

## GRANT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

*The Chester County Community Foundation connects people who care with causes that matter, so their philanthropy makes a difference now and forever.*

- The Community Foundation is a collection of Funds: Field of Interest Funds + Donor Advised Funds.
- All Community Foundation Funds accept this grant application form.

**Proposals submitted by nonprofits will be considered for 2 types of grants:**

### 1) FIELD OF INTEREST & DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

- ◇ Proposals received **any time throughout the year** are eligible for funding consideration from the Foundation's Field of Interest Funds & Donor Advised Funds.
- ◇ Grant **awards** typically range from **\$500 - \$7,500**.
- ◇ Grant decisions are made **intermittently** throughout the year, as Fund Advisors desire.
- ◇ Proposals are **electronically shared** with Fund Advisors to assist them in making grant decisions.
- ◇ **General operating** grants are encouraged. Nonprofits should be specific about their mission, goals, and measurable outcomes.
- ◇ Grants **focus on Chester County** causes and issues, but **are not limited** to Chester County.
- ◇ Grants may be made to charitable nonprofits working in **all fields of interest** including arts, culture and humanities; education; community improvement; environment; religion; health; and human services.

### 2) FUND FOR CHESTER COUNTY CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE

- ◇ The goal of the Community Foundation's capacity building grantmaking is to **strengthen the effectiveness of nonprofit organizations serving the Chester County region**.
- ◇ Capacity building proposals received by **September 15** annually will be eligible for this special grant initiative.
- ◇ Capacity building projects should strengthen a nonprofit, in areas including:
  - Mission, Vision & Strategy
  - Governance & Leadership
  - Strategic Relationships
  - Fundraising & Development
- ◇ Grant **awards** range from **\$500-\$5,000**.
- ◇ NPO's with budgets \$ 750,000 or less preferred
- ◇ Grant monies are distributed by **February**.
- ◇ Nonprofits must be **located in and serve Chester County** to receive a grant from this special initiative.

- A proposal is considered "complete" when the Chester County Community Foundation has confirmed receipt of the **Grant Proposal Summary Sheet, Narrative and Attachments**.
  - Proposals are shared electronically online with Fund Advisors and the Grants Committee.
    - The electronic form is available at [www.chescocf.org](http://www.chescocf.org).

Per IRS regulations, applicants

- must be charitable, tax exempt organizations with 501(c)(3) certification
  - cannot be individuals
- **E-mail proposals are strongly encouraged to [grants@chescocf.org](mailto:grants@chescocf.org)**
  - Receipt will be confirmed by e-mail.

Please contact Kevin Baffa or Beth Harper Briglia at (610) 696-8211 or [grants@chescocf.org](mailto:grants@chescocf.org) if you have any questions. Thank you.

**I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET**

**One page only.** This page will be shared electronically with Grant Committee Members & Fund Advisors.  
Note: If Philanthropy Network of Greater Philadelphia's Common Grant Application is used, the Community Foundation's Summary Sheet **MUST** accompany application.

To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit [www.chescocf.org](http://www.chescocf.org)

**Date September 2017**

**Contact Information**

Organization Name: The Barn at Spring Brook Farm  
Address: 360 Locust Grove Rd., West Chester, Pa 19382  
Phone: 610-793-1037  
Website: [www.springbrook-farm.org](http://www.springbrook-farm.org)  
Year Incorporated: 2005

Executive Director Name: Emily McClure  
E-mail: [emily.mcclure@springbrook-farm.org](mailto:emily.mcclure@springbrook-farm.org)  
Board Chair Name: Susan Elko  
Primary Contact Name: Emily McClure  
E-mail: [emily.mcclure@springbrook-farm.org](mailto:emily.mcclure@springbrook-farm.org)

Has your nonprofit ever applied to the Community Foundation? Yes  No  Not Sure   
Has your nonprofit ever received funding from the Community Foundation? Yes  No  Not Sure   
 Donor Advised Fund(s)  Fund for Chester County  Don't know/Not sure

**Field/s of Interest:**

Arts, Culture & Humanities       Environment/Animal Welfare       Education  
 Health       Human Services       Religion

**Organization Information:**

**Geographic Area Served** (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served):

The Barn at Spring Brook Farm serves all of Chester County, as well as surrounding communities.

**Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:**

The children we serve, ages 2 – 12 who live in Chester County, have a wide variety of physical, cognitive or developmental concerns, including Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD); Asperger's Syndrome; Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder; Cerebral Palsy; Physical Disabilities; Down Syndrome; Epilepsy; Dyslexia; Intellectual Disability and Developmental Delays. In the past year, The Barn served more participants and families than ever before through our signature programs—334 children received 3,453 hours of service at The Barn—representing a 15% in children assisted and 6% increase in hours.

**Mission:** Our mission is to enrich the lives of children with disabilities through animal-assisted activities.

**Proposal Summary:** We are seeking general operating funding to support our four signature programs that are offered March through the end of November annually: Camp Geronimo, Individual Programs, Educational Field Trips and Socialization Events. Each program provides an unmatched degree of individualized attention and programming designed to advance the health, development and wellbeing of differently-abled children.

