



**City of San Marcos**  
**HUMAN SERVICES FUNDING APPLICATION**  
**Fiscal Year 2023**

Name of Agency/Organization: BPSF (Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund)

Address: 207 Hiver Street

City, State & Zip: Kyle, TX 78640

Contact Person: Heather Aidala Title: Executive Director

E-Mail Address: [bobcatpridescholarship@gmail.com](mailto:bobcatpridescholarship@gmail.com) Website: [www.bobcatpridescholarship.com](http://www.bobcatpridescholarship.com)

Phone: 512-618-9239 Fax: n/a

Program Title: Jeremy O. Torres Emergency Stabilization Fund (JOTESF)

Amount of Funds Requested: \$5000

Status: (check one)       Existing Program       Program Expansion       New Program

**Briefly describe the program proposed for funding and the services it provides:**

The Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund (BPSF) is a 501(c)3 organized exclusively for charitable purposes, more specifically the BPSF Jeremy O. Torres Emergency Stabilization Fund (JOTESF), which provides monetary support to emerging adults (ages 18 to 25), who have minority sexual and gender identities (LGBTQIA+), residing in the Greater San Marcos area. BPSF recognizes people of all minority sexual and gender identities experience systemic oppression. Therefore, BPSF aspires to empower future societal contributions by helping these individuals address unforeseen financial barriers. The fund provides qualified individuals with one-time, limited financial support (up to \$200) to secure their well-being and/or ability to stay enrolled in school.

**Describe who will benefit from this program and how:**

The direct clients of the JOTESF are emerging adults (ages 18 to 25), who have LGBTQIA+ identities, residing in the greater San Marcos area, and are experiencing an unforeseen crisis. We specifically serve emerging adults in this community who are striving for independence but are at increased risk of lacking familial support, which can negatively impact their ability to maintain stability in times of crisis. Young adults are now facing the toughest economy in generations due inflation and possible recession. Past recipients have shared their experiences of under- and un-employment, especially due to COVID that threatened their ability to pay rent, utilities, or purchase groceries. Those without medical insurance described being unable to pay for emergency medical/dental care or medications. Others shared unexpected car repairs that would prevent them from being able to retain or gain employment. Some shared experiences of work discrimination or loss of resources from family due to their minority sexual and/or gender identities. BPSF addresses factors that cause LGBTQIA+ emerging adults to become homeless by helping them maintain stability during a crisis. Our Program Director also provides referrals, connecting them to other community resources. We are invested in continuing this essential source of support to this under-served population in the greater San Marcos area.

**If requested funds are to be used as matching funds, identify source and amount of primary grants:**

Source:   n/a   Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Source:   n/a   Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**Client Information Specific to This Program:**

**1) Describe the direct clients for this program.**

The direct clients of BPSF are emerging adults (18 to 25 years old), who have minority sexual and gender identities (LGBTQIA+), residing in the greater San Marcos area. Last fiscal year, BPSF provided 60 individuals with JOTESF awards. BPSF recognizes people of all minority sexual and gender identities experience systemic oppression in the US. This continues to be evidenced in our sociopolitical climate which debates the validity and value of LGBTQIA+ citizens, has enacted harmful laws restricting their rights, and does not offer protections from discrimination (such as in housing and the workplace). This climate exemplifies the need for nonprofits that expressly affirm and empower the future societal contributions of LGBTQIA+ residents by helping them address unforeseen financial barriers. On average, BPSF awards \$200 for recipients to secure their well-being and/or ability to continue college enrollment. This fund does not focus on a specific college population but recognizes that some emerging adults are pursuing college in hopes of obtaining a career path for a more secure future.

