

**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

Date: 7/20/2018

Contact Information

Organization Name: Society of St. Vincent DePaul-Sacred Heart Conference

Address: P.O. Box 64 Royersford, PA 19468

Phone: 610-948-5915

Website:

Ralph Sirico

Year Incorporated:2002

sirico57@comcast.net

:
Board of President Name:
Cindy Irerra

Primary Contact Name:

Primary Contact E-mail:

Has your nonprofit ever applied to the Community Foundation?

Yes ___ No_X Not Sure__

Has your nonprofit ever received funding from the Community Foundation? Yes ___ No_X

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

X Human Services

___ Religion

Organization Information:

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

Chester and Montgomery Counties, mostly Spring City, Phoenixville, Royersford

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:

During our past fiscal year, we provided client support in the areas of Fuel Oil, Rent, Food, Utilities, Medical / Pharmaceutical, Security Deposits, Transportation, Gasoline, Eyeglasses, Furniture, Clothing, as well as other services. We assisted approximately 202 families, some more than once. This included approximately 250 Adults and 200 children.

Mission:

The Society of St. Vincent DePaul, inspired by Gospel values, leads men and women to join together to grow spiritually by assisting those in need in a way that restores their sense of dignity (which can easily be lost when you are hungry, need shelter, or when no one seems to care). We attempt to address causation of current financial need and provide current and future workable solutions, one family at a time.

Proposal Summary:

The Society of St. Vincent DePaul - Sacred Heart Conference is committed to helping those in need in our area, which includes Spring City and Phoenixville in Chester County. Our day to day mission is to endeavor to uplift those in our communities - for us, that means assisting clients financially (we give money directly to landlord, etc) for handling their immediate financial problems. We use almost all the money donated to us, no matter the source, for that purpose, as we have no paid positions and little overhead. But in order to help our current clients, and particularly to meet our goal of increasing the number of families we assist to reach for a more financially secure life, we need regular influxes of cash via donations and grants.

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

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

Annual Budget \$ __60,000_____ ___ 0___ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

___ 94___ % of budget for program expenses ___ 5___ # of Board Volunteers

___ 6___ % of budget for administrative expenses ___ 23___ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

_____ % of budget for fundraising expenses ___ 1000+___ # of Volunteer Hours

100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

W.W. Smith \$10,000 Agnes and Robert Bard Foundation \$5000 Phoenixville Community Health Foundation \$5000

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$ __\$5000_____

GRANT PROPOSAL

for The Chester County Community Foundation

The Society of St. Vincent DePaul – Sacred Heart Conference

Funding is being sought so that, using the principles laid out by St Vincent DePaul, we can provide the vital financial assistance needed by those persons who are living in poverty in the townships that we serve. Our program is structured to assess the assistance needed for each person individually. We do not participate in funding for "project-oriented" programs. We seek to address the causes of their poverty and to provide solutions one family at a time. We continually receive numerous requests for assistance. The requests may come by calls directly from the individual in need or by referral provided through other organizations. We prepare an assessment for each client to determine their funding requirements, based on the information provided in the original contact calls and through utilizing Home Visits. We evaluate the amount of resources that we can provide to address their funding needs. We then work with them and other agencies to develop a potential workable solution to help them manage the funding needs that exceed the amount that we can provide.

It is important to point out that our organization does not restrict the aid for an individual to be provided for one-time only. We have, as needed, continued to provide aid for some families over a 3 to 5-year period. An essential element of our stated goal is to enable our clients to become self-sufficient, and we are fortunate to have an excellent success rate at this over our many years of service to the local communities. However, while we do have clients whose only need is for short term help with an electric bill or a few months' rent, sometimes they require more long-term assistance. While we feel blessed to be able to help as many people in need as we have, these days the list of those asking for our assistance grows exponentially. Since much of our money comes from donations, which ebb and flow with the economy, we look to Foundations such as yours to provide funding that is vital to support our mission to assist those who are

suffering from poverty and to take more people off the lengthy list of those families unable to find help.

Our target population are those served by Sacred Heart and St. Joseph RC Churches, in Royersford and Spring City. We also have clients in Phoenixville, Pottstown, and Limerick from our work with Open Hearth, Project Outreach, etc.

Short- and long-term, we want to continue to meet the needs of those who are hurting. Also, one of our main objectives is to find more ways to reach out through our churches and the organization's members to ensure people know we are here and what we can do for them. And then put what we learn into action in our communities to uplift their disadvantaged populations.

We cannot forecast with absolute certainty the expected expenses necessary to support the needs of our clients for the upcoming year. This is because the number and type of calls requesting assistance varies, since the need is often based on the economy, as well as people's capacity to ask for help when it is needed. However, we are a wholly volunteer organization, so there is little in the way of internal expenses, usually around \$1000 per year. The preponderance of the expenses paid from funding provided from grants and donors are disbursed directly to designated vendors who are owed money by our clients -- our support funding is never disbursed directly to our clients. The client expenses generally include rent, utilities, transportation, and personal expenses such as clothing, food, and medical expenses. Our volunteers will also (as needed) assist clients in a more hands-on way such as helping rid a home of with moldy flooring in a bathroom that was dangerous to their children or installing a window air conditioner

Our organization measures outcomes by keeping track of each individual or family client – what we helped them with and the amount. We then create spreadsheets for individual donors and what we used their money for. When we share information with donors, we leave out the name, as our organization believes in strict confidentiality. Last fiscal year, we assisted 202 families,

including 241 adults and 190 children. Some of these families were helped more than once. In our financial reports,

we also list any monies given to other groups that match our mission (for example, we gave money to the parent organization of SVdP in Philadelphia for them to add to other donor contributions to help in Puerto Rico last year).

We know that we can accomplish our goals because the volunteers of this organization follow the tradition of our patron, St. Vincent DePaul, in their dedication to charity toward their fellow person. Vincentians, as we are called, come from many ethnic and cultural backgrounds, age groups, and economic levels. All members are trained in how to work with their clients in a sensitive manner regarding their needs for assistance due to their current situation. We are continually gaining members who are dedicated to accomplish our mission. The growth in our membership, along with the additional resources from donors, allows us to increase the number of clients that we can help.

The increase in the amount of monies received from donations is necessary to provide growth in the assistance funding available to support the needs of our client base. This will allow us to expand our charitable service farther into the groups of those who are currently suffering from the lack of financial capabilities to provide for some of their basic living requirements.

We don't have a strategic plan ourselves, as the size of our organization and small budget does not require such. However, our parent organization of SVdP in Philadelphia does. However, we do know that to sustain our level of assistance after we have given out a grant, we are consistently applying for other grants, as well as raising money through activities which result in donations

A grant from your Foundation will provide the funds that are needed for our organization of volunteers to be able to help many more clients who are living in poverty.