

ROOTED IN RESTORATION, INC.

**Application to Learn By Giving Foundation via Framingham State University
\$10,000 Grant funding**

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INTRODUCTION

There are no immediate and effective solutions to address the fact that 42 percent of nonprofits report that they do not have the right mix of financial resources to thrive and be effective in the next three years. One in four nonprofits reported having less cash than they would need to stay afloat for 30 days¹. In addition to these challenges, in Massachusetts, the number of people experiencing homelessness and housing instability remains very high. According to numbers from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2018 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, there were 20,068 people in Massachusetts counted as experiencing homelessness during the January 2018 point-in-time count conducted by the HUD Continuum of Care across the state². Furthermore, for the first nine months of 2018, there were 1233 confirmed opioid-related overdose deaths and the Department of Public Health estimates that there will be an additional 252 to 318 deaths³. In Massachusetts, 652,760 people are struggling with hunger - and of them, 167,450 are children⁴. Robert Kraft is accused of soliciting prostitution more than 1,400 miles away in Jupiter, Florida, making the suspected crime feel far away from the home of his New England Patriots. But in reality, sexual acts for money - similar to what Kraft has pleaded not guilty - happen frequently across Massachusetts, fueled by widespread human trafficking⁵. Amidst these dire statistics is Rooted in Restoration, Inc., a young 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization making an impact in each of the above areas in Boston, dedicated to and rooted in the most marginalized communities connecting our neighbors to resources that cultivate social, economic, and spiritual wholeness. We request your assistance to help us sustain and grow our general operating funds and programs to the next level in order to deepen our impact in Boston and neighboring cities.

FOR WHAT PURPOSE DO YOU PLAN TO UTILIZE THESE FUNDS?

Rooted In Restoration plans to utilize the funds that you award us to impact the four programs of our organization (Table 1). Recognizing that restored communities are indispensable to the preservation of a healthy and free society, Rooted In Restoration, Inc. is dedicated to helping the most marginalized communities overcome adversity by providing them with resources in Mental Wellness, Health Promotions, Housing, Education, Job Readiness, Meals, clothing and more through our Hub Resource Center, our Community and Homeless Outreach, Rose of Sharon, and Jasmine's House, our Transitional Home for women and women with children.

¹ Stanford Social Innovation Review (2013) *What Nonprofits Need: Three things that funders can learn from Nonprofit Finance Fund's 2013 State of the Sector Survey*. Retrieved from <http://ssir.org>

² "Basic Facts on Homelessness and Housing in Massachusetts and Across the Country". *Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless*

³ "Data Brief: Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths among Massachusetts Residents". *Mass.gov*

⁴ "Hunger in Massachusetts". *Feeding America.org*.

⁵ GateHouse News Service (2019) *It can be anybody. The truth about sex trafficking in Massachusetts*. Retrieved from <http://www.southcoasttoday.com>

Table 1

The HUB	Rooted In Restoration’s administrative office that operates on behalf of all our outreach programming. It houses all program staff and program operations. We provide resources and case management to support individuals and families and connect them to various partnered resources and city programs/benefits.
COMMUNITY/ HOMELESS OUTREACH	The Community/Homeless Outreach provides home cooked meals, clothing, and prayer in the frontline to individuals and families who are living in poverty, addiction and/or in homelessness in Boston and surrounding communities.
ROSE OF SHARON	Rose of Sharon reaches out to women of human trafficking, prostitution and sexual exploitation connecting them to resources as they seek restoration and acclimation into a life where they are thriving members of our community. We partner with both local and out of state agencies who provide rehab programs, shelter, food, and counseling with the mission of seeing women being restored and living out a life fully transformed and prosperous.
JASMINE’S HOUSE	In memory of our beloved Jasmine Lee-Joyce Burrus, Jasmine’s House is a 18 month transitional residence program for women and women with children who are homeless. Here they will find a place to rebuild their lives and give their children a positive start in life. All women are welcome regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, or economic status. We offer the help they need to begin their new lives.

