



2020-2021

Annual Report

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July, 2021

A Message From Our Hearts to Yours



It has been a challenging year for the most privileged and an impossible year for those less fortunate. Thanks to the benefactors of the Norma Alicia Hernández Estate and the Samuel H. Vester Family, the Be It! Foundation was created to make a difference for those who often do not have the resources to reach their goals and to improve the wellbeing of our South Texas Communities.

It has been a great honor to serve during this time, but I know it is not enough. Our own board members were displaced during the Texas Freeze with no power, reminding us to consider those who could not afford to leave their homes. Due to the impact of COVID, families struggled to make ends meet after losing loved ones. Students struggled to finish their schooling online or with a severely disrupted curriculum. Our emotional wellbeing was pushed to the limits while being forced to stay apart from loved ones when we needed them the most. We had to rely on the good will of our neighbors to keep us going as a South Texas family.

As we celebrate The Be It! Foundation's inaugural year, we ask you to look back in gratitude for the year we survived together. Remember those who may still have not felt the worst of the impact and join The Be It! Foundation family in paying it forward through service, action, and generosity. I look forward to what we will be able to do together in the years to come.

Thank you to the Board for allowing me to do the work that I love and to the behind-the-scenes power team, Cris Criollo and Annette Alvarado. Much of this work would not be possible without their professionalism and dedication.

Dr. Cío Hernández, CEO
The Be It! Foundation

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Overview

The Be It! Foundation's mission is to promote higher education for low-income students, sponsor service-learning opportunities for those who want to lend a hand, offer emergency assistance to those in need, and foster well-being through mental health stigma prevention.

We are proud to share the first year of The Be It! Foundation's endeavors:

- Scholarships for undergraduate and graduate studies
- Pay it forward grants for organizations or individuals
- Emergency assistance
- Wellness education and prevention of mental health stigma.

Our geographic funding area is between San Antonio and Laredo, Texas; however, the impact of our investment is endless.



Scholarships for Undergraduate & Graduate Studies

2021 Scholarship Budget: \$35,000

Students struggle on an annual basis to find the means to reach their goals while trying to focus on their studies. The Be It! Foundation invests in the future by supporting students until they reach their academic goals in an effort to decrease anxiety and maximize success. Our need-based scholarships are for undergraduate and graduate studies and some awards may be renewable on an annual basis if students continue to meet our standards for success.



The selection committee had a difficult time choosing from the many qualified candidates. The Board approved funds for 4 renewable scholarships. This year, four additional scholars were funded for one year due to a shortage of applicants in other funding areas.

We see our Be It! Scholars as the face of the foundation. We are proud to invest in the future of South Texas and know that they will be sharing their knowledge, skills, and resources in the community for generations to come.

The Be It! Scholars commit to regular meetings as we build their skills in reaching their goals and connecting with community leaders who can guide their way to success. As you meet our Be It! Scholars, think about the opportunities you may be able to offer and the benefits their young minds may be able to offer your workforce.



Meet the Be It! Scholars

Sabrina DeBreau

I am currently pursuing a dual degree in Philosophy and Astrophysics along with a minor in Mathematics at Texas Tech University. It has always been a passion of mine to excel in a career of research and academia, where I constantly learn new things and explore new heights in discovery. I hope to partake in an internship that helps me grow in the field of research and academia that is also particular to my degree plans and interests. I use my unique experience of being homeless and being a part of the foster care system to give back by advocating for youth with similar experiences. I particularly enjoy areas like policy work and mentorship opportunities for youth.



Shyla Bell

My name is Shyla Bell. I attend Texas State University in San Marcos, TX, majoring in Social Work. My career interest is to become a caseworker for Child Protective Services and also a Social Worker for children and women surviving domestic violence as well as teen parents and those struggling with addiction. I use volunteering as my way of giving back to the community and use my voice to help others when needed. I also plan to pay it forward in the future by opening an after-school program for children within the foster care system. My dream internship would be to work with Child Protective Services, a Daycare or School, or at emergency shelters for foster youth like me.



