

**The White Family Foundation  
2019 Grant Request  
Sewing Hope, Inc.**

<b>Date of grant proposal submission</b>	Friday, April 5, 2019
<b>501c(3) organization</b>	Yes
<b>Legal name of organization</b>	Sewing Hope Inc.
<b>DBA name if Applicable</b>	
<b>Address</b>	P.O. Box 4738 Clearwater, FL 33758 United States
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.sewinghope.org">http://www.sewinghope.org</a>
<b>Telephone</b>	(727) 461-2211
<b>Organization Director/Title</b>	Beverly Easterling President
<b>Contact Person/Title</b>	Beverly Easterling President
<b>Contact Person's Telephone</b>	(727) 461-2211
<b>Contact Person's Email</b>	<a href="mailto:sewing@sewinghope.org">sewing@sewinghope.org</a>
<b>Grant Amount Requested</b>	\$3,000.00
<b>Grant Purpose (one paragraph)</b>	

To make polar fleece blankets for Foster Children within the 3 counties of Pinellas, Pasco and Hillsborough. We give the blankets when finished to Eckerd Raising Hope and they give them to the Foster Children as they enter into the system. I was told yesterday that removals were up to about 100 children per month.

We give Eckerd Raising Hope 50 to 75 blankets each month and need to increase that to meet the increasing need. Several times when Christina came to pick them up she told us they were out or almost out. The children choose the fleece blankets over quilts and afghans because they are colorful; provide comfort and the cute attractive patterns appeal to the children.

We didn't realize how important a yard of fabric can be to a hurting child. The children are amazed that they get to choose their very own blanket and it is theirs to keep forever. Their blanket is a luxury as opposed to a necessity such as clothing, shoes and toiletries. Angry foster children will destroy things in the home, but they will not destroy their blanket. If a blanket gets misplaced or lost there is no peace in the home until it is found.

Please help us make more blankets for these precious children who have so much instability, fear, pain, and suffering in their lives.

<b>Annual Project /Program Budget (if request is for a specific project)</b>	\$5,000.00
<b>Annual Organization Budget</b>	\$6,000.00

**Sewing Hope, Inc.  
PO Box 4738  
Clearwater, Fla 33758-4738  
727-461-2211**

**Submitted to:  
The White Family Foundation  
April 30, 2019**

**Proposal Contents**

- 1. Proposal Narrative**
- 2. Non-Profit Status/501(c)(3) Determination Letter from the IRS.**
- 3. Program Budget**
- 4. Board Members/Board of Directors List:**
- 5. Additional Documentation:** (You may have fliers, pictures, project bid quotes Or additional information that would be helpful for the Trustees to have during their review.)

## **Proposal Narrative**

**Sewing Hope** began September 11, 2001, as an outreach to the community to teach sewing lessons to the economically challenged as a means for them to earn a living; to be able to stay home with their young children and be able to contribute to the economic necessities of their family.

We applied and received our 501(c)3 status October 2009. At our first board of directors meeting it was suggested and approved that we make blankets for local Foster Children.

We started making blankets January 2010 and have been making them consistently since January 2010. I read a book "Walk to Beautiful" by country singer Jimmy Wayne who had been a foster child at various times of his life. His mother did some rather nasty things to him. January 1, 2010, he started a walk, to create awareness and raise funds for Foster Children, walking from a Foster Home in Nashville Tennessee to one in Phoenix Arizona. I was touched that his timing and Sewing Hope's timing were the same month.

We give the blankets to Eckerd Raising Hope to be distributed. When children are taken into the Foster system, they are outfitted with clothing, shoes and toiletries; they do not have any permanence, since they grow out of them. Their blanket stays with them. If a blanket goes missing, there is no peace in the household until it is found. One little boy was to be sent out of state to be cared for by family; his foster mother shipped his belongings, but he made sure that his blanket was placed in his carryon to travel with him on the airplane.

I never realize how significant a yard of Polar Fleece would be to a hurting child. Polar Fleece is a soft cuddly fabric with colorful prints and colors. These blankets mean so much to a Foster Child who has nothing that they own; to have a blanket of their very own that is theirs to keep forever. Kind people donate knitted afghans and quilts, but the children prefer the soft colorful Polar Fleece blankets. They get to choose their own blanket color and pattern, so it is personal to them. We try to give Eckerd a selection of different patterns each time so there are no duplicates to fight over. Christine likes to have a few duplicates when they have twins entering the system.

March 3, our church had a Women's Sunday where we gave each child attending a blanket that day. The expressions on their faces and the look in their eyes was priceless. One member of our congregation commented; that, if these children not in distress really showed joy at receiving their blanket what joy would a blanket bring to a Foster Child in distress. We cannot take pictures of the children in the Foster Care system.

