



MEMORANDUM

TO: Deborah A. Conroy, Chair
DuPage County Board Members

FROM: Jason R. Blumenthal, *Esq.* – Assistant Director of Operations

DATE: November 26, 2024

RE: Safe Harbor FY25 Funding Request (A.K.A. Child-Friendly Courts Foundation)

Background:

During the November 14, 2024, Finance Committee meeting members of the Child Friendly Courts Foundation made a request to the County Board to assist in funding what is known as the Safe Harbor Children Waiting Room located at the DuPage County Courthouse. Their mission is to provide a safe and comfortable waiting room for children whose parents have business in the courthouse. Last year they requested \$40,750 for FY24 to supplement their budget allowing full operations for the remainder of the year. The County Board approved their agreement on January 23, 2025, and that one-year deal will be complete. While making that ask, they mentioned additional support may be needed in FY25. At that time the County Board stated they would like to see statistics on their operations before committing for the out-years.

Staff has received their FY25 request for \$106,000. The Foundation has stated the need for support is due to statutory changes which allowed its revenue stream on filing fees to be discontinued. This year they have hired a new Executive Director and have indicated they hope to fundraise more throughout the year to offset these costs. Their annual report is also attached for reference.

Direction Needed:

Staff is seeking direction on whether this initiative should be funded and if so how. If the County Board desires to fund this program, Staff recommends using ARPA Interest funds.

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TO: DuPage County Board

Jason Blumenthal

RE: Child Friendly Courts Foundation (SAFE HARBOR)

DATE: November 15, 2024

As Treasurer of Child Friendly Courts Foundation, please accept this memorandum as our formal request for continued funding of our operations at the DuPage County Courthouse, caring for the children being cared for by adults with business at our courthouse. The email submitted last year by our President, Irene Bahr, remains an accurate description of our program.

In 2024 we returned to pre-covid hours of service at the beginning of the year, bade farewell to Laurie Bullock, our Executive Director for the past 27 years, and hired Sara Addante as her replacement. We are pleased to report that under Sara's leadership, the transition to new administrative leadership has been virtually seamless.

From a financial standpoint, we have spent the allotment of funds from the County for this year, drawn down the last few thousand dollars in the "Children's Waiting Room Fund", the money raised through civil filing fees, and have begun spending down on some of our reserves. For the upcoming fiscal year ending in 2025, we are requesting the sum of \$106,000.00 to cover our operating expenses. I have attached a Quicken report showing our expenses from January 1 through November 13, 2024, showing, in round numbers, \$88,600 paid. This is **NOT** a budget approved by our board; it is merely my personal estimate. With three more biweekly payrolls coming due before year's end, I believe that \$106,000.00 is a fair estimate for the full year. We would need to begin drawing on a new allotment beginning January 1, 2025 to preserve our \$50,000.00 reserve.

For your information, I have attached the October activity report which shows year-to-date statistics regarding children served.

Our board, officers, and staff are available to answer any questions.



Treasurer, Child Friendly Courts Foundation

October 2024

Safe Harbor

Monthly Report

Ages of Children Using Safe Harbor October 2024

YTD

13 Years	1	12
12 Years		11
11 Years	1	28
10 Years		41
9 Years		33
8 Years	1	42
7 Years	5	67
6 Years	1	63
5 Years	3	90
4 Years	11	137
3 Years	13	119
2 Years	11	104
1 Year	10	118
Under 1 Year	3	34
TOTAL	60	899

Case Types October 2024

		Year to Date
Divorce	2	37
Divorce w/Children	11	61
Domestic Violence		54
Order of Protection	10	185
Family (Child support)	4	41
Petition for Support/Custody	8	73
Criminal Felony	3	123
Criminal Misdemeanor	2	48
DUI	2	28
Traffic Violation	3	91
Major Traffic	2	55
Juvenile Abuse/Neglect		13
Juvenile Delinquent		0
Small Claims	4	19
Small Claims Arbitraion		0
Chancery		0
Probate		2
Miscellaneous Remedy		12
Eviction	2	18
Arbitration		0
Law Magistrate		0
Guardianship	1	17
Total	54	877