Meet the Be It! Scholars

Florence Renteria

My name is Florence Renteria. I am currently enrolled in Laredo College as a STEM major in Biology. After graduating Laredo College, I plan to attend Texas A&M International University to continue my education for my bachelors and complete the pre-med program. After I graduate from TAMIU, I plan to go into the medical field and work my way up to be a cardiothoracic surgeon. I pay it forward to my community by gathering food and used toys that people no longer need or want and donate them to those who cannot afford it or are in a much worse economic situation. My dream internship would be to work at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX, or at The University of Texas Medical School in San Antonio, TX, or at Johns Hopkins University where they have an Associate Director Internship and Experimental Program that I would love to be a part of.



Caleb Flores

My name is Caleb Flores and I will be attending Texas A & M International University. My dream internship would be to work in a large accounting firm, possibly shadowing a certified public accountant (CPA), and learning the process it takes to get the work done. I aspire to be an accountant with a CPA license and hopefully help people file income taxes one day. I hope this scholarship will help me achieve this particular goal, as it will provide me with the opportunity to help people within my community both in the short run and in the long run, with their financial needs.



Meet the Be It! Scholars

Arabellah Lozano

My name is Arabellah Lozano and I will be attending Texas A&M International University where I will be pursuing a Bachelor of Science with a Major in Biology. I strive for a career in Dentistry with a Surgical Specialty. I aim to establish a legacy of giving back to my community. Presently, I volunteer for various organizations designed to benefit my community such as Keep Laredo Beautiful, where we plant trees and organize cleaning efforts. Being deeply involved with dentistry and my community, my dream internship would be with an institute whose values aid the Latinx community.



Anali Rodríguez

My name is Anali Rodríguez, and I will be attending the University of Texas at San Antonio. My major is Politics and Law; my career interest is to become a Sexual Assault Attorney. I want women and men in my community to feel safe knowing that someone is willing to listen to their story and fight for the justice they deserve. I currently volunteer at Casa de Misericordia, which provides shelter from abusive relationships. My dream internship would be a judicial clerkship.



Meet the Be It! Scholars

Ana Rodríguez

My name is Ana Rodríguez, from Laredo, TX. I am attending at Our Lady of the Lake University pursuing a master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology. I am currently interested in working at a hospital or a rehabilitation center with people of any age.

This career will allow me to serve the community for improved communication, which will give them a better quality of life.

I'm looking forward to doing my field placement work with adults who are recovering from stroke, neurodegenerative disorders, or traumatic brain injury as I prepare for graduation in the Spring.



Marcella Favarato

My name is Marcella Favarato, from San Antonio, TX. I am currently a senior at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio. I plan on graduating with a degree in communication arts with a concentration in digital broadcasting and media. After graduation, I'd love to have a job that allows me to utilize my media and digital production skills. I pay it forward in my community by donating to my Church, fundraising for charities, and spreading positivity. My dream internship would be with National Geographic or EWTN!



Pay it Forward Grants for Organizations or Individuals

Pay it Forward Initiatives

Have you ever wanted to lend a hand to those in need, but you didn't know how you would afford it? Be It! Foundation approved grants up to \$5,000 to sponsor an individual or non-profit organization working on innovative solutions that improve the wellbeing of others. There were no appropriate applicants this year, so the funds were targeted to grants to professionals in South Texas interested in continuing education to treat trauma.

Access to Trauma-Informed Care in South Texas Initiative

Budget: \$35,000

In an effort to increase access to vital trauma-informed care resources in South Texas, we are currently offering partial or full scholarships to applicants of our inaugural Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR) Basic Training I and II at Laredo College in person and/or virtually on October 15-17 and October 22-24, 2021.

Up to 20 physicians, social workers, licensed clinical professional counselors, nurse practitioners, marriage family therapists, or other licensed providers will receive Basic EMDR Training I and II. The course additionally provides required consultation and materials that address adaptations unique to diversity issues of South Texas.

Our goal is to increase the number of EMDR professionals in South Texas. Trained providers agree to pay it forward by donating their time to provide EMDR sessions with members of the community in need, in order to address their traumatic experiences and create a path to the future they would like to live.