Trinity Presbyterian Church gives us space to work; so we do not have any expenses for a facility to work. The Greater Federation of Women's Club, Safety Harbor chapter comes the third Thursday of every month to make blankets for these Foster Children. This is their favorite volunteer activity that they have. They always have a waiting list of members who want to come and make blankets.

Our church did a survey to see how many people are affect by a simple blanket. Christine Needham of Eckerd Raising Hope told us of the numbers of people affected by these blankets: The child's social worker, the foster parents, the biological parents, the police, the fire department, plus other friends and family. That could be up to 8 – 10 people per child.

Last year Hillsborough County surpassed Dade county in the number of children that were placed in the Foster Care system. This year Christine told us that removals are up. That is so sad, when Christine comes to pick up blankets and tells me that they were almost out. If they were a retail outlet and we were a supplier that would be good news, not in the case of the Foster Children.

We could give them a piece of fabric, but we want them to look like they came from store and not be just a hunk of fabric. We finish the edges using a serger and the serger uses thread that we have plenty of.

I would like to be able to give Raising Hope Eckerd 100 blankets per month. I have wonderful relationship with Chad Sova the manager of the local Joann Store in Dunedin. He keeps me informed by text when the sales are coming up. My max budget for a blanket is \$5.00. Lately with sales I have been able to purchase the Polar Fleece that we use for less than \$3.00. Chad always finds coupons for us to apply to our purchases.

Thank you for considering Sewing Hope's grant proposal.

**Non-Profit Status/501(c)(3)**

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 2508  
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **OCT 21 2009**

SEWING HOPE INC.  
P.O. BOX 4738  
CLEARWATER, FL 33758-4738

Employer Identification Number:  
26-4260096  
DLN:  
209293016  
Contact Person:  
MARK I. TOMBACK ID# 95020  
Contact Telephone Number:  
(877) 829-5500  
Accounting Period Ending:  
December 31  
Public Charity Status:  
170(b)(1)(A)(vi)  
Form 990 Required:  
Yes  
Effective Date of Exemption:  
February 25, 2009  
Contribution Deductibility:  
Yes  
Addendum Applies:  
No

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.

Please see enclosed Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

Letter 947 (DO/CG)

SEWING HOPE INC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Choi". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned centrally below the word "Sincerely,".

Robert Choi  
Director, Exempt Organizations  
Rulings and Agreements

Enclosure: Publication 4221-PC

## **Program Budget**

We are requesting \$3000.00.

I would like to give Eckerd Raising Hope 100 blankets per month.

If I can purchase the Polar Fleece for \$3.00 per yard (or less) that will allow us to purchase enough Polar Fleece to make 1000 blankets which will make enough blankets for us to give Eckerd Raising Hope 100 blankets a month.

The finances for this blanket project are driven by donations and grants.

We are all volunteers, so NO money goes to pay for the labor to make the blankets.

The only other expenses we have is for the thread that is used to finish around the edges. If we just gave the kids a hunk of fabric with no finishing it would not mean as much to each child. We have plenty of thread.

Balance Sheet  
 Sewing Hope, Inc., 501(c)3  
 December 31, 2018

<b>ASSETS</b>	Cash	\$ 1,195.00
	Serger Machines	\$ 5,175.00
	Sewing Machines	\$ 6,294.00
	Fabric Processing Equipment	\$ 2,895.00
	Fabric Storage	\$ 1,555.00
	Fabric Inventory	\$ 5,200.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		\$22,314.00
<b>Liabilities</b>	Current Liabilities	0
	Long Term Liabilities	0
<b>Permanent Capital</b>	Cash Donations Received	\$ 3,510.00
	Grants & Donations	\$ 9,803.00
	Donation Made	\$ 9,201.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		\$22,314.00



**Board Members/Board of Directors List:**

Beverly Easterling	President of Sewing Hope Inc. Teacher Organize ladies and men to come and sew blankets Founding member of Sewing Hope Inc. 2009
Sara Ciccotelli	Secretary Treasurer Founding member of Sewing Hope Inc. 2009
Robin Powell	Director since 2015
Tina Harvey	Director since 2015
Darlene VanHouten	Teacher

## Pictures

We cannot take pictures of Foster children, so we are sending you pictures of ladies who come and create these wonderful cuddly blankets for the Foster children that is the Tampa Bay Area.



Greater Federation of Women praying for blankets they have just made. One of their members recued their sign that was on the original sign on Route 60 as you enter Clearwater City Limits.

Ladies making blankets for Foster Children. This event is their favorite volunteer event.

