

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

Date: September 15, 2017

Contact Information

Organization Name: Barnstone Art for Kids
Address: 388 W. Pothouse Road, Phoenixville PA 19460
Phone: 610.917.0140
Website: www.barnstoneartforkids.org
Year Incorporated: 2012

Executive Director Name: Lynn Detwiler
ED E-mail: Lynn@barnstoneartforkids.org
Board Chair Name: Allison Stinger
Primary Contact Name: Lynn Detwiler
E-mail: Lynn@barnstoneartforkids.org

Has your nonprofit ever applied to the Community Foundation? Yes X No__ Not Sure__
Has your nonprofit ever received funding from the Community Foundation? Yes X No__ Not Sure__
__X__ Donor Advised Fund(s) ___ Fund for Chester County ___ Don't know/Not sure

Field/s of Interest:

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

Organization Information:

Geographic Area Served : Chester County and surrounding areas

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served: Barnstone now serves children 5 – 15 who have suffered trauma. We can serve up to 36 new children in our Power of Art program. We serve 18+ ongoing children in Beyond the Power. We are currently developing a Barnstone On the Go program to serve up to 36 additional children at offsite locations.

Mission: Using the Power of Art to foster resiliency in children facing adversity.

Proposal Summary: Barnstone will continue to deliver its signature Power of Art and Beyond the Power programs and will introduce a new On the Go program to offsite locations. Proposed funds support staffing and activities related to delivery, curriculum development, volunteer sourcing and training, partner relationships, and community education in ACE, resilience and trauma.

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

___ Mission, Vision & Strategy ___ Governance & Leadership ___ Strategic Relationships
___ Fundraising & Development Other: _____

Annual Budget \$149,900

___ 70 ___ % of budget for program expenses	<u>1</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
___ 20 ___ % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>6</u> # of Board Volunteers
___ 10 ___ % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>30</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
	<u>500+</u> # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources:

\$4000 Sheila Fortune Foundation
\$5000 anticipated PCHF
\$500 PASD Youth and Philanthropy Program
The majority of our funding currently comes from individual donors.
We will hold our first fundraiser March 24, 2018

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$ 5000

CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Barnstone Art for Kids began delivering one-to-one mentored art programs in Fall 2011, receiving our 501(c)3 designation the following Spring. After a detailed analysis of our programs, the community need, and the most recent trauma research, we introduced our signature curriculum, Power of Art, in January 2015.

Barnstone Art for Kids addresses Adverse Childhood Experiences (abuse, neglect, household dysfunction) as a public health concern and has specifically developed the Power of Art, a trauma informed resilience program, to reduce the risk of poor outcomes for children suffering adversity. The Power of Art includes a creative full-year curriculum that encourages the development of healthy life skills by pairing a child with a compassionate mentor to create and explore art in a safe, positive environment. Three key components of the program include:

- 1 Delivery of high quality small group programs featuring one-to-one matches,
- 2 Intensive volunteer screening and trauma aware training, and
- 3 Promoting Community and Family Awareness of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE), Trauma and Resilience.

As part of our continuing commitment to the children in our community, Beyond the Power was created for our Power of Art “graduates” to maintain access to Barnstone’s creative community space on a monthly basis to continue to engage with mentors and friends in a safe environment. Additionally, Barnstone is adding programs to accommodate children to age 15. Currently, we are developing an Art On the Go program to bring Barnstone services to offsite community locations.

The greatest achievement at Barnstone Art for Kids is the creation of our unique curriculum. Other important achievements include the development of our Evaluation Tools and successes with identifying and retaining an enthusiastic community volunteer base. Mentors commit to consistent participation in six-week sessions. More than 75% of our volunteers participate in multiple sessions. Our biggest mentor recruitment is through referral from current mentors.

In addition to conducting background checks, our mandatory training program is first-rate. Our comprehensive training includes not only the history of Barnstone, our mission, and program curriculum material; but also a presentation on the original Adverse Childhood Experiences study and current adversity statistics, the newest research on building resilience in children, the definition and discussion of a trauma informed program, and how our program addresses the specific needs of children (and their families) facing adversity.

Barnstone is becoming recognized as an influential participant in community trauma aware discussions. We have developed professional relationships with behavioral health specialists, local school districts, and community service organizations. We continue to build relationships and have assembled a tool kit of resources to use both internally and externally.

Barnstone Art for Kids program distinguishes itself in additional ways: our comprehensive art program has been developed, tested, and refined over a five-year period; each child in the Power of Art is paired with an enthusiastic mentor role model; the curriculum includes 12 months of programming and continues on a monthly schedule beyond that year; and **OUR TRAUMA AWARE ART PROGRAM IS OFFERED AT NO COST TO FAMILIES.**

Executive Director Lynn Detwiler has researched and studied Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Resilience and Trauma Informed Practices for more than 4 years. She has attended the National ACE Conference in San Francisco, is an active member of the local Greater Phoenixville Ace Committee (GPAC), serves on the advisory council of the Chester County ACEs Coalition, and participates in numerous ACE and trauma organizational trainings.

