

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 Greater Philadelphia's Common Grant Application is used, the CCCF's Summary Sheet MUST accompany application. To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit [www.chescocf.org](http://www.chescocf.org)

**Date: 09/11/2018**

**Contact Information:**

Organization Name: Camp Dreamcatcher  
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Phone: 610-925-2998  
Website: www.campdreamcatcher.org

Contact Name: Patty Hillkirk  
Contact Title: Executive Director  
Fax: 610-925-0403  
Year Incorporated: 1999

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) \_\_\_ 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):

All of Chester County and other parts of PA, DE, NJ, NY, MD and VA

**Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:**

139 HIV/AIDS impacted youth, between the ages of 5-25. 25% of the youth are HIV/AIDS infected and 75% have an HIV/AIDS infected family member or have lost a family member to AIDS. 98% of the youth served come from low-income families and 50% have lost one or both parents. 260 counselors, medical personnel, professions and community members volunteer during the camp session.

**Mission:**

To provide safe, therapeutic and educational services to HIV/AIDS impacted youth and their families. To foster an atmosphere of tolerance, compassion, respect and understanding through volunteer opportunities, services and expanded community involvement.

**Proposal Summary:**

A grant will support our FREE programs for HIV/AIDS impacted youth, including a therapeutic camp session, weekend retreats, a mentoring program, holiday adopt-a-family program and HIV/AIDS education, training and community outreach.

**If Capacity Building Proposal:**

\_\_\_ Mission, Vision & Strategy \_\_\_ Governance & Leadership \_\_\_ Strategic Relationships  
\_\_\_ Fundraising & Development \_\_\_ Operations \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Budget** \$ 420,300

88 % of budget for program expenses  
9 % of budget for administrative expenses  
3 % of budget for fundraising expenses  
100 % total

1 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff  
11 # of Board Volunteers  
260 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers  
13,000/yr # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources: Wyss Charitable Foundation, Julian A. & Lois G. Brodsky Foundation, The Philadelphia Foundation and the Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation.

Grant Amount Requested from CCCF: \$ 7,000

## **Camp Dreamcatcher 2018-2019 Application**

### **1. Camp Dreamcatcher's history, goals, key achievements, and distinctiveness:**

Camp Dreamcatcher has been providing free services to HIV/AIDS impacted youth for over twenty-two years. In 1996, Patty Hillkirk, and a small group of concerned men and women, united to create a special place for children coping with HIV/AIDS. We offer the only therapeutic camp program for children coping with the HIV/AIDS on the East Coast and are one of only three such camps in the United States. All of our programs are free and children attending our programs come from Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Maryland and Virginia.

The mission of Camp Dreamcatcher:

- To provide safe, therapeutic and educational services to HIV/AIDS impacted youth and their families.
- To foster an atmosphere of tolerance, compassion, respect and understanding through volunteer opportunities, services and expanded community involvement.

### **SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST TWENTY-TWO YEARS:**

- **Total Number of unduplicated HIV/AIDS Impacted Youth served: 5,300 children**
- Camp Dreamcatcher has provided 23 camp sessions and 2 weekend7 retreats to children and families coping with HIV/AIDS
- Provided 34 Reunion Events for HIV/AIDS impacted children and their families
- 800 children have been served through our holiday Adopt-a-Family Program
- 1,000 counselors have attended our HIV/AIDS & Diversity Training
- HIV/AIDS education and outreach has been provided to over 500 schools and community groups, reaching over 20,000 people
- **168 of the total 260 (65%) volunteers during the camp session in 2018 were from Chester County.** These included counselors, medical personnel, professionals and community members.
- **THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS SINCE INCEPTION IS 220,000!**

### **2. Funding Request:**

Camp Dreamcatcher respectfully requests a \$7,000 grant from the Chester County Community Foundation to support our free programs for HIV/AIDS impacted youth.

