

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  
Address: 700 Main Street, P.O. Box 731 Executive Director E-mail: Dwayne@parkesburgpoint.com  
Phone: 610-857-3393 Board of Directors Chair Name: Ronald D. Bare  
Website: www.parkesburgpoint.com Primary Contact Name: Sarah Daniels  
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, sexual 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 to purchase an additional vehicle to help transport students who live beyond safe walking distance to and from The POINT each evening.

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 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary, The POINT respectfully requests \$5,000 of capital support to purchase an additional 12-15 passenger vehicle. Additional transportation will enable The POINT to transport an increased number of at-risk youth who live beyond safe walking distance to and from The POINT each evening.

#### **Description of key initiatives**

Purchase a used (but in good condition) 12-15 passenger vehicle to help transport Coatesville students to and from The POINT each evening.

#### **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 who live beyond safe walking distance will have access to The POINT
- 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?**

Funding will enable The POINT to serve an increased number of students from the greater Coatesville area and will provide a safer mode of transportation for some of our existing students.

#### **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**

Capital funding will enable The POINT to purchase an additional 12-15 passenger vehicle to provide transportation to and from The POINT for students from Coatesville.

The lack of safety and overall sense of "fear" in Coatesville has influenced nearly 20% of our students now traveling from Coatesville in pursuit of a safe-haven at The POINT. The POINT primarily serves minority youth; 40% of our students are African American, 20% Mixed Race, 10% Latino and 30% Caucasian. The POINT helps bridge the gap for these students, making high school graduation and post-secondary education obtainable. Unsupervised teens can be a strain on any community. During the summer, many young men and women go to the public basketball courts 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 sports. The POINT's facilities provide a safe and supervised environment for students to "just be kids", year-round.

Our Coatesville students say they come to The POINT because, "we feel safe here", they are "not afraid of Parkesburg". Their fears might be greater than reality, but they exist, and result in some students walking or biking up to SIX miles just to attend The POINT. The POINT provides a change of environment; a safe place to relax and simply be a kid. Through a partnership with Gateway church, we have been transporting 10-15 students from Coatesville's Lincoln Crest Community to The POINT once a week. Lincoln Crest is an underserved pocket of poverty in Coatesville. These students are arriving at The POINT hungry and lacking basic needs of food, shoes, underwear and socks. These students are often bullied and relentlessly ridiculed for their clothes or smell, but at The POINT they feel safe. Additional transportation will enable these students to access The POINT every day we are open.

### **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 positive 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, access to The POINT was more than just "something to do"; it was his, "exit from the world". When he was at The POINT, 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 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>.

Additional transportation 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 had access to 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)