We will use the \$10,000 to: 1) Increase our impact on reaching the marginalized community and sexually trafficked women in Boston, Massachusetts by purchasing a van for our outreach and Rose of Sharon program by January 1, 2021. 2) Deliver final renovations for Jasmine’s House 2nd floor, by September 1, 2020. 3.) Support Rooted in Restoration’s Resource Center (The Hub) continued operations.

WHAT ARE YOUR OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING?

Rooted In Restoration, Inc. is funded by the yearly contributions of each of its Board of Directors, in kind donations from the community and by private partners who donate via Network for Good. Rooted in Restoration believes that our entire city and local community can be transformed and restored through the establishing of partnerships with community and city programs and organizations. We currently partner with Panera Bread, Kettle Cuisine, Roche Brothers and the Match Charter School who provide food donations to us for our outreach program.

WHAT ARE YOUR SHORT-TERM GOALS?

Rooted In Restoration, Inc. is dedicated to and rooted in the most marginalized communities in the city of Boston and each of our goals reach people who are denied involvement in mainstream economic, political, cultural and social activities and/or need resources to aid them in cultivating social, economic and spiritual wholeness. Our short term goals are to: a) Purchase a van that holds at least ten people to be used to transport meals to the underserved population and to outreach to 50 or more women in 2020 who are involved in human trafficking, prostitution, and sexual exploitation with hope, resources, and the means to exit that lifestyle safely within six months, b) deliver final renovations for Jasmine’s House (Transitional Home for women and women with children) by September 2020, c) put reserves towards our 2020 operating budget in order to aid us with the Community Resource Center (warmly known as “The Hub”) operations. Your funding will aid our Hub Resource Center by providing stipends for Interns and go towards the payment of 2020’s utility and rent expenses.

WHAT ARE YOUR LONG-TERM GOALS?

- Grow beyond meeting the immediate needs of our community towards working hand in hand with local politicians and civic engagement in order to make a broader impact on the sources of the problem affecting our marginalized communities. Having a prominent voice at the table for those who don't have a voice is crucial and by solidifying these strong partnerships by 2022, will allow us to more strategically continue changing the course of poverty in our communities for the better.
- Fully renovated and funded transitional home through the Jasmine House by January 2021.
- Provide a live in home salary to a "House Mom" for the Jasmine House by January 2021.
- Open a Men's Transitional Home in Boston that will serve up to 10 men over the course of an 18 month stay, similar to our women and women with children home by 2025.
- Provide a salary for a full time Executive Director position in the amount of \$65,000 by calendar year 2022.
- Provide a salary for one full time Case Manager in the amount of \$45,000 by January 2022.
- Provide a part time salary to an office administrator for The Hub resource office.
- Provide salary for 4 Case workers in the amount of \$32,000 by September 2022.

WHY ARE STAFF MEMBERS PASSIONATE ABOUT THE WORK THEY DO?

The Board of Directors, staff members and volunteers of Rooted In Restoration, Inc. are passionate about the work we do because it allows us to give back in a true and purposeful way. We understand what our fellow community members endure because some of us once were in the same position of those we serve. For example, one of our outreach program leaders battled with heroin addiction when younger and after many years being clean, now faithfully leads our Sunday outreach to people in the same shoes he once had. For many of us, we grew up in these same communities that we are now impacting with our programs and services. "I remember being 12, 13 and 14 years old fighting with my friends on who would hold a trash bag and what to clean. Fast forward to 30 years, we are serving the same exact community, now with a deeper understanding and knowledge of the immense need" Zaybell Escribano, Board Member. We are called for this work in the community and for this time. We are instruments in the community, planting sustainable growth, stability and healing not only on a personal level but also as a city and nation. There's a need in our community to help those that society has deemed are not worth fighting for. Our yearning has always been to help those that are in need or in trouble. We proudly go out weekly to seek those whom society has forgotten or feel are not worthy of a simple hello. It is who we are; we see daily what our work does and how it transforms lives and that drives us!

