View A&M University, which is conveniently located less than 10 miles from the current private sanctuary. A number of students who attend Prairie View A&M University volunteer with 16 Hands of Love. Prairie View A&M University has the distinction of being a historically black college/university (“HBCU “).

16 Hands of Love anticipates expanding its participant base beyond individuals who utilized its facilities over previous years. Based on its planned communications and additional outreach efforts in the local community, 16 Hands of Love expects local community participation to include significantly more adults and children attending the wellness healing sessions, even more additional children who wish to utilize the self-directed learning center and more volunteers who are knowledgeable about available volunteer opportunities and who have an interest in working and engaging with the rescued animal family members.

V. Evaluation & Closing

16. Evaluation & Measurement - Describe your data collection and analysis plans for each objective. How will you monitor your work and measure success or effectiveness? Character and Spaces: (2,642 of 6,000)

16 Hands of Love will evaluate the success of its general operation via a process that includes data collection, analysis, reporting and incorporating findings—both positive and those needing further work—into the design of its general operation for continuous improvement.

To evaluate the adult and children/adolescent sessions, 16 Hands of Love will maintain a spreadsheet tracking participants and conduct interviews to understand their motivations. Responses will be summarized and presented to the Board quarterly. If at least 52 community members have participated by year's end, the objective is considered successful; if not, 16 Hands of Love will adjust outreach strategies based on participant feedback.

To evaluate the universal animal intuitive/communication sessions, 16 Hands of Love will maintain a spreadsheet tracking participants and conduct interviews to understand their motivations. Responses will be summarized and presented to the Board quarterly. If at least 3-4 community members have participated by year's end, the objective is considered successful; if not, 16 Hands of Love will adjust outreach strategies based on participant feedback.

To evaluate volunteer engagement, 16 Hands of Love will survey volunteers’ interest in highlighting their experience on social media, maintain a list of interested volunteers, randomly select a volunteer to highlight each quarter and interview the volunteer prior to publication. Draft pieces will be submitted to the Board and Founder prior to publication, and final published pieces will be provided to volunteers If at least one (1)

volunteer has participated by each quarter's end, the objective is considered successful; if not, 16 Hands of Love will adjust outreach strategies based on participant feedback.

To evaluate the creation of a self-directed learning center for local community children, 16 Hands of Love will maintain a spreadsheet tracking interest and participation. Responses will be summarized and presented to the Board quarterly. If at least 25-30 children have participated by the end of the year, the objective is considered successful; if not, 16 Hands of Love will adjust outreach strategies based on participant feedback.

To evaluate the creation of a "creative" playground area for local community children, 16 Hands of Love will maintain a spreadsheet tracking entities contacted and donated items received. If at least 5-10 donated items have been acquired by the quarter's end, the objective is considered successful; if not, 16 Hands of Love will adjust its communication and outreach strategies and re-evaluate and expand its potential donor pool.

17. Challenges - What challenges do you anticipate, and how will you address them? - Character and Spaces: (1,342 of 2,000)

One significant challenge is the availability of space to create the self-directed learning center for local community children. To address this challenge, 16 Hands of Love has been communicating with a local land owner who is willing to donate land if 16 Hands of Love will pay the back taxes owed on the land. 16 Hands of Love has included consideration of how to pay this past due amount into its general operating budget.

Another challenge anticipated is generating the interest of local community members who have never volunteered at 16 Hands of Love previously. To address this challenge, 16 Hands of Love will hire a contract or part-time social media content creator to create volunteer toolkits highlighting the volunteer opportunities at 16 Hands of Love and post these toolkits on the social media platforms currently utilized by 16 Hands of Love. The social media content creator will also determine if 16 Hands of Love needs to expand its presence onto other social media platforms.

Addressing these challenges will ensure 16 Hands of Love successfully meets its objectives in a timely manner and in a way that benefits local community members, including volunteers. This, in turn, will result in overall improved happiness for local community members and awareness specifically for local community kids about helpful life skills.

18. Anything else? Is there anything else you want us to know about your work or proposal? - Character and Spaces: (961 of 1,000)

16 Hands of Love's Founder envisioned an environment where she could bring nature, rescued animals and humans together with the ultimate goal of creating more awareness, peace and love in the world overall. Your investment will make this vision a reality and provide a space for "heart-centered, connected learning & healing opportunity" for individuals through nature and rescued animals. If this grant is funded, a year from now children and adults will be engaging with animals in nature for the first time, children will be smiling and interacting in the self-directed learning center and on the creative playground area, and a volunteer discovering purpose will be feeding a horse for the first time.

Thank you for your consideration and for believing in and supporting 16 Hands of Love's mission and vision. It is through partners like you that 16 Hands of Love can truly create more awareness, peace and love in the world, starting in the local community.