

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Date: February 21, 2018

Contact Information

Organization: The Parkesburg POINT (The POINT) Executive Director Name: Dwayne Walton
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Phone: 610-857-3393 Board of Directors Chair Name: Ronald D. Bare
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Year Incorporated: 2003 Primary Contact E-mail: sdaniels@parkesburgpoint.com

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) X Fund for Chester County ___ Don't know/Not sure

Field/s of Interest:

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

Organization Information:

Geographic Area Served The Greater Parkesburg and Coatesville Communities (Western Chester County).

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served: The POINT currently serves 400 students aged 8-18 who primarily come from the Octorara School District; however, approximately 20% of students now travel from Coatesville Area School District. Chester County is not immune to the debilitating, overwhelming effects of poverty. The students we serve come from predominantly single-family households, 90% of which fall below the poverty level and many of whom have experienced homelessness, transient housing conditions, mental or physical abuse, hunger, and are struggling or failing academically.

Mission: To empower youth and families to live victoriously by offering a safe, engaging, Spirit-filled environment.

Proposal Summary: The POINT respectfully requests \$5,000 of capital support.

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

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

Annual Budget \$705,000 2 FT/11 PT# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
67.1 % of budget for program expenses 13 # of Board Volunteers
14 % of budget for administrative expenses 486 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
18.9 % of budget for fundraising expenses 3,100 # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: Connelly Foundation (\$40,000 over 2 years), PNC Bank (\$20,000), McLean Contributionship (\$20,000)

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$5,000

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

1. Organization's history, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness

The POINT was collaboratively founded in 2003 by local businesses, churches, and community leaders in the Borough of Parkesburg. Since its founding, The Point has developed innovative strategies to address spiritual, physical, emotional and academic needs for an ever-increasing number of youth and has developed a reputation for excellence within the Greater Western Chester County community.

After ten years of renting a 7600 sq./ft. warehouse and using it as a community center, The POINT launched a \$3 million-dollar capital campaign in 2011-2013 which resulted in the purchase of a 4.25-acre property in Parkesburg. The property now hosts a 22,000 sq./ft. community center with an indoor skatepark, gymnasium, cafeteria, commercial kitchen, student chapel, fitness center, classrooms and our community's local food cupboard.

Today, The POINT is open free of charge 4-5 afternoon/evenings a week and serves over 400 students. With the help of over 450 volunteers and 25 churches, we provide programs for our community's most vulnerable youth. Each of our programs are designed around the following goals:

- 1) Provide access to a safe and supportive environment
- 2) Empower students to develop leadership skills, confidence and a positive identity
- 3) Encourage students to stay in school & set goals for post-secondary education/employment
- 4) Create access to activities, education and resources that promote a healthy lifestyle
- 5) Foster student's spiritual exploration and development

We are pleased to report that in our most recent survey of core students, 81% said The POINT helps them feel more motivated academically, 63% are doing better in school and 72% plan to enroll in college or a trade school after high school. Additionally, over 84% said that since coming to The POINT they feel more confident, better about themselves, have developed new friendship and over 78% said The POINT helps them avoid alcohol, drugs, and skipping/dropping out of school.

2. Funding request

In celebration of our 15th anniversary, The POINT is working to complete the final renovations needed at our facility. The project includes the installation of an outdoor basketball court, outdoor skatepark, hands-on-training workshop, boxing gym, and repaving of the parking lot. The POINT respectfully requests \$5,000 of capital funds to help complete the project. The total project budget is \$433,714 and \$316,209 has been raised to date.

Description of key initiatives

There are 4 major components of the capital project:

- 1) Renovations and equipment purchases for career training and boxing center
- 2) Build an Outdoor Skatepark
- 3) Build an Outdoor Basketball Court
- 4) Repave the Parking Lot

Organizational impact if initiative is undertaken

Investing in The POINT's capital project will enhance The POINT's capacity to address the physical, academic, emotional and spiritual needs of an increased number of at-risk youth, empowering them to break generational cycles of poverty and reach their full potential. The following outcomes are expected:

- Students will report feeling safe and supported at The POINT
- Students will indicate resistance to risky behaviors including gangs, sex, drugs, and alcohol
- Students will not skip or drop out of school
- Students will set goals for post-secondary education and/or employment
- Students will increase grades and/or maintain positive grades
- Students will report an increase in self-esteem and confidence
- Students will develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ

How will this grant enhance your organization's capacity?

The size of The POINT's current facility imposes limitations on the ability of POINT staff and volunteers to most effectively serve those in need. There are 926 Octorara School District students and 3,607 Coatesville School District students who live in poverty.

How will this increase in organizational capacity be measured?

An increase will be measured by, the number of students served annually, student retention rates from year-to-year, and our student's academic, behavioral and social outcomes.

Activities to implement the initiative & Specific Needs/Issues they Address

1) Renovations & Equipment: Renovate the remaining 4,000 sq/ft of our 2nd building to create a space for our new Hands-On-Training Program (includes workshop and classrooms), purchase tools/equipment for the Hands-On-Training Program and complete the plumbing and installation of a Heat Pump for the Boxing Center that has already been added to that space.