**2) How is the program marketed to direct clients? How do you find these clients?**

The LGBTQIA+ community is a micro-community within San Marcos. We attempt to meet these individuals where they work, live, study, and participate in our community

Our nonprofit markets via:

- social media (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter),
- direct emails to donors, business sponsors, and recipients,
- business cards at community agencies (food bank, library, etc.),
- business cards at apartment complexes marketed towards emerging adults,
- local businesses where emerging adults frequent, especially that have historically been LGBTQIA+ inclusive such as Stonewall, Joe’s Café, Root Cellar, MINK, Davenport, etc.,
- business cards and social media at LGBTQIA+ friendly events in the area, including San Marcos Pride and co-sponsored fundraisers,
- through partnerships with San Marcos Pride, Gays of Hays, PFLAG San Marcos, Alliance of Texas State, and San Marcos Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (SMUUF),
- inclusion in the Homeless Coalition of Hays County resource guide,
- communication with Allies of Texas State and Alliance,
- listings as a resource on local community websites,
- and word of mouth through our donor and recipient community.

**3) Describe the indirect clients for this program, if any.**

Board Members are invited to speak to community groups to inform the public about the needs of this population due to systemic discrimination and the unique support BPSF offers.

**4a) Expected total annual unduplicated direct clients for this program: 85**

**4b) Expected annual unduplicated direct clients who are City of San Marcos residents: 68**

**5) Does program participation depend upon income or any other determination of eligibility?**

No: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes:  If yes, please attach a copy of the eligibility guidelines.

Submitted and approved by:

*Heather Aidala*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Board President

July 29, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Board President



## HUMAN SERVICES FUNDING QUESTIONNAIRE FY 2023

The Board strongly requests that all answers be typed.  
Most responses should be at least 75 words per question.

**PLEASE COMPLETE ALL QUESTIONS.**

**1. What is the agency's or organization's mission?**

The Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund (BPSF) is a 501(c)3 organized exclusively for charitable purposes. More specifically the BPSF Jeremy O. Torres Emergency Stabilization Fund provides monetary support to emerging adults (ages 18 to 25), who have minority sexual and gender identities (LGBTQIA+), residing in the Greater San Marcos area when they face an unexpected crisis.

**2. Regarding the program for which funding is being requested, what evidence suggests this program is needed in San Marcos or nearby?**

We are currently facing the toughest economy in generations and BPSF is the only LGBTQIA+ focused nonprofit that provides emergency stabilization funding. We specifically serve emerging adults who are striving for independence but are at increased risk of lacking familial support, which can negatively impact their ability to maintain financial stability in times of crisis. In FY22, our 60 recipients reported an average income of \$714/month. One unforeseen barrier leaves them at risk of not having access to basic needs such as food, shelter, transportation, and/or the ability to maintain enrollment towards their career goal. Our LGBTQIA+ community is comprised of individuals with intersecting marginalized identities, including Texans of color, immigrants, and lower income backgrounds. BPSF was created in 2010 as a non-religiously affiliated, LGBTQIA+ inclusive and affirming nonprofit, to explicitly support this community because of historical and continued discrimination, and explicit lack of protection, experienced by this community. According to the ACLU of Texas, in most of the state of Texas, it is legal to discriminate against people on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The exception is if cities or employers enact inclusive non-discrimination policies. San Marcos does not have such a policy. The lack of these protections leaves community members vulnerable to discrimination in employment, public accommodations, education, credit, and housing. The ACLU also reports 90% of transgender Texans have been mistreated in the workplace. Sexual and gender diverse minorities experience fear, isolation, and uncertainty due to daily microaggressions, minority fatigue, and sometimes overt discrimination and violence. This is especially true in states that do not offer nondiscrimination protection and endorse political views that perpetuate discrimination. According to Equality Texas, the 2021 Legislative session and special session introduced 30+ anti-LGBTQ+ bills. These sociopolitical factors leave LGBTQIA+ citizens in the greater San Marcos area vulnerable to discrimination, under- and unemployment, lack of access to medical care, food insecurity, and financial instability. BPSF addresses factors that cause LGBTQIA+ emerging adults to become homeless by helping them maintain stability during a crisis. Our Program Director also provides referrals, connecting them to other community resources. BPSF is a safety net to these marginalized young adults.

