

Panel Summary Report

Agency: Springfield Council of PTA

Date: March 4, 2005

Program: Clothing Fund

Panel #: 6

Allocation recommendation: \$5,797

Previous Allocation (20003/2004): \$5,797

1. Was allocation recommendation: (please check one)

Increased? Decreased? Kept Level?

2. Describe primary reasons for decision

The panel loved the Clothing Fund. By providing vouchers so low-income children can buy new shoes, socks & underwear, this program is a wise & compassionate response to real needs in the Springfield School District where 50% of the students qualify for free or reduced lunch. Recalling the program director's observation that "The clothing fund gives children tools to feel good about themselves," one panel member noted, "This is a dignity issue."

The panel found the director's eligibility guidelines for vouchers fair. Panel members encouraged her to continue to explore the possibility of enlisting more businesses to accept vouchers, & were pleased to learn that she is following up on her requests to Fred Meyer & Target for discounts.

3. Describe specific concerns of panel relating to funding request, operation of agency or use of funds expended by agency:

Like last cycle's panel, this panel realizes that the program director is doing marvelous work, but doing it almost alone. There was unanimous agreement that it would be a terrible shame if the Clothing Fund were to wither. So it was encouraging to learn that she has documented her procedures and processes as well as recruiting volunteer to take over the banking and another to enter voucher records into a software program. The continuing support and interest of the Springfield PTA and parent volunteers is reassuring. One panel member felt there should be more outreach to rural areas. The panel discussed the possibilities—the pros and cons—of merging with other programs.

4. Describe any limitations or conditions on funds imposed by panel:

None

5. Panel members present at deliberation: Susan Hekimoglu, Sarah-Kate Sharkey, Steve Kesey, Nancie Fadeley, Chair, Donald Lamb, Peggy Robinson, Twila Jacobson, United Way staff

6. Agency representatives present at site visit: Gloria Griffith, Program Director
Janet Beckman, parent & volunteer

Panel Chair: Nancy Fadeley