

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT

2021

CHAMPIONS PROGRAM PROPOSAL



GINA SPENCE PRODUCTIONS

Prepared by:
Gina Spence - CEO

Charity no. 856



FROM OUR CEO

Gina Spence Productions (GSP) is pleased to present this funding proposal for your review. We look forward to the opportunity to partner on this, our Champions Program, and other initiatives to bring grief recovery to those left behind due to trauma-related circumstances. Since 2011, GSP has serviced over 60 children and their families in order to give them the tools and resources they need to address their grief and trauma. It is our desire that GSP continues to be the charity of first response for children affected by this kind of loss and that we may never turn them away due to the lack of funding or community support.



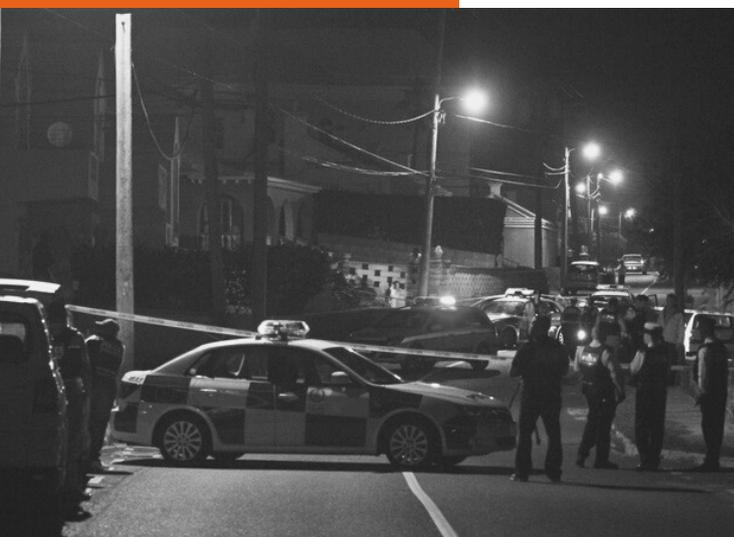
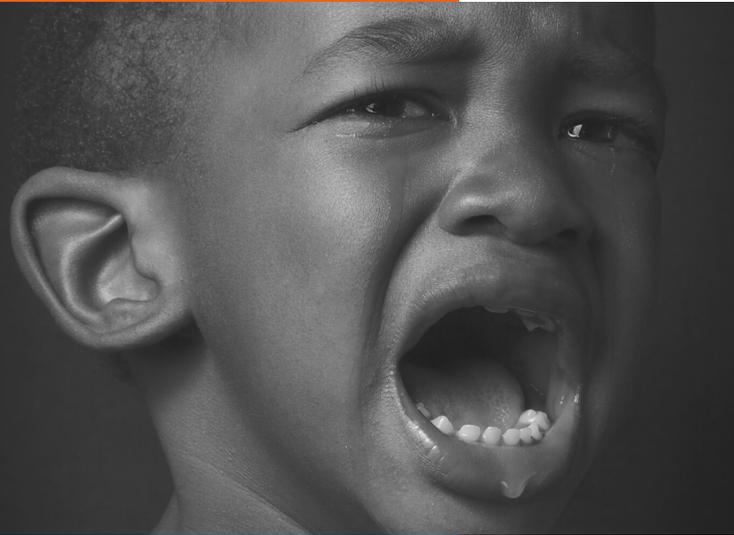
Over the past decade, GSP has seen measurable success and we are now seeking to expand our Champions Program to further support the needs of our clients. In addition to providing monthly support to families, we are looking to implement a much-needed three-day program to offer specialized grief support, expand our therapeutic children's camps to take more children and offer more functional care, continue to offer our children's grief support for ongoing care and maintenance, and with myself as the only current specialist, further develop and train additional Grief Recovery Specialists to meet our expanding client demand. Our proposal requires significant investment in funding to obtain the resources to supply quality grief support. We are confident that we can meet the financial obstacle with the right business partnerships as we have spent the time building trust and working on the front line in this capacity since 2011.

We appreciate the time to present this funding proposal to you and look forward to the potential to partner in the very near future. Please contact us if any further information is required or if you have any questions concerning this proposal.