**3. What specific, measurable outcomes or results do you hope to achieve with this program?**

1. The BPSF Jeremy O. Torres Emergency Stabilization Fund will fund 85 emerging adults (ages 18 to 25), who have minority sexual and gender identities (LGBTQIA+), residing in the Greater San Marcos area, during FY 2023. And at least 80% of recipients will reside in San Marcos.
2. Eighty percent of the client satisfaction surveys returned will report an 80% or higher satisfaction rate regarding their experiences with the BPSF Jeremy O. Torres Emergency

Stabilization Fund application and award process.

**4. How will you measure results throughout the year?**

1. All funding requests, whether granted or denied, are logged on an applicant spreadsheet which includes demographics, residency, details of the applicant's reported need, and level of funding provided.
2. All recipients receive a text link to a client satisfaction survey, following distribution of the award. A spreadsheet of these responses is maintained, and statistics are compiled at the end of our fiscal year.

**5. Please answer the following questions if funding is requested for staff:**

No funding is requested for staff. There are no paid staff members at this agency. All work is done by a volunteer working Board of Directors and volunteers. Funds go directly to client care with minimal overhead costs. Last fiscal year our overhead was only 6%.

a. List the title of each position for which funding is requested, how many hours per week will be spent on this program vs other programs, and the activities associated with each position.

n/a

b. If staff funding requests can only be partially funded, how will you supplement the funding to cover the remainder needed?

n/a

c. Staff pay may only be funded for one year. What will you do to provide for this position next year?

n/a

**6. Funding Questions:**

a. What has your organization done in the past two years to raise different funding for this program?

- Hosted a donor fundraiser soiree in a private home.
- Partnered with the Root Cellar for a fundraiser.
- Conducted email and social media fundraising campaigns.
- Participated in annual Give Out Day and Giving Tuesday fundraising campaigns.
- Coordinated with TXST social work students for a profit share at Wake the Dead, including live music and a silent auction.
- Plans for a drag brunch and silent auction at Blue Dahlia were canceled due to quarantine.
- Worked with social work students to hold annual yard sales.
- Held annual online silent auctions.
- Partnered with Davenport for a pride fundraising event.
- Applied for SM Human Services Funding and a Network for Good grant. Were awarded the Network for Good grant.
- Were chosen as a Pass the Plate recipient by San Marcos Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (SMUUF).
- Hosted a 10<sup>th</sup> birthday reboot party, silent auction, and profit share at Wake the Dead, including live music.
- The Therapy Sisters hosted a Saturday morning benefit concert.

b. What do you plan to do this year to find different funding for this program?

We will:

- implement a donor of the month program to promote our online fundraising campaigns,
- continue our partnership with the TXST School of Social Work and expand our internship opportunities for college students to assist with outreach, fundraising, and online events,
- continue to work with San Marcos Pride, PFLAG, The Gays of Hays, and local queer-friendly

- businesses to plan fundraising events,
- host a restaurant profit-share meal,
- and collaborate with local drag queens to host a live event.

**7. What additional funding is your agency requesting for this program?**

Funding Source	Amount Requested	Amount Granted	Pending (Y/N)
N/A			

**8. Describe any differences between the way you had proposed spending last year’s allocation and the way you spent it.**

BPSF has never received San Marcos HSAB funding. All funds expended by the agency are for direct client services.

**9. How many volunteers does your agency or organization have and how many hours do they spend on the program requesting funding?**

BPSF is an entirely volunteer-run organization. The BPSF Board consists of six volunteer members who make a three-year commitment and perform all organization duties. Volunteer participation is tied to fall and spring university calendars as students from different disciplines across the TXST campus donate their time. In the past two years, we have benefitted directly from the volunteer hours of almost thirty temporary volunteers and countless short-term/fundraising-specific volunteers. Collectively they have contributed over 150 hours of service to the program.

