

MAYOR JIM GRAY



**LEXINGTON**

MONICA CONRAD  
DIRECTOR  
PARKS & RECREATION

January 3, 2017

Mr. Charles D. Ellestad, President  
The Kentucky Education Fund for Handicapped Children, Inc.  
837 Isaac Shelby Circle  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Mr. Ellestad:

Therapeutic recreation (TR) has been part of the LFUCG Division of Parks and Recreation programming for more than 40 years and the TR program is one of three in the state of Kentucky offered through a Parks and Recreation division. TR serves Fayette and surrounding Central Kentucky counties and participants range in age from four years old to senior adults. Current activities offered through the Therapeutic Recreation Program include: adult fitness, bowling, cooking, horsemanship, Everybody Dance, aquatics, archery and Zumba. Community activities are age appropriate and designed for integration into and socialization within the community at large. Demand for program participation increases annually and waiting lists are common. Many of the families with children experiencing disabilities have limited means and participation due to financial hardship, is a concern. Many older participants are either unemployed or underemployed and financial need is great.

Past support from the Kentucky Education Fund for Handicapped Children, Inc. has been greatly appreciated and, as good stewards of the funding, staff was empowered to offset costs for camps, day trips, overnight trips and social events while providing unique recreation opportunities that would not have been extended to our special friends otherwise. Purchases were made for cooking, drumming, dance and drama classes.

As a new funding cycle arrived, needs to offset expenses and to purchase equipment and materials continue. The LFUCG Division of Parks and Recreation Therapeutic Recreation Department respectfully requests \$10,000 for calendar year 2017. The plan for funding includes the following:



- \$1,600 to offset expenses for an overnight trip to Jenny Wiley State Park (<http://parks.ky.gov/parks/resortparks/jenny-wiley/>)  
This recreation opportunity will provide individuals with disabilities the opportunity to experience independence, socialize with peers, recreation and leisure pursuits, explore our State Park system, and provide respite for family and caregivers.
- \$3,900 for a VLT rope trainer which accommodates wheelchairs ([http://www.fitnesszone.com/product/marpo-vlt-rope-trainer.html?source=googleps2&gclid=CjOKEQiAhZPDBRCz642XqYOCpb8BEiQANUcwT26qfp\\_dGUdFyjPG3rtBaN13YPBcmYiNXRSTT8BAM4aAl768P8HAQ](http://www.fitnesszone.com/product/marpo-vlt-rope-trainer.html?source=googleps2&gclid=CjOKEQiAhZPDBRCz642XqYOCpb8BEiQANUcwT26qfp_dGUdFyjPG3rtBaN13YPBcmYiNXRSTT8BAM4aAl768P8HAQ))  
With health and wellness vital to prevent secondary health conditions for individuals with disabilities, especially individuals who use wheelchairs, this machine will aide in exercise for those with restricted movements.
- \$3,500 for an accessible saddle for equestrian programming (<http://www.grayscustomsaddlery.com/GIGI.htm>)  
The purchase of this saddle will allow individuals with limited trunk control to enjoy and experience horsemanship classes.
- \$1,000 for TR camp materials and supplies (sensory and learning supplies, games and adaptive equipment.)

Please feel free to contact either Anessa Snowden, CTRS (859-288-2928) or Brent Claiborne (859-288-2908) with any questions or concerns. The Division of Parks and Recreation sincerely values your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Leibee, MS  
Grants Manager  
Division of Parks and Recreation  
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