Hands-On-Training Program: Most students at The Point have not developed any competencies, lack confidence, and have not thought about their future career. We are developing a 4000 sq/ft training facility that will allow us to teach students how to do basic home plumbing, electrical work, car maintenance, and other important skills that can directly translate to employment. We believe that this exposure will result in our students taking advantage of the Vo-tech programs offered in their schools, as well as increase their confidence and employability. The Program also serves as an extension to the school curriculum, providing practical ways for students to enhance their literacy and math skills through reading directions, taking measurements, etc. The Program will rotate through different trades over 4-6 week periods. Additionally, the program will have a community service focus and generate opportunities (through partnerships with organizations like Good Works) for participants to implement their acquired skills on both local and global service trips.

Boxing Program: The POINT will provide weekly opportunities for students to train and learn basic boxing skills. Students can also participate in our "Golden Gloves" Program if they want to pursue Boxing as a competitive sport. Through Boxing, The POINT provides an outlet for youth to recognize their frustration and aggression and is an activity where students who may be bad at every other sport they've tried, can find a sense of worth and self-esteem. It is important to provide a safe and healthy outlet for natural aggression through a program like supervised boxing, because if we ignore it, it can erupt in horrible ways. The POINT has already secured the funds and equipment for this program, but needs to finalize renovations with the installation of a Heat Pump and Bathrooms.

2) Build an Outdoor Skatepark/Implement Drug Abuse Curriculum: Kids love to take part in sports and will experience injuries at some time or another. Many of these injuries can unfortunately lead to Opioid addiction. Skateboarders are increasingly at risk of injuries and addiction to medications which often lead to overdose and death. "It is estimated that about 90 percent of those addicted to opioids first got the pills as a prescription for pain management. Now, they're addicts" (Chester County Press, 2017). Mike Noone, Chester County's First Assistant District Attorney said he classified the drug crisis as, "the number-one public health epidemic in this country right now. We are riding the crest of a wave that started a decade ago with over-prescription of painkillers. We are seeing the consequences of that perfect storm" (2017). The Point's outdoor skate park is being developed to retain and draw new teenage skateboarders and provide a comprehensive drug abuse curriculum that they must take part in to access the skate park. The skate park will be in honor of John Gillen Jr. who succumbed to heroin addiction. John represents many young men and women in Chester County who are losing the battle to addiction.

3) Build an Outdoor Basketball Court: Unsupervised teens can be a strain on any community. During the summer, many young men and women go to the public basketball courts in Parkesburg or Coatesville and create difficult situations for the Police. Drugs are used and sold, and fights often breakout. This is an unsafe environment for kids who simply want to play competitive outdoor basketball. By providing an outdoor court we can provide these kids the supervision and safety that they need all year round. Student's love for sports also serves as a great incentive to increase student's participation in other academic and enrichment programs provided by The POINT. With the high volume of students coming through The POINT each evening, our indoor gymnasium can no longer safely accommodate all our students. An outdoor court will be especially beneficial during the warmer months when enrollment increases because students travel from greater distances.

Repave the Parking Lot: Repaving The POINT's parking lot is essential to ensure students, staff and volunteers can safely access our facility.

Why it is important to fund this now

The POINT's project is time-sensitive. Every day that goes by without access to a safe environment where students can socialize and participate in recreational activities increases the potential for students to be exposed to harmful situations –drugs, bullying, gangs, violence, etc. Recreational opportunities at The POINT are often the first draw for students to participate and as they become more engaged, they begin taking advantage of our academic, career, health & wellness and enrichment opportunities. For students like James, basketball was more than a hobby; it was his, "exit from the world". When he was on the court he didn't have to think about all the challenges he was facing at home.

James was raised by a single mother and moved 42 times and attended 16 different schools before coming to The POINT. When he arrived at The POINT he was 19 years old, a junior in high school and unable to read. His first draw to The POINT was the social aspect, an opportunity to interact with peers, play basketball and get a healthy meal each evening. When The POINT realized James could not read they quickly connected him with a Tutor to work with him weekly on reading. While most kids James' age would have been discouraged and unmotivated, James was eager to learn and said, "I overcame so many other things, why can't I overcome this...I want to learn." Today James is thriving, and his Tutor says, "he can read really well" and that, "he sees the world as something he can conquer, not something that can conquer him." Learn more about James here: <https://vimeo.com/215270371>.

These final renovations to our property will help to draw more at-risk youth to our facility and ensure that 100% of students like James, have a safe, supervised and supportive environment to come to afterschool – free of drugs, bullying, gangs and violence. What if James never came to play basketball at The POINT? Would he be on the streets experimenting with drugs? Would he already be incarcerated? Would he be 20 years old and still unable to read? These are the questions The POINT does not want to ponder about any of our students.

3) How impact and results will be demonstrated

The POINT administers post program surveys and works with the schools to track student's academic performance and graduation rates. Information collected is used to measure the program's success and to continuously refine and improve our services.

On behalf of our Board, Staff and Students, thank you for the kind consideration.

III. ATTACHMENTS

1. Copy of 501 (c) (3) federal tax-exempt letter (See attached)
2. List of Board of Directors, with their affiliations (See attached)
3. Most recent annual report and financial statement, audited if available (See attached)
4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year and current fiscal year to date (See attached)
5. If capacity building initiative, itemized budget (N/A)
6. Current strategic plan (See attached)