



GET A LIFE...

Childcare & Preschool

April 30, 2009



Dear [REDACTED],

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the community we serve, thank you for the chance to present this letter of inquiry for your consideration. "Get a Life..." Childcare (GAL), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that promotes and offers care for young children with a parent or sibling living with a chronic illness, terminal illness, or disability, respectfully requests an opportunity to submit a grant proposal to become compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

"Get a Life...Childcare" is dedicated to caring for children whose parents or siblings are living with chronic illness, terminal illness, or disability. Through providing care, love, and support, we help to bring a sense of balance to every day living. Our mission is accomplished by providing nurturing care for the children, and helping families build community networks that support their needs while living with illness or disability, such as support programs, workshops, and increases parent and provider awareness.

Currently, GAL is the only childcare center in the country supporting families battling illness while providing a place where their children can thrive. GAL was formed after Robbie and Jade Stanford's personal experiences with a chronic illness. After Robbie was diagnosed with Chronic Leukemia, the Stanford's discovered a void of resources for children whose families were dealing with an illness. Between doctor appointments, and treatments, the Stanford's found it difficult to procure quality childcare that could accommodate their erratic schedule while being sympathetic to the financial and emotional strains placed on a family fighting illness.

Studies have shown that low-income patients often miss doctor appointments because affordable childcare is unavailable. About 25% of the families we serve are low income. However, because of the often unexpected high cost of medical expenses, many of our families, while considered middle class, are struggling to make ends meet. We offer scholarships for children whose families cannot afford our tuition as financial need should never be a concern when it comes to quality childcare, especially for families already overwhelmed by medical concerns and bills.

GAL currently serves 20 children ages 2 months through 5 years and we continue to reach more vulnerable families through local hospital outreach and community events. We are located in a diverse neighborhood of West Los Angeles, which is reflected by the diversity of our families: 25% Caucasian, 20% African-America, 20% Hispanic, 10% Asian, Indian, or other. Since GAL's inception in 2004, we have developed our curriculum around five core areas: Nutrition, Technology, Fitness, the Environment, and Art. We also offer programs for parents including mentoring, family referrals, and "Date Night." Unlike other childcare centers, we offer drop-in care and extended hours to accommodate medical emergencies and parents' schedules.

This year, we purchased a home in West Los Angeles, where we may serve more families. We chose a home rather than an institutional facility so as to make the children and their parents feel more comfortable and at-home. Our convenient location is central to several area hospitals allowing easy pick-up and drop-off for parents who have frequent hospital visits and doctor appointments. Because the home is older, it is in need of upgrades in order to meet all ADA requirements, and improve safety and utility efficiency. With these upgrades we will be able to serve an additional 30 children.

GAL respectfully requests an opportunity from the [REDACTED] Foundation to submit **a grant request in the amount of \$20,000 for our ADA compliance upgrade so that all young children may safely access our center and thrive in a comfortable and stable environment during a time of chaos.** The budget for this upgrade is approximately \$100,000 and includes ramps into the home, handrails in the home and bathrooms, accessible toilets and sinks in the bathroom and kitchen, and widening of doorways. With your partnership, we will provide these special children a safe, home-like environment for learning, nurturing and community values.

Although we are a relatively young organization, we have already made great strides and received several accolades. We have been awarded by The United States Senate and the California State Senate with their congressional award. We have also been recognized by First 5 of California, the Emmy Award winning PBS series "A Place of Our Own," and BP for exemplary work in improving childcare in the state of California. We are truly a unique program, providing a stable, safe haven where young children can learn and grow while their families face the complexities of illness.

We applaud the [REDACTED] Foundation for your dedication to youth. If the [REDACTED] Foundation joins GAL in prioritizing childcare for families struggling with terminal illness, chronic illness, and disabilities, the potential for the children involved is limitless. We invite you to visit GAL at any time for a tour. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (310) 837-7762, or at [REDACTED]. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Jade Stanford
CEO/Director/Co-Founder