**10. Board of Directors Questions:**

**a. How is the agency’s or organization’s Board of Directors selected?**

BPSF Board of Directors (BOD) solicits self-nominations via an online application. Solicitation for positions is posted on the website, social media, and sent to BPSF supporters. Board members also recruit potential applicants. Applicants apply using a standardized application, including statement of interest and resume. Board members review the application, engage in a discussion with applicants, and invite the applicant to join a board meeting to speak with all board members. New BOD members are elected by a majority vote of the current BOD members.

**b. How often does the Board meet?**

The Board meets face-to-face (either in person or via Zoom) at least once a month but is also able to conduct online business regularly via the online Basecamp Project Management Program.

**c. What actions do Board members take to support the programs of the agency or organization?**

All BPSF Board members engage in fundraising and community outreach on behalf of the agency. A list of Board Member descriptions may be found following the Board organizational chart.

**Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund (BPSF)**  
**Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Budget**  
**March 1, 2023 to Feb 28, 2024**

**Revenue**

Donations	<u>\$12,000.00</u>
Total	\$12,000.00

**Expenses**

General supplies/online donation fees	\$800.00
Financial awards to Emergency Stabilization Fund recipients	<u>\$11,200.00</u>
Total	\$12,000.00

**Net Income (Loss)** \$0.00

Note: BPSF has only one program (Emergency Stabilization Fund) so the annual budget is both the agency and program budgets requested.

## **BPSF Board of Directors membership roster**

Heather Aidala, *Executive Director*

Stacie McGee, *Operations Director*

Karen Gordon-Sosby, *Financial Director*

Teresa Prater, *Internal Communication Director*

Celeste Hollister, *Marketing Director*

Arisela Thompson, *Program Director*

*\*Fundraising Director position is currently vacant*



# **Board of Directors Meeting Attendance Record for the current fiscal year**

**March 9, 2022**

Heather Aidala, *Executive Director*  
Stacie McGee, *Operations Director*  
Alex Mylius, *Program Director*  
Karen Gordon-Sosby, *Financial Director*  
Teresa Prater, *Internal Communication Director*

**April 6, 2022**

Heather Aidala, *Executive Director*  
Stacie McGee, *Operations Director*  
Karen Gordon-Sosby, *Financial Director*  
Teresa Prater, *Internal Communication Director*

**May 18, 2022**

Heather Aidala, *Executive Director*  
Stacie McGee, *Operations Director*  
Alex Mylius, *Program Director*  
Karen Gordon-Sosby, *Financial Director*  
Teresa Prater, *Internal Communication Director*

**June 8, 2022**

Heather Aidala, *Executive Director*  
Stacie McGee, *Operations Director*  
Alex Mylius, *Program Director*  
Karen Gordon-Sosby, *Financial Director*

**July 13, 2022**

Heather Aidala, *Executive Director*  
Karen Gordon-Sosby, *Financial Director*  
Teresa Prater, *Internal Communication Director*  
Celeste Hollister, *Marketing Director* (first meeting)  
Arisela Thompson, *Program Director* (first meeting)

## BPSF Organizational chart



- Our Fundraising Director position is currently vacant.
- There are no paid staff members at BPSF. All Board Members participate in the recruitment and supervision of volunteers, depending on volunteer role and duration.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS AND DUTIES:

- 1) **Executive Director (ED)** is the key management leader of BPSF. The ED is responsible for overseeing the administration, programs, and strategic plan of the organization in order to execute and expand its mission. This includes providing leadership to the BOD and team members. Other key duties include fundraising, communications, marketing, and community relationships.
- 2) **Operations Director (OD)** shares responsibilities with the ED for overseeing the administration, programs, and strategic plan of BPSF in order to execute and expand its mission. This includes providing leadership to program operations and planning. The OD develops and implements policies and procedures for effective communication within the organization. Other key duties include fundraising, communications, marketing, and community relationships.

Form **990-N**Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service**Electronic Notice (e-Postcard)**

► For Tax-Exempt Organizations not Required to File Form 990 or 990EZ.

