



June 1, 2022

Mr. William Smith, Supervisor
Mr. Brian Luke, Director of Finance
Town of Pittsford
11 S. Main Street
Pittsford, New York 14534

Dear Bill, Brian and Town Board members,

Please accept this letter as our formal application seeking a one-time allocation of ARPA funds available to the Town of Pittsford. We greatly appreciate any consideration that the Town Board can give with regard to funding of the four areas of need listed below. PYS has been expanding its programming and community-based counseling in response to the COVID pandemic, which has had an overwhelming impact on youth and families everywhere. Pittsford is no exception.

We offer for your consideration the following unfunded needs:

Assistance with new office space - \$645/month - \$7740/yearly plus electric. We have rented new therapy space at 30 South Main to accommodate the increased need for clients to be seen at our offices, particularly due to the impact on children's mental health as a result of the ongoing pandemic. We currently only have one office and a very small therapy room available at our main office, and the current demand has made it difficult for the social workers to schedule and share the limited space.

- **We would like to request 2 years of support @ \$7700/year = \$15,400**

Funds to hire/pay additional social workers to run peer groups year-round and parent and youth programming. Group programs will be held in the new location where we have a large meeting room. Groups have been/will be running related to the many issues of concerns to youth and parents including but not limited to: LGBTQ+ support, anxiety, depression, divorce/separation/dissolution of the family unit, diversity and inclusion, bullying.

- **Two social workers at \$35/hour x 200 hours each = \$14,000 for one year**

Funding for a 2nd Youth Summit for the 22-23 school year. Expenses include: planning time, stipends for presenters, therapists, food, supplies. We ran a successful one-day summit in 2018 which included workshops for teens, a roundtable discussion around critical issues (anxiety, depression, drug use and eating disorders) and opportunities to experience different therapeutic approaches (art, music and pet therapy), relaxation techniques, and mindfulness. Our Youth Board assisted with the planning and on the day of the event. We estimate we had at least 100 high school-aged attendees.

- **Planning, cost of outside therapists, PYS social workers, food and supplies for one full-day series of workshops = \$5000**

Funding for *Camp Heartstrings*: Our three-day Bereavement Camp for youth ages 7-18 who have lost a loved one. Camp is offered each summer at no cost to families. Expenses include: planning time, salaries

for supervising social workers, stipends for other staff and service providers, project supplies, food, family dinner on final night, memory books for campers. This June will be the 7th year for the camp, a collaboration with UR Hospice and Dreams from Drake which is held at Nazareth College or St. John Fisher College.

- **Salaries for Camp Directors, social workers and support staff, books, supplies, food = \$5000**

We understand that these are one-time funding requests and there is no expectation of continued support from the Town for these items.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you require additional information, please contact me anytime at 585.729.5725. Your support and continued partnership, as always, is valued and so very much appreciated.

Most sincerely,

Jill

Jill Harter Lennox
Executive Director of Administration