Sincerely,

**GINA SPENCE
FOUNDER & CEO**

STATEMENT OF NEED



For a small community, Bermuda is usually shaken at the core when one of its own has succumbed to a gun-related death. Although the community is affected, what tends to get overlooked are the children of these victims and how they are left to make sense of a parent dying suddenly. What is often found is that many of these children are already living in at-risk environments and oftentimes they do not receive the support they require to cope. Unfortunately, this demographic tends to fall under the radar and rarely fits the criteria of other supporting agencies. As these children grow older, the tendency for perpetual anti-social behavior is increased, and the cycle of injury to the community continues to advance. As research proves, the effects of unaddressed grief and loss trauma related to violence are often left unaddressed. Without the proper grief support, these children are left to deal with their childhood traumas in silence.

GSP provides the answer to this perpetual cycle. As the only grief-related organization for children in Bermuda, GSP has found a successful way of reducing trauma and offering the necessary support for these children to heal and become successful. Having trauma and grief specialists on board, children, including their family members, have the opportunity of receiving the best care for their specific needs. Through the last decade, GSP has demonstrated their strength in this area and as a result, have been trusted to be a part of the first responders with the Bermuda Police Service and the Ministry of National Security to attend to trauma-related deaths with children left behind.

As an evident gap, GSP has been able to attend to homicide-related deaths where a parent has been a victim and also where children are involved. It is GSP's desire to expand its services to support parental death by illness or other non-violent related deaths in the community.

PROPOSED BUDGET AND FINANCIAL NEED

FUNCTION	AMOUNT	PERCENTAGE
Essential Needs - Grocery Vouchers	\$39,000	51.6%
Champions Weekend	\$8,000	10.6%
Essential Needs -Pharmaceutical	\$6,000	7.9%
Co-Curricular Activities (football, dance etc.)	\$5,400	7.1%
Additional Programs	\$5,000	6.6%
Miscellaneous	\$4,000	5.3%
Additional Staffing	\$3,000	4.0%
Staff Training	\$2,500	3.3%
Therapeutic Intervention (one-on one sessions)	\$2,400	3.2%
First Response Care Packages	\$300	0.4%
Total	\$75,600	100%

BACKGROUND



Gina Spence Productions (GSP), founded by Bermudian native Gina Spence, was formed in 1992 after a desire to serve and advocate for social change in her community. With the rise in gang violence in Bermuda, Gina Spence saw a need to be a positive voice of change for those affected by gang-related injuries within the areas in which she served.

This passion grew after her own home was affected by gun violence in 2010, resulting in the murder of her son-in-law and first champion, her 8-year-old grandson. It was at that point where she was able to experience first-hand what happens to the victims' families beginning with the initial call, burial, and the constant struggle to live with their absence, especially when that loss leaves a child behind.

The Champions Program was established in 2011 from this painful experience to advocate for the interest and lives of the victims' children. We believe that the children left behind from parents affected by gun and gang-related fatalities are resilient, able to overcome and become champions of a challenging and unfortunate life situation.

“

“Our work is designed to break the cycle of violence in our communities, and in doing so, provide hope, solutions, and a viable path for success for the children born into violence”.

- Gina Spence, CEO

OBJECTIVES

To provide support to children left behind due to the loss of a parent resulting from gun, gang violence, or other trauma-related circumstances.

The Champions Program seeks to make a significant difference in the lives of at-risk children and their families. GSP hopes to offer support through grocery and pharmaceutical vouchers, financial aid for school and other educational needs, extracurricular activities, and grief and loss support.

TARGETS FOR 2021

01

Host Champions Weekend Retreat for both children and their families.

02

Continue to provide monthly financial support for food and medication.

03

Identify additional staffing needs and seek to expand current clinical team accordingly.

04

Secure multi-year sponsorship agreements with additional sponsors/donors.

05

Certify additional resource as a Certified Grief Recovery Specialist.

06

Roll-out two new supporting activities/ programs to support the growth of the program.



PROGRAM MODEL

There is currently no intensive or specialized programs in Bermuda that offer free bereavement and grief support services for children impacted by homicide or other related deaths. Left untreated, most of these children will grow up to be adults suffering from the effects of 'unaddressed childhood trauma'.