OMB No. 1545-NNNN

**2021**Open to Public  
Inspection**A For the calendar year, or tax year beginning 03-01-2021, and ending 02-28-2022**

<b>B</b> Check if applicable: <input type="checkbox"/> Termination <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less	<b>C</b> Name of organization BOBCAT PRIDE SCHOLARSHIP FUND	<b>D</b> Employer ID number 30-0622176
	Number and street (or P. O. box, if mail is not delivered to street address) PO Box 2532	
<b>E</b> Website Address: <a href="http://www.bobcatpridescholarship.com/">http://www.bobcatpridescholarship.com/</a>	City or town, state or country, and ZIP + 4 Kyle, TX 78640	

<b>F</b> Name of Principal Officer: Heather Aidala
Number and street (or P. O. box, if mail is not delivered to street address) of Principal Officer PO Box 2532
City or town, state or country, and ZIP + 4 Kyle, TX 78640

Form **990-N** (2021)**Additional Data**Thank you for using Aplos Software to complete your Form 990-N.  
[www.aplos.com](http://www.aplos.com)**Software ID:** 12000256**Software Version:****EIN:** 30-0622176**Name:** BOBCAT PRIDE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

### **Current IRS Form 990, pages 1 and 2**

According to the IRS (<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/annual-electronic-filing-requirement-for-small-exempt-organizations-form-990-n-e-postcard>), "Small tax-exempt organizations generally are eligible to file Form 990-N to satisfy their annual reporting requirement, if their annual gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less.

- Gross receipts are the total amounts the organization received from all sources during its annual accounting period, without subtracting any costs or expenses.
- Gross receipts are considered to be normally \$50,000 or less if the organization:
  - o Has been in existence for 1 year or less and received, or donors have pledged to give, \$75,000 or less during its first taxable year;
  - o Has been in existence between 1 and 3 years and averaged \$60,000 or less in gross receipts during each of its first two tax years; and
  - o Is at least 3 years old and averaged \$50,000 or less in gross receipts for the immediately preceding 3 tax years (including the year for which calculations are being made)."

BPSF fits these criteria and therefore, submits a Form 990-N e-postcard to the IRS

# NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT

## ARTICLE VI - MISCELLANEOUS

**Section 3:** Nondiscrimination Policy. BPSF values all board members, volunteers and applicants as unique individuals and welcomes the variety of experiences they bring to our organization. As such, BPSF does not practice, condone, facilitate, or collaborate with any form of discrimination. It is our intention to be an emotionally safe and respectful environment for all members of the BPSF community. We believe everyone should be treated equally and strive to provide quality services that are sensitive to and inclusive of diversity of all kinds including race, ethnicity, national origin, language of choice, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, marital status, political belief, religion, immigration status, and mental or physical ability.

Any board member, volunteer or client who believes that they or any other affiliate of BPSF has been discriminated against is strongly encouraged to report this concern promptly to the Executive Director or another board member.

# **Income Eligibility Documentation Procedure and Income Scales**

## **Our Mission**

The Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund is organized exclusively for charitable purposes, more specifically the BPSF Jeremy O. Torres Emergency Stabilization Fund provides monetary support to emerging adults (ages 18 to 25), who have minority sexual and gender identities (LGBTQIA+), residing in the Greater San Marcos area.

## **Our Vision**

BPSF recognizes people of all minority sexual and gender identities experience systemic oppression. Therefore, BPSF aspires to empower future societal contributions by helping these individuals address unforeseen financial barriers.

## **Eligibility Documentation**

BPSF does not require proof of income for eligibility, nor does the organization use a prescribed income scale or sliding scale. Rather, funding is based on current and immediate emergency stabilization needs, rather than long-term support or funding. Funding awards are based on comprehensive interviews between the Program Director and the applicant, thus providing individualized care and funding, as needed. The application includes questions regarding financial needs, current and ongoing bills, and unforeseen circumstances leading to the request for funding. The Program Director individually interviews and screens each applicant via phone call, for appropriateness of funding. All funding requests whether granted or denied are logged on an applicant spreadsheet which includes demographics, details about applicant current need, and level of funding provided. Community and state referrals are provided to connect them to additional resources.