### **Specific needs to be addressed:**

Camp Dreamcatcher is the only agency offering therapeutic and educational services in Chester County specifically for children coping with the reality of HIV/AIDS. We provide ongoing support for the children in Chester County coping with HIV through our therapeutic programs, advocacy with schools/medical personnel/other agencies, transportation to appointments and retreats, reunion events, mentoring program and our Adopt a Family Program during the Holidays. 85% of the youth served are African American, 7% Latino and 2% Caucasian, 1% Asian American and 6% Biracial. 98% of the youth come from low-income households and only 15% have access to free or affordable therapeutic and educational programs in their own communities. 25% of the children served are HIV/AIDS infected themselves and 75% have an HIV/AIDS infected family member or have lost a family member to an AIDS related complication. Our largest program is the therapeutic camp session and 79 females and 60 males participated in the program this year. There were 121 children between 5-17 years of age, and another 18 campers moved into the role of counselors at camp. Twenty-five of the children participated in camp for the first time in 2018.

### **Organizational impact:**

When Camp Dreamcatcher started over twenty-two years ago, we never imagined that our programs would expand beyond the camp session. We offer a "disclosure" camp experience, which means that the campers know about the HIV infection in their family. They are free to talk about the problems and concerns and feelings associated with the disease in a safe, therapeutic and confidential environment. We provide factual information about HIV/AIDS and dispel the myths and stigma associated with the disease. The campers, parents/guardians, hospital personnel and other referral agencies confirm the positive physical, emotional and social impact of the camp week program.

We offer programs throughout the year and there is always a waiting list for our programs. Camp Dreamcatcher provides a safe place for HIV/AIDS impacted youth to receive unconditional support, and for most, it is the only place they feel comfortable talking about HIV/AIDS. The children attending our programs are facing issues beyond HIV/AIDS. 70%

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have experienced some form of abuse, 50% have lost one or both family members and 25% have been diagnosed with a mental health condition. We are able to meet the complicated and changing needs of the youth served by Camp Dreamcatcher because of the dedication of our volunteers.

#### **Strategies to implement the organization's mission and anticipated outcomes:**

- To improve the physical and emotional health of the children. **115 therapeutic sessions** (psychotherapy, music therapy, art therapy, sessions with therapeutic dogs, yoga, equine mindfulness based therapy, wilderness based therapy and massage) were offered during the camp week. A new Mindfulness Center was launched at camp this year and included soft pillows, mindfulness cards/games, aromatherapy, sound therapy and weighted blankets.
- To offer educational sessions that explore issues, problems and concerns common amongst HIV/AIDS infected and/or affected youth. **45 age appropriate educational sessions** were provided on depression, HIV/AIDS, grief, eating disorders, body image, abuse, addiction, HIV medication compliance, conflict resolution, anger management, puberty education and suicide prevention. New programs included writing workshops for the 12-17 year-old campers. This year, the 16 & 17 year-old Leaders in Training became "Secret Agents of Kindness" and spent the camp week performing acts of kindness anonymously throughout camp. The Secret Agent Vow they created was "I solemnly swear to always be kind and make someone's smile shine." Their acts included setting and/or clearing tables in the dining room, placing "kindness rocks" throughout camp, smiling at everyone they met, befriending a camper who seemed lonely, leaving supporting notes on tables and much more.
- To increase knowledge about HIV/AIDS and to explore attitudes and values regarding this issue. The strategies offered to achieve this goal include our counselor training, HIV/AIDS education and outreach to schools and community groups and presentations by our Teen Speaker's Bureau and our Leaders in Training program participants.
- To give the children and adolescents attending our programs the chance to feel free from the secret of HIV/AIDS and have fun – just like any other kids! During the camp week, we provided **155 recreational programs**. These included arts & crafts, archery, karate, swimming, fishing, hiking, go-kart racing, an Escape Room, Hedgerow Theatre, miniature golf, dodge ball, basketball, horseback riding, Moon Bounce, Dorrie's Store (Dorrie is a donor from Connecticut who runs a thrift store and sends us great items throughout the year), hip hop dancing, volleyball and the annual John Flynn Concert! The teenagers enjoyed the new high ropes adventure course at Camp Saginaw.