STEP 1: INTAKE

When a critical gun incident or other trauma occurs, the Ministry of National Security's Gang Violence and Reduction Team immediately notifies members of the GSP Crisis Response team. The team receives relevant information about the incident and dispatches team members to the most appropriate location to be with the victim's family. Within 24 hours, the team conducts a brief needs assessment and supplies the family with an emergency kit, typically consisting of food vouchers and other appropriate resources. A social worker visits the family within a week to conduct a full psycho-social assessment and develops a specific care plan for the family.

STEP 2: CRISIS MANAGEMENT

The needs of the family are further assessed by a member of the GSP team who supports the family

before and after the victim's funeral. Should the family be willing, counseling services are offered to help the child(ren) based on their clinical needs. The Grief Recovery Support Group, the Therapeutic Summer Camp (to be developed and launched), or other appropriate programs are offered once individual counseling sessions have concluded.

STEP 3: CONTINUED CARE

The GSP team believes that healing requires continued assistance from a strong support system and therefore makes the effort to reach out to families to see how they can lend a meaningful hand. GSP performs family check-ins, sends surveys to see what help is required and how they can improve their programs, and provides continued access to resources for little to no cost to the family.

DEMOGRAPHICS

STATS TO DATE

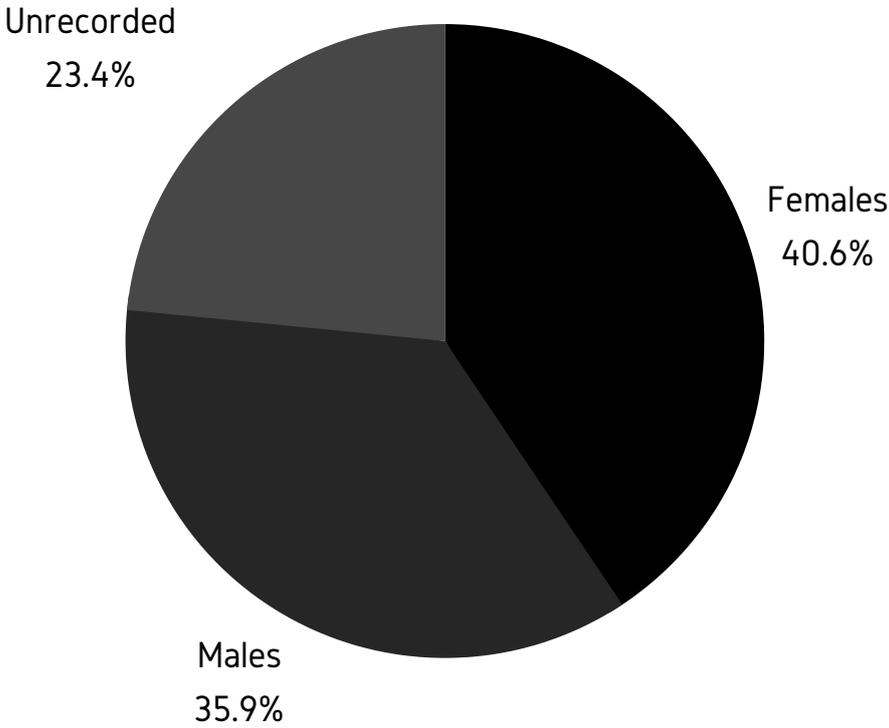
Since August 2007, GSP has serviced more females than males during the span of the program. However, this number does not reflect those who have not been recorded.