Hays County Food Bank  
220 Herndon St.  
San Marcos, TX 78666  
(512) 392-8300  
[www.haysfoodbank.org](http://www.haysfoodbank.org)

July 20, 2022

Dear San Marcos Human Services Advisory Board,

On behalf of Hays County Food Bank, we strongly support Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund's (BPSF) application to receive grant funding from the City of San Marcos Human Services. As a community agency we have partnered with BPSF over the past two years and know the support they provide to LGBTQIA+ emerging adults (18 to 25 years old) in the greater San Marcos area is essential.

Hays County Food Bank is the primary resource for community members and neighbors who are navigating food insecurity and it has been a tremendous resource to refer LGBTQIA+ food bank clients to BPSF for additional emergency funding. The financial support offered by BPSF compliments the food resources we provide, offering the flexibility for the client to use the funds for medical bills, rent, utilities, gas, car repairs, or other expenses that they are struggling to maintain due to an unforeseen emergency. We know our community members have been struggling with and harmfully impacted by under- and un-employment at increasingly high levels since the pandemic and are now struggling to make paycheck dollars stretch due to inflation. We have seen a dramatic increase in neighbors seeking out food assistance over the past few months, and frequently refer out to other resources, such as BPSF, when those we serve ask for additional assistance. BPSF is a resource for a subset of our community that is marginalized further, simply due to their sexual and gender identities, which makes them even more vulnerable to food and housing instability during critical times. Additionally, as emerging adults they are often in a precarious time as they attempt to establish an independent foundation, with limited or no family support.

We appreciate knowing that we can safely refer our LGBTQIA+ clients to BPSF because they were created as an affirming and inclusive resource for community members with minority sexual and gender identities. Applicants know their experiences will be heard, affirmed, and supported without questions or judgment. This is in keeping with our goal of inclusively serving all community members. Without reservation, we fully support the Jeremy O. Torres Emergency Stabilization Fund offered by BPSF. We know grant funding will allow them to serve even more LGBTQIA+ community members during their time of need, and their time of need is now.

Best,

Jessica Cruz  
Programs Director  
Hays County Food Bank  
[jcruz@haysfoodbank.org](mailto:jcruz@haysfoodbank.org)

**DONATE • ADVOCATE • VOLUNTEER**

San Marcos



Unitarian Universalist  
Fellowship

July 2022

Attention: City of San Marcos Human Services Advisory Board:

On behalf of the San Marcos Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (SMUUF), in support of Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund's (BPSF) proposal to receive grant funding from the City of San Marcos Human Services Advisory Board, I strongly support their application due to their focus on serving the LGBTQIA+ young people in our community.

We at SMUUF are aware that some religiously affiliated nonprofits may not be perceived or experienced as being affirming to LGBTQIA+ emerging adults. We, as an explicitly affirming community organization, welcome partnering with BPSF because they create a culture of safety and support with us that is unique.

SMUUF met with the BPSF Executive Board in 2012, just two years after their formation, to communicate our long-standing foundation in social justice movements and our ability to be affirming to LGBTQIA+ individuals. SMUUF is a member of a larger national Unitarian Universalist organization that has as one of its missions to be welcoming and affirming to the LGBTQIA+ community.

SMUUF Social Justice Program helps provide financial support for community nonprofits, including BPSF. In the past decade, our fellowship has supported countless BPSF scholarships, including a donation this past April. We know there are some religiously affiliated organizations that may provide emergency funding. But if the organization is not openly welcoming and affirming to the LGBTQIA+ community, there can be a hesitancy due to the fear of rejection. BPSF is not a duplication of services and is essential. We have seen them fill a need that is not otherwise met in San Marcos.

Without reservation, I fully support the efforts of the Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund to seek additional funding to carry out the vital and necessary services they provide for the LGBTQIA+ community in the San Marcos area.