**Annual Budget** \$ 309,325 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff 2  
84 % of budget for program expenses 13 # of Board Volunteers  
11 % of budget for administrative expenses 200 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers  
5 % of budget for fundraising expenses 5,000 # of Volunteer Hours

**Top 3-5 funding sources:** The Springbank Foundation - \$22,000; Greenspring Associates - \$20,000; The Boudinot Foundation - \$15,000

**Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:** \$          Donor advised gifts of any amount are greatly appreciated.



### Organization History, Target Population and Geographic Community

The Barn at Spring Brook Farm (“The Barn”) celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2016—a milestone born of the dream of our Founder, Mary Beth Drobish, in 2004. Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Drobish felt called to combine her passion for farm animals with her love for children. She believed that children who are differently abled, including children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), would benefit physically, psychologically, cognitively and developmentally from interactions with specially selected farm animals. Located on a 17-acre farm in West Chester, Chester County, Pennsylvania, The Barn was incorporated as a 501(c) (3) organization in 2005 and opened its hearts, arms and doors in 2006.

**The mission of The Barn is to enrich the lives of children with disabilities through animal-assisted activities.** The Barn itself, a reproduction bank barn built on the property at Mrs. Drobish’s personal expense, is fully handicapped-accessible; all areas of The Barn were constructed with the special needs of the children in mind. Within The Barn are stalls, feed and tack rooms, bathrooms, and upper and lower levels. Outside The Barn, a specially-designed wheelchair-accessible hay wagon provides trips around the property and a handicapped-accessible tree house beautifully built by volunteers offers a peaceful place for children to spend time in nature.

The children we serve, ages 2 – 12 who live in Chester County and the surrounding Greater Philadelphia Region, have a wide variety of physical, cognitive or developmental concerns, including Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD); Asperger’s Syndrome; Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder; Cerebral Palsy; Physical Disabilities; Down Syndrome; Epilepsy; Dyslexia; Intellectual Disability and Developmental Delays. The 2013 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that 3,865 children with disabilities were living in Chester County, Pennsylvania as a whole claims that 5.2% of their children under the age of 18 have a disability. These numbers do not take into account the staggering new statistics on Autism Spectrum Disorder. The Centers for Disease Control now estimates:

- One in every 45 children is now diagnosed with autism.
- Almost 2 million people in the United States are affected.
- Every 8 minutes a child is being diagnosed with autism.

Over the last several years, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of children with ASD. In fact we estimate that more than 65% of all the children we served in 2016 had been diagnosed with ASD. We do not expect that number to decrease in the coming years; rather, given the regional data, it is more likely that it will increase. We are constantly implementing new strategies and procedures for the benefit of children with ASD and other disabilities.

### Our Accomplishments and Unique Programs

In the past year, The Barn served more participants and families than ever before through our signature programs—334 children received 3,453 hours of service at The Barn—representing a 15% increase in children assisted and 6% increase in hours. Our programs and reputation continue to attract experienced and dedicated volunteers who provide unprecedented one-to-one counsel and care for each of our child participants. In addition, we are excited to share that we launched a new partnership with West Chester University’s Graduate Social Work program to gather additional data on the benefits of animal-assisted therapy for differently-abled children.

Our small core staff and dedicated volunteers achieve our mission through four signature programs that are offered March through the end of November annually: Camp Geronimo, Individual Programs, Educational Field Trips and Socialization Events. **Camp Geronimo**, our most popular program, **provides up to 96 children ages 6 to 12 a unique summer day camp experience** - an opportunity to have fun in a safe, secure setting while learning new skills that address their specific needs. **All six of our 1-week camp sessions** are overseen by a certified Physical Therapist with expertise in adaptive recreational therapy. Our unique one-to-one ratio of counselors to campers allows children with a range of abilities to participate in summer camp, truly a first for many of them. A Registered Nurse is on site each day of camp to ensure each child’s needs are met.

Our **Individual Programs**, offered to children ages 2 to 12 once a week for twelve-week sessions, provide one-on-one therapy with an experienced volunteer. Our staff works with parents and guardians to develop an individualized Barn Activity Plan for each child to help set goals, track progress and to complement any existing therapy or education. Examples of goals include improving fine motor skills, developing communication skills and building self-esteem. Weekly sessions are scheduled for March through May, 2-6 p.m.; June through August 3-6 p.m.; and September through November, 2 to 6 p.m. **During our spring session in 2017, 28 children received 336 hours of service.**

The Barn offers **four annual socialization events** geared to local families who have children with disabilities. These include an Autumn Festival, Summer Splash, Spring Fling and Pancakes with Santa. The goal of these events is to provide our families further opportunities to interact with one another and with the Barn staff and animals. In addition, The Barn provides parent support in the form of seminars and mutual support groups and as well as a lending library of resources for children with special needs. **Approximately 30 families participate in each of our four events.**

The Barn also offers **educational field trips** to groups of students from local schools and programs such as the Chester County Intermediate Unit (CCIU), the ARC of Chester County, Greenwood Elementary School, Overbrook School for the Blind, and St. Edmund's Home for Children among others. Each group brings their own counselors and aides and sets goals in conjunction with the Barn's staff. Children, parents and staff participating in these field trips are often amazed at the extent of the hands-on interaction involved. **The Barn can accommodate twelve field trips annually, with 15 children accompanied by aides participating.** Our trips serve to promote our mission and programmatic success.

