



## **SIENNA COMMUNITY FUNDS And the Childrens Catastrophic Fund**

You may or may not be aware that Sienna has funds available to enhance the lives of residents within the community.

Groups or individuals may submit grant applications for things that don't currently exist in Sienna. The concept is that, if the grant is funded and the purchase is made, there will be one more thing that makes living in Sienna even more enjoyable.

What types of grants have been funded previously? Every single community event hosted by the Associations is funded by the Community Funds. All Sienna FBISD schools (elementary through high school) have benefitted. In 2023 alone, 12 grants were funded. In just the last five years, 6 grants have been funded to multiple Sienna scout troops. Approved grants have allowed for upgrades to amenities throughout the community by receiving funding for four pickleball courts, lockers at Sienna pools, the Brushy Lake Fitness Center renovation to increase gym space, additional benches and trash cans along Sienna trails and new, upgraded fitness equipment for the Sawmill Lake Fitness Center.

Perhaps even more exciting than all those things is that, in 2023, twenty-six (26) families living in Sienna, were able to benefit from the Childrens Catastrophic Fund (CCF), another very special part of the Community Funds.

Any family who owns property that serves as their primary residence within Sienna may apply for up to \$2,500.00, annually, to go toward the expenses related to a catastrophic health condition (or conditions) of a child in their household who is under 18 years of age. It is not necessary to demonstrate financial need. The only requirements are that the family complete a two-page application, and provide a current doctor's diagnosis letter regarding their child's condition. When dealing with something catastrophic, \$2,500.00 likely doesn't make much of a dent in things overall; however, those who are part of the grant review and approval process sincerely hope that it helps, even just a little bit.

Speaking of grant review, a volunteer Grant Advisory Committee, comprised of 9 Sienna residents is the first to see the applications that are submitted whether from a CCF Family or not. They thoughtfully discuss each application and then reach a consensus decision to make a recommendation (whether to fund or not; or in what amount) to each Board that oversees the two Community Funds. The Boards then swiftly take action and the approval process is complete. The Grant Advisory Committee meets every other month but does review some applications, digitally, outside of a meeting. It is quite possible for the timeframe from receipt of an application to approval to be just a week or two! That's especially encouraging for parents anticipating a large hospital bill.

The Community Funds exist because of a transfer fee that applies at each property sale transaction (1/2 of 1% of the sale). The governing documents of the community specify that the seller pay the fee. Since the sellers have benefitted from all the wonderful things provided as a result of the funds during their time as a Sienna resident, it could be described as their final payment for the community experience; or they could consider it a way to pay it forward for the new Sienna resident moving in. Either way, it's a great way to keep the community thriving!

For further inquiries or application, please email Dana Ippoliti at [danai@clubsienna.com](mailto:danai@clubsienna.com).