

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 9/7/2018

Contact Information

Organization Name: The Barn at Spring Brook Farm
Address: 360 Locust Grove Road, West Chester, PA 19382
Phone: 610-793-1037
Website: www.springbrook-farm.org
Year Incorporated: 2006

Executive Director Name: Emily McClure
E-mail: emily.mcclure@springbrook-farm.org
Board Chair Name: Susan Elko
Primary Contact Name: Emily McClure
E-mail: emily.mcclure@springbrook-farm.org

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):

The Barn at Spring Brook Farm serves all of Chester County, as well as surrounding communities.

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served: The children we serve, ages 2 – 12, predominantly live in Chester County and have a wide variety of physical, cognitive or developmental concerns, including Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD); Asperger's Syndrome; Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder; Cerebral Palsy; Physical Disabilities; Down Syndrome; Epilepsy; Dyslexia; Intellectual Disability and Developmental Delays. During last fiscal year, our core staff of 2 fulltime and 1 part-time employee served 431 program enrollments (approximately 350 children), totaling 3,985 service hours—representing a 23% and 13% increase respectively over the previous year.

Mission: Our mission is to enrich the lives of children with disabilities through animal-assisted activities.

Proposal Summary: We are seeking a Capacity Building grant to support our efforts to participate in an inclusive and robust Strategic Planning process leading to a three-year plan for the period 2019 to 2021.

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

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

Annual Budget \$ \$327,981 2.5 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
84 % of budget for program expenses 14 # of Board Volunteers
11 % of budget for administrative expenses 335 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
5 % of budget for fundraising expenses 5,100 # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: Fiscal Year 2017: The Springbank Foundation - \$22,000; Greenspring Associates - \$20,000; The Boudinot Foundation - \$15,000; The Tally Foundation - \$15,000
Mr. and Mrs. James Lim - \$10,000

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



Organization History, Target Population and Geographic Community

The Barn at Spring Brook Farm (“The Barn”) is in its twelfth year of providing services to area children. It began as the dream of our Founder, Mary Beth Drobish, in 2004. Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Drobish felt called to combine her passion for farm animals with her love for children. She believed that children with disabilities would benefit physically, psychologically, cognitively and developmentally from interactions with specially selected farm animals. Located on a 17-acre farm in Pocopson Township, The Barn was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) organization in 2005 and opened its doors in 2006.

The Barn is fully handicapped-accessible with all areas constructed with the needs of the children in mind as well as the safety and comfort of our animals. Within The Barn are stalls, feed and tack rooms, bathrooms, and upper and lower levels. Outside The Barn, a specially-designed wheelchair-accessible hay wagon provides trips around the property and a handicapped-accessible treehouse offers a quiet place for children to spend time in nature.

Each animal at The Barn is specifically selected for its suitability to work with children with disabilities. Among the animals are miniature horses, miniature Sicilian donkeys, Nigerian dwarf goats, hens, sheep, rabbits, barn cats and a pot-bellied pig. They provide a range of learning opportunities from walking them to grooming and feeding, depending on the specific abilities of the child. *Smaller animals are not only less intimidating for children, but their size allows children who are being taken care of most of the time to become care-takers. This is extraordinarily empowering and life-enriching.*

Our target population is children with physical, cognitive or developmental disabilities, aged 2- 12 years, who live in Chester County, and the surrounding Greater Philadelphia Region. **In 2017, our core staff of 2 fulltime and 1 part-time employee served 431 program enrollments, totaling 3,985 service hours—representing a 23% and 13% increase respectively over the previous year.** Over 335 volunteers provided more than 5,100 hours of service in support of The Barn and the children and families we serve. Our programs and reputation continue to attract experienced and dedicated volunteers who provide unprecedented one-to-one counsel and care for each of our child participants, and we anticipating serving the same if not more children as we come to the close of 2018.

The numbers of children and families affected by emotional, physical and developmental disabilities in our region continues to grow. **The 2015 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that 3,662 children with disabilities were living in Chester County alone, 3% of all children under the age of 18.** These numbers do not take into account the staggering new statistics on ASD. According to the Centers for Disease Control:

- One in every 59 children is now diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- ASD is about 4.5 times more common among boys (1 in 42) than among girls (1 in 189) and is reported to occur in all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups.
- About 1 in 6 children has a developmental disability.

Our Unique Programs

The Barn achieves its mission through four main programs: Camp Geronimo, Individual Programs, Educational Field Trips and Socialization Events. The Barn provides parent support in the form of seminars and mutual support groups, as well as a lending library of resources for families of children with special needs. Our facility also serves as an experiential learning site for health profession students from across the Delaware Valley.

Camp Geronimo: Our unique summer camp experience offers children the opportunity to have fun in a safe, secure setting while learning new skills that address their specific needs. Our six one-week sessions are led by a certified Physical Therapist with expertise in adaptive recreational therapy. A one-to-one ratio of counselors to campers allows children with a range of abilities to participate in summer camp, truly a first for many of them. A Registered Nurse is on site each day of camp to ensure each child’s needs are met. Camp Geronimo is our most popular program and can accommodate up to 96 children (16 per week) each summer.