Sincerely,  
Jeannie Lewis  
Social Justice Chair  
San Marcos Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
Home address: 1315 Lazy Lane  
San Marcos, TX 78666  
(512) 353-2872  
jeannie@cenurytel.net



July 28, 2022

San Marcos Human Services Advisory Board,

My name is Parker Dumas, and I am honored to write a letter in support of funding for the Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund (BPSF).

In March 2022 I asked for financial help from BPSF. This financial help got myself and my partner through an extremely difficult time after we had both lost our jobs. The money I received from BPSF allowed us to afford groceries and rent for the month and maintain our stability. Without it, my family would have struggled with homelessness and food insecurity.

BPSF is an important organization because it focuses on LGBTQIA+ emerging adults. It is not often that I feel comfortable seeking help from organizations, particularly ones that are associated with various religions, because of how heavily churches associate with homophobic or transphobic ideology. Already in a vulnerable position, my partner and I would have felt more at-risk going to other organizations for this level of intimate help. BPSF made the world of a difference for us in one of our hardest months since the pandemic began, by being an inclusive organization that we could turn to during our time of need.

I would like to thank BPSF for helping me and my community. I express my full support for this organization to receive funding through the San Marcos Human Services Advisory Board. BPSF is doing a lot of good, and it deserves the funding to continue their mission of providing monetary support to emerging adults in the LGBTQIA+ community residing in the greater San Marcos area.

Sincerely,

Parker Dumas (he/him)

[k\\_h363@txstate.edu](mailto:k_h363@txstate.edu)

To the San Marcos Human Services Advisory Board,

My name is Joel Pedroza , and I am pleased to write a letter in support of funding for the Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund (BPSF).

I asked for financial help from BPSF in July 2022. This financial help came at a crucial time when I found myself unable to afford groceries and bills. The money I received from BPSF allowed me to afford food, gasoline, and pay off my utility bill and maintain my mental stability. Without it, I would have struggled with my mental state.

BPSF is an important organization because it focuses on LGBTQIA+ emerging adults and lets us know we are valued. Having a safe and accessible local non-profit that cares for, affirms, and supports people like me in my community is essential. The LGBTQIA+ community can be one of the most vulnerable and marginalized communities, so it is amazing to have an organization like BPSF supporting the greater San Marcos area.

I would like to thank BPSF for helping me and my community. I express my full support for this organization to receive funding through the San Marcos Human Services Advisory Board. BPSF is doing a lot of good, and it deserves the funding to continue their mission of providing monetary support to emerging adults in the LGBTQIA+ community residing in the greater San Marcos area.

Sincerely,

Joel Pedroza

Krepjoel@yahoo.com

July 6, 2022

San Marcos Human Services Advisory Board  
San Marcos, TX 78666

Dear Advisory Board Members:

As a long-time supporter of the Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund and an even longer resident of San Marcos, I value the support that BPSF provides for struggling LGBTQIA+ members of our community. A number of students at Texas State are grappling with identity issues when they leave home and enroll at Texas State University. In addition, many stay in San Marcos if they are unable to complete school or chose San Marcos as their home post-graduation. Among the most challenging of these issues are those related to their sexual and gender identities. Individuals on the LGBTQIA+ spectrum may have less than supportive families. If families become aware of their identity, they may cut off financial, as well as emotional, support.

LGBTQIA+ emerging adults not only face the challenges of leaving home, a new environment, and increased academic demands, they also face threats of violence community members who do not accept identity variations related to sexual and gender identities. When youth face multiple obstacles in their lives, one risk is suicide. Data support the higher risk of suicide for these youth.

Connecting with groups that offer emotional and financial support, such as BPSF, can make a huge difference in a young adult's life. Knowing that they are not completely alone, that others share their struggles and care about them, can be lifesaving in some instances. BPSF is a prime example of a group that provides this emotional and financial support. Also, as a non-religiously affiliated group, their message of affirmation and inclusion is clear. Please consider providing funding for this very worthy organization.

Sincerely,

Shirley Ogletree, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Texas State University  
Long-time San Marcos Resident at 812 Hillyer Street