



McKenna Foundation Support of Community Housing Needs

March 1, 2022

Since its inception 13 years ago, the McKenna Foundation has studied, questioned, listened, and partnered with members of the community to understand what New Braunfels and Comal County needs most. This work has resulted in trusting relationships with many local nonprofits along with grant support for their programs. Since 2009, McKenna has invested over \$25 million in grant funding in response to a wide variety of issues including basic needs, health, education, family relationships, and community development. The list of that funding can be found at <https://mckenna.org/impact/giving-database>.

McKenna Foundation understands that accessible, affordable housing is an obstacle for many. As the community has grown, this problem has worsened. It is the role of nonprofit organizations, not McKenna, to operate housing programs for those with sub-standard or unstable housing or for those who are homeless.

Over time, the McKenna Foundation has supported multiple local projects related to housing and homelessness, including:

- Land bank funding for Comal County Habitat for Humanity
- Purchase of property on FM 725 that is home to the New Braunfels Food Bank and future home of the Apple Seed Apartments for families transitioning out of homelessness
- Operational seed funding for Family Promise and support of the construction of their Day Center
- Homelessness prevention funding for the Salvation Army and Family Life Center
- Building renovation for the Crisis Center shelter for homeless women and children
- Winter Shelter pilot program funding through Connections Individual and Family Services

Most recently, the McKenna Foundation signaled support to NB Housing Partners in their creation of the First Footing program for adults experiencing homelessness. Their program is a best practice hotel-based model serving adults on their journey out of homelessness and into safe and stable housing.

Throughout 2021, NB Housing Partners communicated their operational plan, budget, program requirements, and outcomes for the First Footing program to the McKenna Foundation board. This application and education resulted in a high level of confidence that the program is sound and will provide for a critical need in the community. McKenna Foundation provided a \$50,000 operational grant in December 2021. Additionally, although no funds have been released, McKenna responded favorably to an application for a \$250,000 grant to assist with renovations to the Senior Center building, located at 655 Landa Street. Funding will be released when the nonprofits involved decide to move forward with the plan and certain benchmarks are met. More information about NB Housing Partners and the First Footing program can be found at <http://nbhousingpartners.org>.