



Where Life is Sweet

TRT GRANT APPLICATION

PROPOSAL FOR RECREATION PROJECT FUNDING

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Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024

**PROJECT TITLE:** Harrison Park Project

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ORGANIZATION INFORMATION</b> | Organization: <u>Made to Thrive</u><br>Contact Person: <u>Kriss Dammeyer</u><br>Address: <u>PO Box 684, Hermiston, OR, 97838</u><br>Email: <u>kriss@madetothrive.org</u> Phone: <u>541-289-2343</u>    |
| <b>PROJECT INFORMATION</b>      | Funding Request: <u>\$ 15,000</u><br>How many people will benefit from this project? <u>750 annually</u><br><b>Project Description:</b> (attach additional pages if necessary)<br>Please see attached. |

Authorized Signature: *Kriss Dammeyer*                      Date: 31 May 2023





**TRT Hermiston Grant Proposal**  
**Sports and Safety Improvements at Harrison Park in Hermiston**  
**Made to Thrive, 2023**

**Project Description**

This grant will support the creation of several new sports courts in Harrison Park, an existing park within the city limits of Hermiston, as well as install a suite of additional improvements and badly needed safety features to make the park a fun, appealing, and safe place for kids and youth to hang out and play sports — directly in line with Made to Thrive’s (MTT) mission to stop the cycle of child abuse, neglect and poverty by bringing the physical and emotional benefits of sports, adventure activities, music and art to vulnerable youth.

The project includes the installation of three full basketball courts with six hoops as well as new permanent soccer goals for the existing fields in the park, security cameras, lighting within the park, restrooms, and new, brighter lighting along neighborhood streets so youth are safer walking to and from the park when days are shorter. The neighborhood around Harrison Park has a higher crime rate than other neighborhoods in the city, is primarily low-income and under-resourced, making this an important project for park equity in Hermiston. Harrison Park is located in Hermiston, Oregon, in Umatilla County. The project is a partnership between MTT and the City of Hermiston. The City of Hermiston currently owns the park, and the Hermiston Parks & Recreation Department will be responsible for maintaining the park and equipment after it is installed.

We are pleased to share that MTT has strong community support for this project, including from individuals, local civic organizations, foundations, and local government. Mr. Harrison, the namesake of Harrison Park, has made a significant contribution of \$118,000 to support the project. Hermiston Parks & Recreation has formally committed to the project, including serving as the project manager and contributing \$6,000 of in-kind support. Additional financial support has been provided by Dick’s Sporting Goods (\$10,000) and Juvenile Crime Prevention (\$5,000). We are also currently preparing a grant proposal to The Ford Family Foundation in support of this project.

Success for this project will be defined as the successful installation of three basketball courts with six hoops, permanent soccer goals, and safety features like lighting and cameras in Harrison Park. It will be measured by tracking major milestones throughout the construction and implementation process. The Project Manager who will oversee the construction process is Brandon Artz, Director of Hermiston Parks & Recreation.

**About Made to Thrive**

Based in Hermiston, Oregon, Made to Thrive (MTT) is a grassroots organization dedicated to supporting low-income youth harness the power of play, build meaningful relationships with their community, improve their confidence, and break free of the intergenerational cycle of poverty. In addition to helping low-income and foster youth access enriching activities, we also offer mentoring, tutoring, and other individualized support to each MTT participant and their families.



We remove barriers for low-income, rural youth to participate in community-based activities by paying participation fees, providing gear and apparel, providing snacks and transportation, matching youth with mentors, and otherwise doing whatever it takes to make after-school activities possible. Acknowledging the critical role of the family ecosystem, we also provide basic life supports to families, including equipment to help bridge the rural digital divide, assistance with holiday gifts, tutoring and various other support by tapping into other resources in our community.

MTT is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that was founded in 2014 by Kriss Dammeyer, Executive Director. Kriss is a first-generation college graduate who put herself through school with the assistance of athletic scholarships. She knows from personal experience the powerful roles supportive adult relationships can play in the lives of underserved youth who often feel hopeless and forgotten. Her vision and leadership have helped build the organization and grow its impact over the past eight years. We have recently hired a new bilingual/bicultural Program Assistant, representing a major capacity expansion for our small organization, and are now working to help spearhead a project to improve Harrison Park in Hermiston with new sport courts and safety equipment to create a safe, welcoming place for low-income youth to recreate.