Courtrooms Used by Parents Oct. 2024

YTD

First Floor - Traffic

Second Floor - Civil

Third Floor - Domestic
& Juvenile

Fourth Floor - Criminal

1001	1	56
1002	1	24
1003	3	51
1004	2	19
2000		73
2001	12	97
2002	7	40
2004	4	6
2005		1
2006	3	19
2007		12
2008		
2009	1	9
3000		6
3001		12
3002		7
3003		29
3004	1	2
3006	1	8
3007	1	15
3009		4
3010	8	113
3012		7
3014	1	1
354	1	1
4000		11
4001	1	13
4002	1	12
4003		8
4004		12
4005		23
4006		3
4007		44
4010		18
4012	1	52
4014		11
4015		8
4016	3	21
4017	1	14
Total	56	864

Total Cases Oct. =
Total Cases YTD =

Other Locations

		Year to Date
Probation	1	15
Clerk's Office	1	11
State's Attorney		2
Family Service Shelter (Order of Protection not needed)	3	3
Total	4	33

Attorneys Referring Safe Harbor

Sheila Maloney
Catherine Sheehan
Rebecca Laho
Talbert
Jeff York
Ausaf Farooqi
Megan McKroy
Audry Anderson

Additional Information for Oct. 2024

Total # of children for October 2024

A.M.	46
P.M.	<u>14</u>

Total	60
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YTD	899
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Average Length of Stay 1.2

YTD	1.11
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Volunteer Information

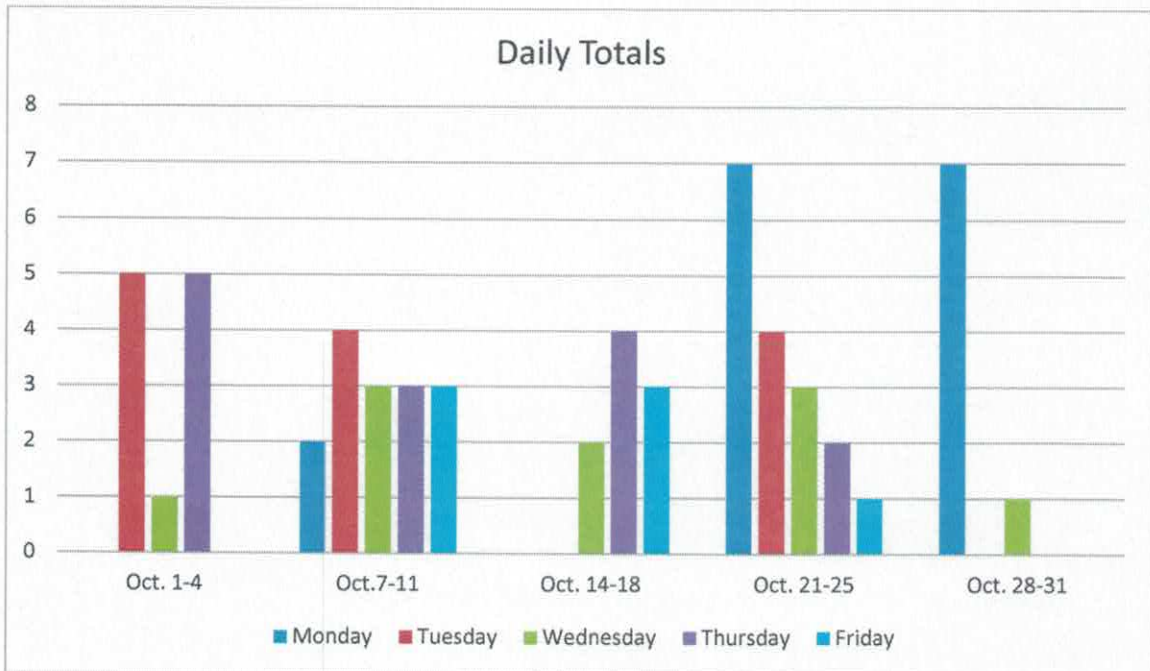
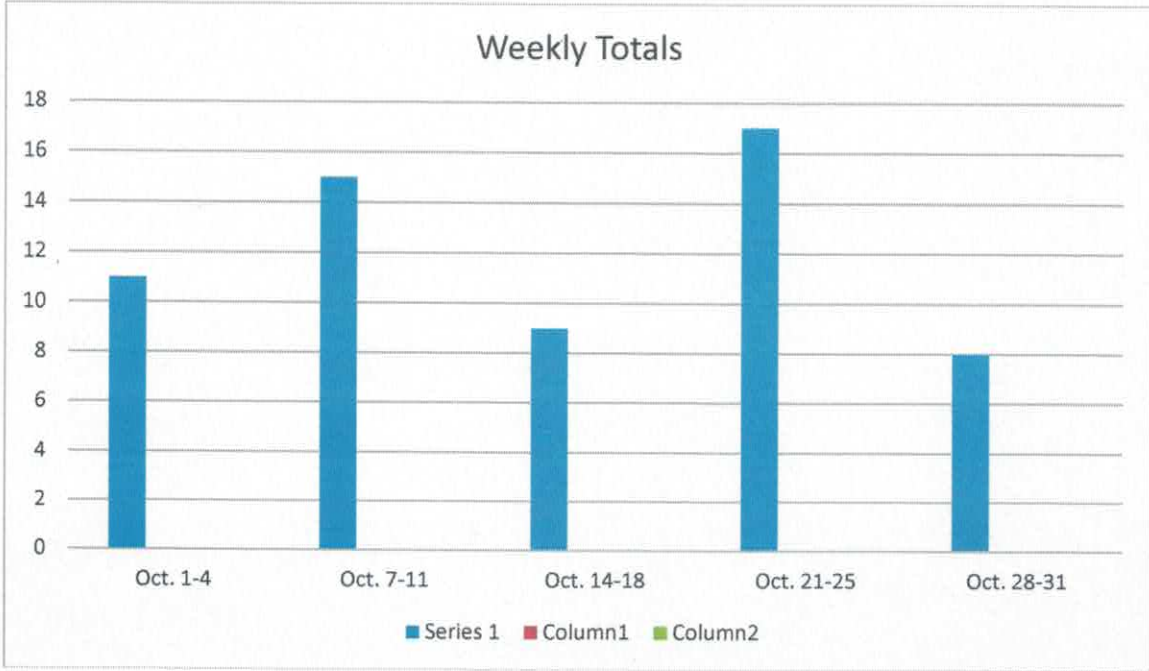
	# of Volunteers	# of Volunteer Hours
Oct. 1-4	6	24
Oct. 7-11	7	28
Oct. 14-18	6	24
Oct. 21-25	7	28
Oct. 28-31	<u>5</u>	<u>20</u>
	31	124
YTD	268	1068