Emergency Assistance

Our first 2020 budget was allocated in the amount of \$25,000 and 2021 for another \$25,000 to provide emergency funding to meet the basic needs (rental assistance, utilities, clothing, food) for those in San Antonio and Laredo. We are pleased to work with Catholic Charities Archdiocese of San Antonio and Salvation Army of Laredo who have existing programs to offer assistance to the community. Contact the organizations directly if you know someone in need of support.



Amount: \$ 12,500
webpage: <https://ccaosa.org/>



Amount: \$12,500
webpage: <http://salvationarmytexas.org/laredo>

March 2021 - Texas Freeze Emergency Response. The Board authorized an additional \$10,000 to be split between our current emergency contractors in San Antonio and Laredo to aid in the support of those affected by the severe weather conditions.



Amount: \$10,000

You Matter! - Wellness Education & Prevention of Mental Health Stigma

Research and Development of Stigma Prevention and Wellness Strategies for the You Matter Initiative.

Understanding Childhood Trauma

Budget: \$3,000

Initial goals are underway to partner with Binational Health Week Initiatives in Texas to train promoters, providers, policy makers, and others on understanding trauma. We have started to work with the Mexican Consulate's, Ventanilla de la Salud, to have virtual accessibility to more mental health resources, basic understanding of trauma, and coping strategies to be used for healing.



At least two live/online presentations in Spanish and English will be offered in October regarding Childhood Trauma for all audiences, from mental health providers, to parents, educators, community members and others.

“You Matter!” film series.

Budget: \$10,000

Access to necessary emotional support is often delayed or not sought at all, in fear of judgment or stigma, regarding symptoms that impact everyone in some form. The Be It! Foundation aims to decrease stigma related to mental health and to support community wellbeing through normalizing campaigns that are accessible at any time.



Our goal is to develop a short film series for the “You Matter!” Campaign to better convey that everyone lives through life struggles and that we are all a part of eliminating mental health stigma. Six videos will be uploaded in all social media platforms and on the webpage. They will be ready to be shared with our partners in Texas.

Expected Delivery by the end of 2021.

You Matter! - Wellness Education & Prevention of Mental Health Stigma

Looking ahead to 2022: Early Childhood Education in partnership with Laredo College

Proposed Budget: \$20,000

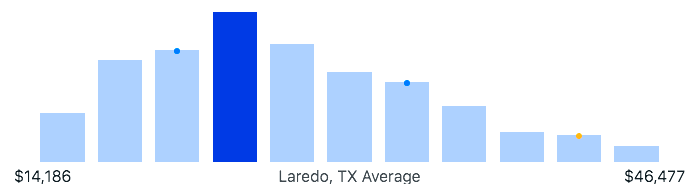
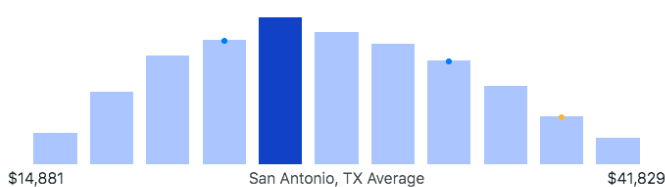
Applicants would apply in the Fall of 2021 and if they finish their semester, would be awarded a \$500 stipend in the 2022 funding cycle.

Quality early childhood education is key to future academic success; yet, access to higher education is limited due to the high cost of tuition and low probability of being able to financially benefit from the investment.



Laredo College offers an excellent Early Childhood Certification Program. The Be It! Foundation is working to partner with Laredo College to offer stipends to early childhood educators interested in achieving higher education to increase quality of care.

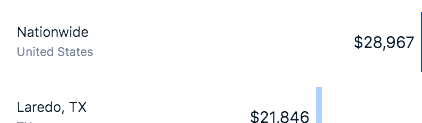
Early childhood has been scientifically shown as the most effective developmental stage of life to promote the healthiest brain development; however, quality education is not accessible to the most vulnerable of South Texas. There are additional problematic layers because the preschool to prison pipeline is directly seen as a costly problem. Additionally, there is no clear path for early childhood educators to get a return on their educational investment; therefore, quality remains low because educators cannot afford to continue their education to reach the bachelors, masters, or doctoral levels as the ability to increase their income across their career is low.



