

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: 9/12/18

Contact Information

Organization Name: Chadds Ford Historical Society
Address: PO Box 27 Chadds Ford, PA 19317

Phone: 610-388-7376

Website: www.chaddsfordhistory.org

Year Incorporated: 1968

Executive Director Name: Mike Connolly

Executive Director E-mail:

mconnolly@chaddsfordhistory.org

Board of Directors Chair Name: Phyllis Recca

Primary Contact Name: Tom Dempsey

Primary Contact E-mail:

Thomas.j.dempsey@hotmail.com

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, Delaware County

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:

The Society serves the general population. Approximately 15,000 members of the local community attend our annual events, including The Great Pumpkin Carve, Chadds Ford Days, our summer camps, and educational Tavern Talks. In addition, the whole community benefits from the preservation of the historic structures we preserve.

Mission:

Through the support and generosity of our members, visitors, and the community at large, we will serve by: Preserving and broadening access to our properties and resources, Interpreting; recording and cataloging Chadds Ford's unique history; Educating residents and visitors alike about Chadds Ford's past and present; Hosting community gatherings that promote and celebrate the spirit, beauty and history of Chadds Ford; Collaborating with local organizations to prepare Chadds Ford for the future.

Proposal Summary:

The Society would appreciate general operating grants. Sponsorships of specific community events are also encouraged, along with grants focused specifically on the preservation of our historic structures.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

Background: The Chadds Ford Historical Society

The Chadds Ford Historical Society was founded in 1968 by local residents to save the historic home of John and Elizabeth Chads. The Society has been the caretaker of our community's history ever since. Fifty years later, we are still hard at work preserving both the Chads and Barns-Brinton Houses, two important buildings which are approaching their three-hundredth year.

The Society offers education programs for students, including a popular summer camp with an American Girl Doll theme. On summer weekends, volunteers dressed in Colonial garb can be found in the Chads House baking bread in the beehive oven. The Society has developed innovative and engaging history programs geared towards adults as well. The Tavern Talks are a monthly series that focuses on a particular theme in colonial life, such as heading to the market, or the types of meals people enjoyed. Escape Brandywine is a very popular program that has an escape room theme, but with the twist that Revolutionary War coding and spy techniques are featured.

The Society also serves the community with major events like The Great Pumpkin Carve (Fall), Music in the Meadow (Spring), and the Candlelight Christmas Tour (Winter). These events are a key source of funding for the Society. But, perhaps more importantly, they also help to foster beneficial interaction among the many diverse groups who make up our community in Southern Chester County in Pennsylvania.

Challenges for the Society

The Chadds Ford Historical Society has a professional staff of three individuals. The Staff are instrumental in planning the educational programs that the Society runs. They are also responsible for preserving our large collection of colonial artifacts and documents. A professional staff is a valuable resource for an organization like ours, but our Board is cognizant of the increased funding required to support them.

The Society preserves highly-visible buildings that are important aids to interpreting the history of our community. Unfortunately, such historical gems require constant upkeep and maintenance. Additionally, the major events we sponsor are very important to the community spirit of Chadds Ford and the entire Southern Chester County area.

The Society's primary fundraising mechanism has historically been proceeds from the major events we hold every year, including The Great Pumpkin Carve and Chadds Ford Days. Because of their size, these events must be held outside. Naturally, this exposes us to real risk from the weather. A rained-out event could be devastating to the society's budget for the year. For example, in the spring of 2018 we were forced to cancel our Music in the Meadow event due to weather. This created a major hole in the Society's budget.

Diversifying our revenue stream is a key goal for our Board of Directors. One way that we are trying to address this is by increasing the role of our annual appeal. Every year, we launch an annual appeal to our followers on social media, subscribers to our newsletters, and our membership. The appeal reaches some 12,000 people but has not yet become a key source of funding for the Society.

The Annual Appeal is not the only way we are trying to diversify our revenue sources. The Society has also begun an outreach to corporate and business partners in the area to sponsor our outdoor events. These sponsorships have real value in that they help cover the costs of the event before the first ticket revenue is received. They also serve as a source of "weather insurance" by reducing our risk of financial loss.

How the Chester County Community Foundation Could Help

We ask that the Fund Advisors of CCCF's community of donor advised funds consider operational grants to support the work of the Chadds Ford Historical Society. This type of grant is very valuable to us since it helps to fund all of our initiatives.

Another way that the CCCF could help would be through a "matching gift" grant to our annual appeal. The Board is trying to increase the importance of the appeal as a funding source for the Society. One way to do that would be to tell donors that each dollar they contribute would be matched by an engaged philanthropic organization in Chester County.

Sponsorships of our individual events are also very helpful. As mentioned above, these sponsorships help to ameliorate the risk of adverse weather. They also give great visibility to the sponsors from the thousands of local residents who attend our events.

Finally, gifts targeted at funding the preservation and maintenance of our historic structures are also very helpful.