Closing Times October 2024

	Closing Time	Entrance Time	# of Hours
Oct. 1	3:00	1:10	7.0
Oct. 2	3:15	1:30	7.25
Oct. 3	3:00*		7.0
Oct. 4	3:00*		7.0
Oct. 7	3:00	1:25	7.0
Oct. 8	3:00*		7.0
Oct. 9	3:00*		7.0
Oct. 10	3:00*		7.0
Oct. 11	3:00	1:00	7.0
Oct. 14		Closed - Holiday	
Oct. 15	3:00*		7.0
Oct. 16	3:00*		7.0
Oct. 17	3:00*		7.0
Oct. 18	3:00*		7.0
Oct. 21	3:00*		7.0
Oct. 22	3:00*		7.0
Oct. 23	3:00*		7.0
Oct. 24	3:00*		7.0
Oct. 25	3:00*		7.0
Oct. 28	4:00	1:25	8.0
Oct. 29	3:00*		7.0
Oct. 30	3:00*		7.0
Oct. 31	3:00*		7.0

Total Operating Hours for October 2024

*No children in the waiting room on those afternoons.



Executive Directors Comments:

October, like September, has been a slower month. We received a small donation of much needed board books for our younger clients along with a Mr. Potato Head that includes numerous pieces, another bracelet making kit and an almost new rocking recliner, to rock our youngest clients in. I did have Laurie's blessing replacing the existing one we had in the waiting room.

Staff and volunteers are expecting November and December to be a little busier with the holiday breaks children will have.

Sara Addante