Early Childhood Teacher Salary in San Antonio, TX Comparison by Location



Early Childhood Educator Salary in Laredo, TX Comparison by Location



"As of Jun 7, 2021, the average annual pay for an Early Childhood Educator in San Antonio is \$25,858 an year. Just in case you need a simple salary calculator, that works out to be approximately \$12.43 an hour." <https://www.ziprecruiter.com/Salaries/Early-Childhood-Educator-Salary-in-San-Antonio,TX>

"As of Jun 7, 2021, the average annual pay for an Early Childhood Educator in Laredo is \$21,847 an year. Just in case you need a simple salary calculator, that works out to be approximately \$10.50 an hour." <https://www.ziprecruiter.com/Salaries/Early-Childhood-Educator-Salary-in-Laredo,TX>

Financial Summary

Be It! Foundation opened its virtual doors at the end of 2020. We are a Texas-based nonprofit charitable organization with a pending IRS 501(c)3 tax exemption application which has been delayed due to COVID. Donors will receive our tax ID and information which shows donations are tax-deductible during this pending application period. Here is the IRS link for more information about your tax-deductible donation.

<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable-organizations/contributions-to-organization-with-irs-application-pending>

Funding the Endowment

Total endowment to date: \$ 2,250,000

Norma Alicia Hernández Fund is inspired by the generosity and wisdom that she passed on to every person with whom she crossed paths. She financially supported numerous members of religious organizations and helped put students through school, regardless of whether she had only recently met them or had known them for years. No matter where she went, she spread her passion for service and her love for academics to family, friends, and strangers. Norma passed away February 2017 and is lovingly remembered by her family. The Norma Alicia Hernández Fund was created in memory of her good will and to carry on her legacy of love.



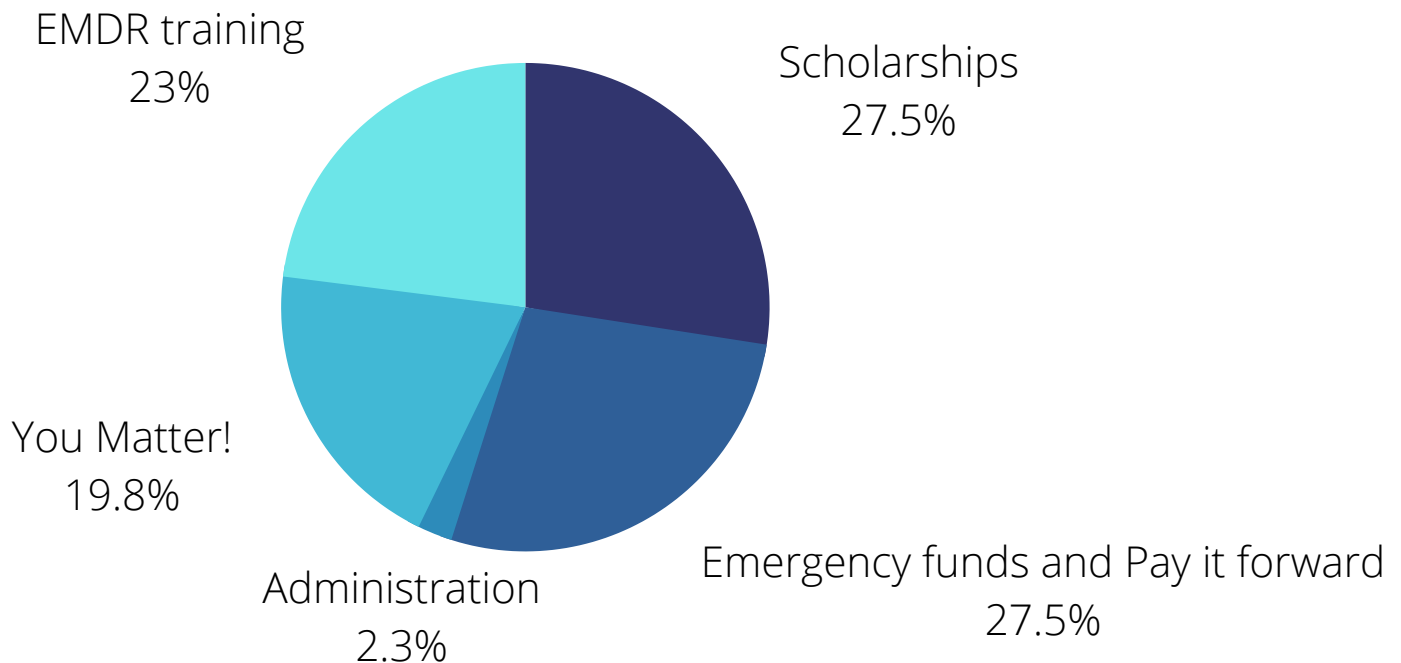
Samuel H. Vester, Jr. and his family contributed to the endowment of the Be It! Foundation to care for the charitable needs of the community. Mr. Vester always says, “Money is only as good as the good it does.” His generous actions match his words. Mr. Vester’s values inspired the Pay It Forward Initiatives and more. His family members are active volunteers and supporters of those most in need. Their action-oriented philosophy was the catalyst to the creation of the early childhood stipends to increase quality care. The Vesters humbly lift others to their highest potential while modeling the hard work it takes to achieve success. They are the Be It! exemplar.