### **The Benefits of Smaller Animal-Assisted Activities**

Each animal at The Barn is specifically selected for its suitability to work with children with disabilities. Among our animals are miniature horses, miniature Sicilian donkeys, Nubian, pygmy and dwarf goats, sheep, rabbits, hens, barn cats and a pot-bellied pig. These animals provide a range of learning opportunities from walking them to grooming and feeding, depending on the specific abilities of the child. The Barn does not provide therapeutic horseback riding, but instead focuses on the developmental progress and emotional support that smaller animals can provide for our children. Our animals are not only less intimidating for children, but their size allows children who are mostly and constantly in the care of others to become the care-takers. This is extraordinarily empowering and life-enriching—and we believe it is key element what sets our program apart from others in the region.

### **Program Goals**

At the core of our mission is our capacity to continue to offer the unique and effective programs for which we have become known. Our recently completed Strategic Plan (2016-2019) underscores our commitment to further strengthening our organization's financial health and governance by increasing individual, foundation and corporate funding sources, and expanding our Board of Directors in number, expertise and diversity. We also continue to focus on evolving our programming to maximize the impact we can have of the lives of the children, including:

- Maximizing the number of children who participate in our Individual Programs
- Adding new sensory activities and socialization opportunities into our Individual Programs
- Increasing our staff as fundraising allows to including Master's Degree level interns and Special Education Teachers to serve consistently throughout the six weeks of Camp Geronimo.
- Developing more educational and support opportunities for parents and families of the children we serve.
- Expanding public awareness of our programs through outreach, partnerships and attendance at local events.

### **Impact and Evaluation**

Now as we enter the second decade of our mission, we know that we have made a positive impact on hundreds of lives—giving children that unique and individualized opportunity to progress in their development while having fun! In 2018 we will continue in our current programs, while also seeking additional ways to reach out to more families who need our services. We expect once again to experience growing numbers of children/families served as a result.

The actual impact of the programs offered to the children is demonstrated through their personal achievements in the course of their activities at The Barn. The evaluation of the children is a total team effort. Family members help by communicating the child's specific needs and assist our staff and volunteers in setting attainable goals that are reflected in individualized Barn Activity Plans for each child. Feedback from therapists and aides as well as parents and guardians is freely given but also actively sought throughout each child's participation in Barn activities. In the case of the Individual Programs, each child's progress is tracked and formal evaluations are after six and twelve weeks; at the program's conclusion, written assessments are provided to each family.

Both qualitative and quantitative information gathered are important in measuring the progress of the individual child, as well as helping us to better assess and adapt our programming for the greatest possible impact. In this context, we are very excited to have launched our partnership with West Chester University's Masters of Social Work Department. Our goal is to study the experiences and outcomes of animal-assisted activities for children with disabilities through the lenses of parents, volunteers and participants. Our intention is to gather data that can be tracked over time, sharing privately with individual participating families, as well as in the aggregate with our funders and within the community of service providers that work with differently-abled children.

Each program provides an unmatched degree of individual attention and programming designed to advance the health, development and wellbeing of the children. Here are just a few of the outcomes that we see repeatedly and that scientific research has proven:

- Children with disabilities have improved motor skills and muscle development as a result of grooming animals and taking them for walks around the property.
- Children who have difficulty interacting with others are better able to socialize thanks to repeated eye contact with animals and practicing basic introduction skills.
- Children with autism achieve higher levels of task management and mental alertness by focusing on specific tasks such as feeding the animals.

The Barn offers our participating children a truly distinctive experience. No other place in Chester County, or more broadly in the Greater Philadelphia Region, has the same type of programming. Our impact on the community, therefore, is far reaching. We provide a niche

opportunity for every child who comes to The Barn. Each child is unique in personality, needs and goals. However, all children experience The Barn's beautiful, engaging, peaceful and fun environment, where evidence-based progress is made by allowing them to enjoy and grow from the same types of experience available to other children.

It is our sincere hope that donors investing their philanthropic funds at **Chester County Community Foundation** will consider learning more about The Barn at Spring Brook Farm. Please also consider scheduling a visit so you may witness firsthand the small triumphs that lead to longer lasting progress for our children and their families. The Barn is an amazing place where the simple act of petting a miniature horse or feeding a baby goat can change a child's day and more importantly the future. Thank you for your time and consideration.