WHAT IMPACTS HAVE YOU MADE IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY?

	2019	2020 to date
Meals Prepared for the community	3,423	841
Individuals Served	7,462	1,141

Sandwiches handed out	10,180	1730
Waters distributed	2,674	503
Gallons of soup given out	530	110
Community Outreach Clean Up on May 4, 2019		
	Annual clean up held at the corner of Southampton and Topeka Street in the area known as “Methadone Mile” in which we filled over 20 trash bags of debris, and 4 buckets of Drug paraphernalia.	
Annual Rise Up Community Event on August 10, 2019⁶		
	This yearly resource event creates a sense of hope for the heart of the community. R-Restore our community I - Inspire our community to lend a helping hand to our neighbors S - Solidarity E - Educate our community about resources available U - Understand our community and its needs P - Knowing our purpose in the community. We gave over 1500 backpacks to families and children, free haircuts, health and dental screenings, food donations, and more!	
Light Up the Night - Yearly every October 31		
	Yearly March of Peace in our community within 4 blocks of our Resource Center, with community resources, candy and games. October 31, 2018 was particularly notable; we witnessed a man overdosed and unresponsive in our community. Our trained volunteers administered Narcan to him, called 911 and saved his life.	

WHAT MAKES YOUR ORGANIZATION STAND OUT AS DISTINCT?

What makes Rooted In Restoration, Inc. stand out as distinct is that we meet the needs of individuals at a deeper level. It’s not just giving someone food, shelter, or helping them find a job, it’s giving them much more than that. We strive to meet the physical need, which is important, but we also strive to meet the need of someone who needs a word of encouragement, a friend, or simply knowing that someone cares for them and is on their side. Everything we do is in love, it’s genuine, and our team really cares about people.

Unlike other organizations, Rooted In Restoration is not limited in the types of services we provide because we will help anyone in any area they are struggling with. If we don’t have the resource in house, we will partner with outside sources. Our organization is also not limited to a certain demographic. In contrast to other organizations similar to us, we serve anyone, regardless of their age, for example, we are not limited to serving only youth, or only women, or only men. Our resource center and outreach programs serve everyone in the marginalized community.

Did you know that Blue Hill Ave. in the Dorchester area is said to have the highest percentage of street prostitution in Boston? To support themselves, women and young girls step out into the dark every night, watching and waiting for customers. Two Saturdays each month, however, at around 3 a.m. in the

⁶ Boston Globe (August, 2019) *A back to school celebration, with backpack giveaways, helps low-income families in Boston.*

morning, these working women are handed beautiful red roses. They hold the rose close to their face, smelling it. For some, it is their first time being handed a rose, let alone being offered a word of prayer and encouragement. It is a brief moment of hope, amongst their tears in a dismal and desperate situation. The Van that Rooted In Restoration will soon acquire with your support will be used for the Rose of Sharon program that reaches out to women of human trafficking, prostitution and sexual exploitation by connecting them to resources as they seek restoration and acclimation into a life where they are thriving members of our community. This is being distinct, that while you are sleeping and many other non-profits have closed their doors for the day, Rooted In Restoration has teams of volunteers out in the frontlines, meeting this dire need.

With our roots firmly planted in the community Rooted In Restoration, Inc. is at the forefront of anticipating and responding to the community's needs. Our programs are impacting neighbors in the cities of Boston, Chelsea, Lowell, Framingham and Central Florida and include bookbag and back to school drives, health screenings, support groups, school partnerships, feeding hundreds weekly, education, and resources that cultivate social, economic, and spiritual wholeness.

At the core, we are reaching thousands of hurting and hopeless people across all races and cultures every day and are committed to loving the forsaken, remembering the forgotten, and pursuing those that are in most need in our society. All programs are free of charge and are possible because of supporters like you.

On behalf of Rooted In Restoration, Inc., our partners, and those whose lives you will touch through your funding, please accept our deep appreciation. Because of you, we will move onward and continue making a positive impact in our community.