

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 9/6/2018

Contact Information

Organization Name: Safe Harbor of Chester County
 Address: 20 N Matlack St. West Chester, PA 19380
 Phone: 610-701-5680
 Website: www.safeharborofgwc.org
 Year Incorporated: 1995

Executive Director Name: Judy Jeffords Homitz
 Exec. Dir. E-mail: judy@safeharborofgwc.org
 Bd Chair Name: Dawson Richardson
 Primary Contact Name: Judy Jeffords Homitz
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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): **Chester County**

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served: 274 unduplicated single homeless adult men and single homeless adult women stayed at Safe Harbor in 2017/2018

Mission: Safe Harbor is an independent, nonprofit organization providing food, shelter, friendship, case management and recovery opportunities for single homeless men and women in Chester County.

Proposal Summary: Safe Harbor is seeking general operating support. We are open 365 days a year offering shelter, food and case management to as many as 40 adult men and women staying for up to 120 days. We also serve a Community Lunch 6 or 7 days a week, serving a hot lunch to an average of 55 people daily. We are an official warming and cooling station in Chester County and provide relief to anyone when the weather becomes exceedingly hot or cold. 'Code Red' and 'Code Blue' overnight cots are provided on those days. With tremendous support from our community of donors and volunteers, we run on a very tight budget. We seek funds not able to be donated such as insurance, utility costs and salaries.

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

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

Annual Budget \$908,000	<u>13</u>	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>84</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>17</u>	# of Board Volunteers
<u>7</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>380</u>	# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>9</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>14,500</u>	# of Volunteer Hours
100 % total		

Top 3-5 funding sources: Chester County Community Development - \$120,000; United Way of Chester County - \$57,000; Marshall Reynolds Foundation - \$30,000; Annual Fundraisers (2-3) - \$200,000

2018 CCCF Grant Proposal Narrative:

1. Safe Harbor's history, goals, achievements and distinctiveness

History: Safe Harbor began as a 'homeless' homeless shelter in 1992 with the help of many area faith communities providing cots at night during the cold months of the year. In December 1995, Safe Harbor opened its door at our current location and began providing beds and support to 20 single homeless men and 4 single homeless women. In 2007 we were asked by the County to expand our shelter to accommodate more single women. At that time, Safe Harbor's 4 women's beds were the only beds for single women experiencing homelessness in all of Chester County. In March 2010, we re-opened our doors with a newly constructed second story – providing beds now for 20 men, and also for 20 women. In an effort to help the food insecure population, we also provide a hot lunch program 6 days a week, 7 days throughout the winter, and serve an average of 55 people daily. During the summer months, we see an increase in the number of children coming in to lunch with their parents or guardians because the lack of free or reduced breakfast and lunch provided during the school day impacts the family's ability to adequately feed them.

Goals: Safe Harbor's goals go beyond just feeding the homeless and providing shelter. We seek to understand each person's background, define action plans designed to address their challenges and monitor their progress in rebuilding their lives and self-esteem.

Vision: Safe Harbor will support our neighbors in need with a safe, temporary home until they again have a place to call home, ending homelessness one person at a time.

Achievements and Distinctiveness: In 2017, Safe Harbor provided shelter to 274 unduplicated individuals. We provided almost 13,000 nights of service including cots available during 'code blue and code red' conditions. 87 of our residents found permanent housing while at Safe Harbor. We also provided over 12,000 community lunches and items of fresh bakery, dairy and produce for the food insecure of West Chester and beyond. Safe Harbor stands out from other homeless shelters in our area for 2 reasons: First, we are the only emergency shelter beds in the county for single homeless women; and second, we are a low barrier ADA compliant shelter, providing support to anyone regardless of their addictions, criminal history, religious beliefs or medical needs. Residents are able to stay for up to 120 days while working with our staff to create and follow through on their individualized action plan. Extensions are granted on a case by case basis.

2. Funding Request: General Operating Support

Safe Harbor addresses the need for emergency shelter for the homeless population in Chester County, specifically for single adult men and women, along with providing support for food insecure individuals of all ages. In addition to shelter for our residents, Safe Harbor works individually with each person to create a short-term action plan to address their individual needs. Safe Harbor has been providing full case management in house for the men and women since 2013. We work closely with the Chester County Department of Community Development and other area agencies involved in 'Decade to Doorways' the county's ten-year initiative to reduce or end homelessness.

At the core of this initiative is a central intake process for those in need of shelter. Everyone calling the intake agency is ranked according to their vulnerability and need, and then Safe Harbor's available beds are offered by our Program Director to those at the top of the list. With this change in the homelessness

intake process, we have seen a change in our population to those with increased trauma, medical and behavioral issues and addictions. In addition, we are seeing an increase in the age of our residents, with 37% being over the age of 55 within the calendar year 2017. This population also brings with it additional chronic health issues associated with older ages. During 2018 to date, we have had four residents with stage 3 or 4 cancer. On top of these individuals, in the last year Safe Harbor had at least 15 residents with serious chronic health conditions that required many trips to the hospital, often by ambulance. Our oldest resident this year was 85 years old.