- Females - 26
- Males - 23
- Unrecorded - 15
- Total serviced - 64

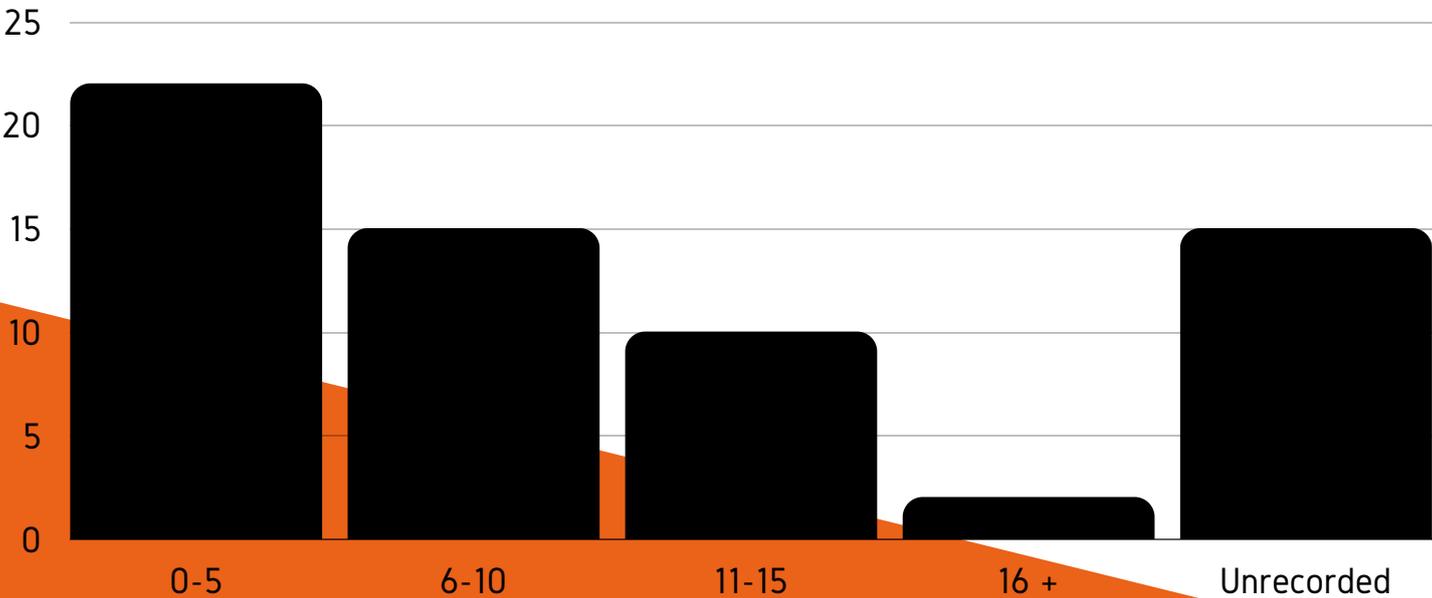
Most of GSP's clients, over the span of service, were within toddler and pre-teen years during their intake. This is reflected throughout GSP's supporting programs by offering age-appropriate grief support.

- 0-5 yo - 22
- 6-10 yo - 15
- 11-15 yo - 10
- 16 + yo - 2
- Unrecorded - 15

SERVICED BY GENDER



SERVICED BY AGE AT INTAKE



PROGRAM SUCCESSES TO DATE

01

Program services are free of charge due to generous donations.

02

Support provided to over 50% of the children and families who have lost loved ones to gun violence

03

Sent Bermuda's first child and surviving parent to attend Comfort Zone Camp in Boston

04

Currently have one of the islands only grief recovery specialist trained at The Grief Recovery Institute on staff

05

Key partnership with Ministry of National Security's Gang Violence and Reduction Team

06

Hosted Bermuda's first Children's Grief Awareness Day

07

Launched Bermuda's first eight-week grief recovery program for grieving adults and parents.

08

Hosted Bermuda's first Grief and Loss Conference with One of the World's Leading Grief Organizations



TESTIMONIALS

“

Thank you so much, it was desperately needed, especially with me being the only one working in my house and being a single mother. It is helping me carry this burden on behalf of my family. More importantly, thank you for your prayers. They were timely and much needed. I appreciate how GSP is supportive of resources, counseling, and spirituality.

-Champion A

“

Thank you for the support and prayers. It is much appreciated. The assistance with groceries and medicine saved me from so much stress. Some days are good and some days are bad, but today is good because of GSP. Thank you so much.

-Champion B

“

Thank you so, so much for your prayers and support. Your team is so sweet and kind. I feel so safe confiding in GSP about my struggles. Words can't express the depth of my gratitude for GSP. Thank you!

-Champion C

“

Mrs. Spence, thank you so much for the uplifting prayer and words. I appreciate it so much! Also thank you for the gift certificates, we do appreciate every one of them!

-Champion D

“

Thank you, Mrs. Spence, I really needed this assistance. GSP is truly God's angel and helper.

-Champion E

“

Thank you so much, GSP. I really appreciate this from the champions program. You continually step in when I'm at my lowest.