**Timetable and anticipated outcomes of current programs:** All of the programs fulfill our mission of providing free therapeutic and educational programs to HIV/AIDS impacted youth and fostering an atmosphere of tolerance, compassion, respect and understanding through volunteer opportunities and community outreach.

- **Our New Counselor HIV/AIDS & Diversity Training** will be held in June and July in Kennett Square and on August 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> at Camp Saginaw.
- **Teen Leadership Retreat:** This annual weekend retreat will take place in the spring of 2019 at Camp NorthBay.
- **Support for young adults:** Our **Mentoring Program** offers an experiential learning environment for young adults whose lives have been touched by HIV/AIDS and empowers youth to understand their full potential as caring and compassionate citizens through the development of a mentor/mentee relationship. Our first Mentoring Training was held on June 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and the 10 mentees were matched with 10 mentors during the 2013 camp session. There are currently 13 mentors and 13 mentees working in the program and we will be holding another training in the near future for new participants.

- **The Paul Harris Human Potential College Scholarship** was established by long-term volunteer, Doug Harris, and awards a \$1,000 college scholarship to one male and one female camper on an annual basis.

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- **HIV/AIDS Education and Community Outreach:** Camp Dreamcatcher staff, volunteers and members of the “Teen Speaker’s Bureau” provide HIV/AIDS education and community outreach. In Chester County specifically, we offer outreach to Pennock Bridge Technical School, Kennett Middle School, Family Service of Chester County, HUB of Hope, the Garage Youth Center, Lincoln University, the Coatesville Youth Initiative, Standing Hope, Minding your Mind, Penn State Great Valley, Immaculata University and West Chester University.
- **Adopt-a-Family Program:** This annual program is held in November and December each year. In 2017, over 1,500 gifts were distributed to 190 children.
- **Family support and advocacy** services are provided throughout the year. These services include transportation to medical appointments, assistance with applications and serving as mentors to young adults as they make the transition into college life.
- **Therapeutic and Educational Camp Session: 139 youth attended the 2018 session in August.** We will welcome 130 HIV/AIDS impacted youth to our camp week, which will be held August 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at Camp Saginaw.

**Why is it important to fund this now?**

Programs are offered throughout the year and donors can choose what program(s) they would like to support. The options include sponsoring children for our camp session, our weekend retreats, adopting a family for our adopt-a-family program, supporting our mentoring program or our HIV/AIDS education, training and community outreach. Funding will enhance Camp Dreamcatcher’s future sustainability.

We experienced a crisis this summer when we opened the door of the garage, which houses all of our camp supplies, and found it was flooded. This happened the day before we moved into camp. We lost \$9,000 in supplies and these included medical supplies, flashlights/batteries, radios, bedding, pillows, art/craft items, shoes, socks, clothing, toiletries, etc. We threw out the damaged supplies and moved the rest into camp. We are currently accepting financial and in-kind donations to replenish what we lost in the flood.

**How impact and results will be demonstrated:**

Counselors and campers complete evaluations at the conclusion of each program. In addition, the campers complete psychological questionnaires. The results give us a more thorough understanding of the issues and concerns being faced by the campers and also the physical, emotional and social impact of the camp program. The information gathered through this process confirms the positive impact our programs have on the campers, caregivers and volunteers.

**The data below is from the 2018 Camper Questionnaires:**

1. Did camp increase your communication skills? Yes: 88%
2. Did you feel supported by volunteers and staff at camp? Yes: 89%
3. Was there someone you could talk to at camp? Yes: 96%
4. I felt I could ask for help at camp. Yes: 86%
5. It was easier to talk about HIV at camp. Yes: 88%
6. I enjoyed the activities. Yes: 97%
7. I could relate to the feelings and concerns of other campers. Yes: 92%
8. I made strong friendships at camp. Yes: 92%
9. I made new friends at camp. Yes: 98%
10. I would recommend camp to a friend. Yes: 92%
11. Is it important to have a place like Camp Dreamcatcher? Yes: 99%