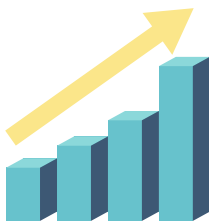
Financial Summary

2021 Giving Budget: \$ 157,000.00

Distribution



Growth Strategies 2021



This year during the Pandemic

- Start-up
- Development strategies
- Networking
- Crowdfunding strategies
- Social media campaigns
- Annual event
- Partnerships



Become a Be It! Founding Donor today!



Provide Basic Needs

\$ 50

Your \$50 supports families to meet their basic needs. It puts food on the tables for the hungry and provides shelter during this time when income is so unstable.

Support a Scholar

\$ 100

Did you know that the average yearly cost of tuition at a Texas university is about \$11,000? Your generous donation will help low-income students achieve their career goals.

Pay-it Forward

\$ 1,000

Pay-it-Forward Grants offer the ability to help others and allow them to still pay the bills. Applicants may need to pay for a training, they may want to volunteer their services somewhere but can't afford to cover their bills while they work to help rebuild an area struck by disaster, or they may have an innovation that could help a large amount of people if they just had a small investment to get them started. Your generous donation will remind applicants and our communities of the benefits of doing good.

Adopt a Student

\$ 5,500

Your annual donation of \$5,500 invests in a student's career until they reach their goal. This not only develops the growth of the student; but provides an asset to our community and is a strategic way to interrupt cycles of poverty for future generations.

Adopt a Student All 4 Years

\$ 27,000

Adopt as many students as you want and we will handle the rest. You can choose how much you would like to know about your student and tell us whether there is a particular career you would like to support as we go through the applications to make a match. Consider being a mentor and you can practically guarantee that your student will become a success!

Good Things Come in Threes Donor

\$ 33,333

The rule of three or "omne trium perfectum" in Latin has been touted for centuries for the goodness and positive returns that are seen in sets of threes. Good Things Come in Threes Donors spread their goodness across funding initiatives, making the path to **Be It!** possible by lighting the way, sharing resources, and lifting recipients to success.

Many Hands Make Light Work Donor

\$ 50,000

Many Hands Make Light Work Donors build the foundation endowment so our funds can help more people year after year. We will immediately put your dollars to work in the community and show you the light you have kindled in **Be It!** recipients and beyond.

Angel Donor

\$ 100,000

Our founding board member, Sam Vester says, "Money is only as good as the good it does." An angel donation to the **Be It!** Foundation means your dollars can be used for good immediately. Your gift may mean that families get to keep their lights on. Children won't have to decide which day to eat. Your investment allows more students to find their path to success. A do-gooder can have the means to lend a hand a little easier. The You Matter! Campaign can be a little louder in decreasing mental health stigma and promoting wellbeing for all. You truly are an earth angel.

*Thank
you!*

For more information, please visit:

www.beitfoundation.org/donate

Or email us at:

development@beitfoundation.org

3201 Cherry Ridge St., Ste. A104, San Antonio, TX 78230

Read this code with
your phone and
choose your
donation options.