-Champion F

FUTURE PROGRAMS



Due to the growth and demand for the Champions Program, GSP has been looking for additional ways to offer support to both children and their families. Two of those immediate programs, contingent upon donors and sufficient funding, are outlined below. With the addition of these offerings, GSP can continue to meet the needs of those in the community.

THERAPEUTIC CAMP

The Therapeutic camp helps to develop resilience in children and families affected by trauma due to loss. This camp is expected to run for approximately eight weeks, five days a week, during summer breaks. Children will experience a full range of fun activities with the addition of a clinical focus facilitated by trained clinicians and volunteers who have specific training in grief recovery.

CHILDREN'S GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

The goal of the group(s) is to assist with grief recovery by providing education, emotional support, and coping skills to individuals. Groups will run three times per year for eight weeks following academic calendars and facilitated by clinical social workers, psychologists, or mental health professionals.

ABOUT GSP

Gina Spence Productions was founded with the desire to provide a safe and professional entertainment platform for local artist to showcase their talent. In March 2009, GSP expanded their vision to engage and meet the current needs of the community. It was from this new scope that they have been able to make a significant impact in the lives of those who are most at risk.

GSP desires to develop community outreach opportunities to target where support is most needed.

VISION

Gina Spence Productions envisions a community where those who are most vulnerable are provided with the resources, help, and support they need to become productive citizens.

MISSION

To provide community outreach services while facilitating community growth and advocacy to a diverse group of people of all age demographics and socioeconomic backgrounds through performing arts and community outreach programs.



OTHER GSP PROGRAMS



EACH ONE REACH ONE
BACK TO SCHOOL UNIFORM DRIVE



CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY
FESTIVAL

Each One Reach One Back To School Uniform Drive is the first and only service of its kind in the community. It was started in 2008 with the purpose to provide new or gently used school attire and supplies to children in need. For families who are unable to finance the required school material, this can be an extreme burden that causes undue stress and hardship amongst struggling families. This service helps to relieve these financial hurdles allowing parents and guardians the opportunity to set their children up for academic success.

GSP works in partnership with Gibbons Co. each year allowing members of the community to:

- Donate gently used items at participating locations,
- Donate funds for uniform gift cards, or
- Sponsor a child for a First Day of School Starter Kit.

The Christmas Community Festival, in operation for over 30 years, is designed to offer goodwill and support to families affected by economic circumstances and hardship. During what should be a joyous time for many Bermudians, is considered a reminder for others that they are not fully able to support their families. GSP works with the community to provide Christmas food hampers at participating locations, pharmaceutical gift cards for seniors, and toy donations for children to ease the stress of parents and guardians who may find it challenging during the Christmas season.

GSP partners with Terceira's Family of Service Stations (North Shore, Warwick Gas, St. John's Road, and East Broadway locations), BGA, and Gorhams annually and receives additional support from Sargasso Sea App, Warwick Academy, Bermuda Pest Control, and the Bermuda Post Office.

MEET THE TEAM

GINA SPENCE

Founder & CEO



LILLIAN ROBINSON
Board Chaplin



DR. WENDY WOODS
Recording Secretary



MYCHEL JONES
Volunteer Coordinator



BRUCE SWAN
Vice-Chair

PREVIOUS PARTNERSHIPS/ DONORS

AECON

ANOINTED STEPS DANCE MINISTRY SCHOOL

ATHENE

BARRITTS LTD

BANK OF BERMUDA FOUNDATION

BERMUDA CARNIVAL

BERMUDA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

BGA

BERMUDA PEST CONTROL

BERMUDA POST OFFICE

CAKE SHOP

CARIB CASH

CHUBB

CONYERS DILL & PEARMAN

DA HOOD ORGANIZATION

D.E. MORTIMER

DELOITTE

ENSTAR

EYES OF THE EAGLE (EOTE)

FOUR STAR PIZZA

GIBBONS COMPANY

GORHAMS

LINDOS FAMILY FOODS

MARKETPLACE

MEDIAVILLE

OIL GROUP OF COMPANIES

ONE COMMUNICATIONS

ORBIS

PEOPLES PHARMACY

PHOENIX STORES

RUBIS

SARGASSO SEA APP

UNIVERSAL SECURITY ALLIANCE

WARWICK ACADEMY

WILLOWBANK FOUNDATION

Contact Us



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