Individual Programs: One-on-one programs are offered to children on a weekly basis. Children visit The Barn once a week for twelve-week sessions to work individually with an experienced volunteer. The Barn's staff develops a Barn Activity Plan to help set goals and track the child's improvements over time. Examples of goals include improving fine motor skills, developing communication skills and building self-esteem. Parents/Guardians are involved in the goal-setting process so we can best understand each child's capabilities and needs and determine how The Barn can complement any existing therapy or education.

Educational Field Trips: The Barn offers educational field trips to groups of students from local schools and programs such as the Chester County Intermediate Unit (CCIU), the ARC of Chester County, CADES, Overbrook School for the Blind, St. Edmund's Home for Children among others. Each group brings their own counselors and aides and sets goals in conjunction with The Barn's staff. Children, parents and staff participating in these field trips are often amazed at the extent of hands-on interaction involved.

Socialization Events: The Barn hosts four events (Spring Fling, Summer Splash, Autumn Festival and Pancakes with Santa) annually to help children and families meet others in the area with similar life experiences. These events also provide a space for families and children to have fun in a safe, secure environment free of judgement, allowing these children to just be children.

The Need for our Capacity Building Project

In 2016, The Barn's 10th anniversary, our Board and Advisory Board came together to develop a three-year strategic plan in order to set priorities, focus energy and resources, strengthen operations and to ensure that as an organization we were all working toward common goals in support of our mission. The mission, vision and guiding principles were newly defined and the group committed to six major goals with seventeen objectives. Biannually, the Board has assessed our progress in achieving the specified goals and objectives of the plan. As we near the end of the plan, we are most proud to report that we have attained nearly 100% of the goals and objectives. Our completed goals included:

- Formalizing a continuous improvement plan to ensure all programs met the needs of children and their families
- Implementing more comprehensive administrative and personnel policies
- Expanding awareness and visibility of The Barn throughout the county and surrounding communities
- Enhancing our volunteer program by creating formal guidelines for recruitment, retention, training, and appreciation
- Improving Board effectiveness through assessment of skills needed and formalizing a process to identify and recruit potential Board members
- Strengthening our financial position by targeting a more diverse funder base.

We have included our summary report on the achieved goals, as well as a report document delineating the progress we have made specifically in ensuring our programs meet the needs of children and families. The report prepared by Dr. Page Buck, in the Social Service Department at West Chester University, notes the impact of our work with children with Autism. We are most grateful for our collaborative relationship with Dr. Buck and the University.

Our Board president, Susan Elko and Executive Director, Emily McClure have guided the organization throughout the three-year period, ensuring that all involved retained a solid focus on the mission, vision and guiding principles. As our Board president completes her tenure and transitions leadership to our next volunteer leader, we feel strongly that the time is right for us to embark on our next three-year strategic plan. With your support, The Barn looks forward to participating in and completing a robust and inclusive strategic planning process for the period 2019 to 2022. We are committed to accomplishing our new goals and objectives with the same degree of intensity and effectiveness as with the current plan.

Strategic Planning Implementation

To support our endeavor, The Barn has engaged the services of Pam Bryer Consulting, specifically the expertise of Pamela Bryer MPH, CFRE. As you know from the Chester County Community Foundation's longtime leadership in our philanthropic community, Pam is a highly experienced and accomplished executive and consultant who has led many non-profits through successfully enhancing their capacity to provide impactful services and programs in our communities. The deliverables of Pam Bryer Consulting include:

- Review of all organizational documents (Needs Assessments, proposals, most recent financial reports, board minutes, and other documents relating to the organization, including reports related to the last Strategic Plan.)
- Meetings with Executive Director/Board Chair to identify and confirm goals and expectations for Retreat

- Meetings with staff and select board members to develop a summary of goals and outcomes identified in current Strategic Plan. A final summary report will include specific accomplishments, lessons learned and challenges met for each of the previous goals. A report on the implications for the next strategic plan (2019 to 2022) will be provided.
- Facilitating a Retreat in January/February 2019
- Preparation of Retreat Report including a draft of the Strategic Plan
- Preparation of final Strategic Plan with ED/Board Chair comments on the draft; as well as supporting documents related to Strategic Planning Process as discussed.

Pam Bryer Consulting proposes to begin the process in October 2018 and culminating with a final report and Board retreat in February 2019. The final plan document will serve to guide our Board, administrative, programmatic and budgetary endeavors for the next three year period. As with our current plan, our Board and staff leadership will assess our progress biannually and adjust our practices as needed to ensure successful completion of all goals and objectives.

The project budget of \$5,000 includes consulting fees (\$3,500); as well as costs related to facilitating meetings and Board retreat, including facility rentals, printing, refreshments and audio visual equipment rental (\$1,500).

It is our sincere hope that the Chester County Community Foundation will honor our mission by providing a Capacity Building grant to cover the total cost of our Strategic Planning process. We look forward to answering any questions you may have on our proposal and supporting documents.