These new resident characteristics challenge Safe Harbor in many ways, the greatest one being that our staff are asked on a daily basis to operate at their fullest capacity and look for ways to meet these needs. This includes utilizing all available internal and external resources available. This is often the first time in a long time for many that someone is truly listening to them and trying to offer guidance around the issues that brought them through our door. While doing so, we have also made strides to shorten the average length of stay at Safe Harbor and increase the number of people who secure permanent housing while here.

Safe Harbor has been a visible and respected presence in West Chester almost 25 years. As said above, last year more than almost 300 men and women were able to focus on their problems and work to improve their situation. More than 70% of those who stayed at least 14 days improved their income level, and 87 found a safe, secure housing. Men and women experiencing homelessness have a safe, secure, and welcoming place where they may stay while they focus on their short-term goals.

Safe Harbor continues to meet its mission because of our vast network of volunteers and supporters, including the support from area businesses and foundations in our community. Operating expenses are minimized wherever possible by utilizing in-kind donations of food and goods as well as thousands of volunteer hours. Our financial needs are mostly for shelter expenses – utilities, insurance, staff salaries, etc. Material needs such as food, bedding and clothing are mostly provided by our supporters.

We need and welcome support from The Chester County Community Foundation now or at any time. We continue to face the challenge of dwindling public funds. Our expenses doubled along with our size in 2010 and we have met this challenge by increasing our outreach to our supportive community. Finding affordable, and appropriate permanent housing remains a challenge in Chester County, where housing costs continue to escalate. Many find themselves in need of our services and wonder how they arrived at this point, especially if they are working and have always been self-sufficient until an episode, or a series of episodes, altered their path to lead to our door. The homeless are often invisible, especially in an area of notable wealth such as Chester County. But they are not invisible to the staff and volunteers of Safe Harbor!

3. Timetable

Safe Harbor runs our shelter program 365 days a year and has for the past 23 years. Finding affordable, and appropriate permanent housing remains a challenge in Chester County, where housing costs continue to escalate. Our goal, ultimately, is to place everyone in safe housing. The need for Safe Harbor as an emergency transitional shelter remains strong. We make a difference for those people and work with them throughout their stay to see that all available resources and options are presented to them. As long as our services are needed, we will be here. Any financial support for our ongoing mission at Safe Harbor will be used efficiently and effectively to make a difference for the men, women and community we serve.

4. Impact and Results

The impact of Safe Harbor is felt strongly and personally by each and every individual coming here for help. For the community, we keep people off the streets and provide respite when there are dangerous weather conditions that could result in tragic outcomes. We provide safe shelter, food, goods and a tremendous amount of support services to men and women experiencing homelessness, and lunch (with donated goods to take home) to the low and no income members living nearby. We track our efforts and evaluate our progress and the effectiveness of our programs. We review resources to seek out “best practices” for all areas of our operations. During 2019, Safe Harbor plans to initiate a broader data review to determine weak links within the referral process and search for additional partners or pathways to meet resident needs and obtain positive outcomes.

An example of two of many that Safe Harbor has helped in the last few months:

Evelyn and Gerald's Story: They were a couple who came separately to work on themselves and moved into their own place on March 1st.

Independence is worth everything!

In her own words, Evelyn arrived at Safe Harbor in October, ‘mentally, physically and emotionally depleted’ after spending countless years absorbing and handling all the issues of family and friends at the expense of her own well-being. It took time at Safe Harbor for her to absorb the messages on the walls (‘don’t look back, you’re not going that way!’) and it took time for her to be able to believe the message and focus on her own future.

“Safe Harbor helped so much because somebody was always there when needed; keeping my business, making appointments, giving me structure. Once I started keeping appointments, things started happening and I realized, I DID THAT and this is gonna work.” Evelyn 2/2018

This is Gerald’s second time at Safe Harbor. In his words he was just not ready to ‘fix what needed to be fixed with me’ during his first stay. He returned in November, and this time “...I knew was gonna make it because I was ready and did what I needed to do. I worked with the staff and did whatever they asked....I knew they cared about me.”

Messages from Evelyn and Gerald to men and women experiencing homelessness who come to Safe Harbor:

“Safe Harbor provides everything that you need right now...and a little bit of what you want.”

“Don’t give up! This will work in a short period of time, if you stick to the program. Independence is worth everything!” Evelyn 2/2018

“I would recommend Safe Harbor to anybody who asks- I’ve been in other shelters and Safe Harbor is the best!” Gerald 2/2018

The **Chester County Community Foundation** has been a key part of our support system on many levels and for many years. We appreciate all that you have done for our neighbors in need within our midst!