Based on numerous studies, early traumatic experiences directly correlate to poor physical, emotional, and behavioral health in children. According to Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, a noted Pediatrician and trauma expert, children with high levels of trauma are “32 times more likely to have problems in school.” They are more likely to be designated to special education, score lower on standardized tests, have language difficulties, miss school, be suspended or expelled, or fail a grade. They are more likely to be diagnosed with ADHD. School dropout rates are higher. Teen pregnancy is more prevalent. Illegal drug and alcohol use occur earlier and more frequently. And these experiences continue to have repercussions throughout their adult life. As adults, victims are:

- Twice as likely to smoke, 7 times more likely to experience alcoholism, and 10 times more likely to inject street drugs.
- More likely to suffer from depression and 12 times more likely to attempt suicide.
- Be unemployed and rely on public assistance.
- 28% more likely to have an adult criminal record.
- Have a higher incidence of chronic health problems, hospitalization, mental health issues, substance abuse & risky sexual behavior.

Barnstone Art for Kids is aware of the significant health, behavioral risks, and low life potential children exposed to trauma may experience throughout their lifetime. We also know we can reduce the risks of trauma and help develop the necessary resilience factors to protect against these outcomes by establishing three essential elements:

- A consistent supportive adult
- A safe environment
- Skill building activities

In addition to continuing current programming and identifying and training new mentors, key initiatives of the organization include the completion of new curricular activities to address the specific needs of teens age 12 -15, continued development of the expanding Beyond the Power program, and introduction of an On the Go program to offsite locations. Necessary to the health of the program and community requires ongoing community education to increase awareness of ace, resilience, and trauma. We believe that participation in these campaigns will help reduce stigma, increase access, and encourage participation from families resistant to asking for help.

The families of children living with adverse experiences often lack the funds to provide supportive services. This is certainly the case for a family forced to leave their home and possessions to flee an abusive relationship. Household dysfunction (substance abuse, incarceration, mental illness, gambling addiction, etc.) directly affects family resources. Barnstone programs are provided to children facing trauma at no cost to the families. Another important encumbrance to children attending programs is transportation. We are actively pursuing transportation opportunities to transport children to our facility as well as developing an Art on the Go program.

Children with high ACE scores face many obstacles, including academic, social and developmental barriers. Barnstone Art for Kids seeks to fill the gap faced by local children between school and home supports. Children who have experienced trauma need consistent positive interactions with a role model in a safe, stable environment and encouragement to build healthy behaviors, skills, and relationships. By providing one-to-one mentoring and a creative outlet, Barnstone Art for Kids is able to realize a consistent positive impact on the most at risk children in Chester County. With strong community support, electric volunteer recruitment, new and growing partnerships, and a loyal contingent of private donors, now is the time to support Barnstone Art for Kids to help children, their families, and reduce the risk of passing trauma to future generations.

Barnstone's mentors engage children in hands on art activities and interactive games that provide opportunity for collaboration and learning. Through creative expression, the mentor/child relationship provides a safe and supportive environment for the development of communication and social skills, adaptive problem solving, self-awareness and confidence, and healthy self-care. Barnstone Art for Kids uses several methods to measure program impact. Four times each year using a 20-point scale, Mentors evaluate each student on specific observable traits in five areas:

- Communication: eye contact, engage in conversation, use words rather than physical contact, listen and follow directions
- Social: participate in group activities, share and take turns, demonstrate empathy, respect personal space
- Problem Solving: identify problems, explore alternatives, resolve conflicts, ask for help
- Creativity: original ideas, take creative risks, show curiosity, reflection
- Proficiency: art competency, confident use of materials, focus, clean up

In addition to tracking improvement, the comments and observations of our mentors are incorporated into our interventions with each participant, allowing for an informed and individualized plan for each of our students.

Parents/ guardians are requested to complete pre and post evaluations on child development to validate our assessment data and measure program benefit from the family perspective. Child participants "grade" our program after each session on their enjoyment. Families are surveyed twice a year for suggestions and input to improve our program.

These reported metrics, however, show only a small part of the achievements we see on a day-to-day basis. It is in the individual stories that we get a full sense of the impact we are having and the true measure of our success. An added benefit of the positive connections and nurturing relationships developed through the Power of Art is the growth we see that continues outside the program. Mentors often stay with one child for the whole year fueling a stable and consistent relationship. Children see mentors at community events, grocery shopping, at restaurants. Mentor's attend children's school plays. They send words of encouragement and special notes when traveling. Children trick or treat at mentor's homes. Artist mentors are inspired by the children to create paintings, sculptures, and other creative expressions. Everyone grows.

With your support, we will be able to expand our programming over the next several years to meet the needs of more students, helping to break the cycle of abuse, and build a generation of happy, loving and incredibly creative kids.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Copy of 501 (c) (3) federal tax-exempt letter.
2. List of Board of Directors, with their affiliations.
- 3a. Most recent annual report.
- 3b. Financial statement, audited.
- 4a. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year.
- 4b. Current fiscal year to date.
5. NA
- 6a. Current strategic plan.
- 6b. Copy of Board Minutes from 7.31 reviewing Strategic Plan.

E-mail completed proposals to grants@chescof.org

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