

# **CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET**

## **Contact Information**

Organization Name: **Daylesford Abbey**      Executive Director Name: Abbot Domenic Rossi  
Address                   : 220 S . Valley RD  
                                  Paoli, PA 19301-1900      Executive Director E-mail: rossid@aol.com  
Phone: 610-647-2530                              Board of Directors Chair Name: Abbot Domenic Rossi  
Website: <http://www.daylesfordabbey.org/>      Primary Contact Name: Fr. John Joseph Novielli  
Year Incorporated: 1963                              Primary Contact E-mail: Jnovielli@daylesford.org

Has your nonprofit ever applied to the Community Foundation? Yes

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

**Field/s of Interest:** Human Services & Religion

## **Organization Information :**

**Chester County is the primary area of operation**

**Daylesford Abbey** is home to a Norbertine community of twenty-seven Catholic priests and brothers in Paoli, Pennsylvania. The men live a life in common and seek to build a "communio" that can be shared with all who come to pray and serve with us. Among its ministries is an (*on campus*) Spirituality Center that provides programs to nurture and deepen faith for both groups and individuals (*often by spending a quiet day or retreat weekend at the Abbey*).

### **Vision:**

"To be a healing and reconciling community, an hospitable family, where any of God's children may find a sanctuary of healing and strength" (*excerpted from the Abbey's vision statement*)

### **Mission:**

"Daylesford Abbey exists to enrich the church by our Norbertine communio, nourished by contemplation on God's Word, made visible in worship and service within the local church."

1. Some 250 people join us for worship each Sunday, and that number more than triples for special occasions like Christmas and Holy week.
2. Most weekends we have groups who come to the Spirituality Center for some faith-based program and/or some time for quiet retreat. (*While many are Catholic, most are simply part of the broader Judeo-Christian tradition.*) Our community gathers for prayer in the Abbey church four times each day, and we encourage our guests to join us. Last year, over 2000 individuals participated in a Spirituality Center program.
3. Of special note are two particular ministries that the Abbey provides. First, we have some hundred people a month who come to the Abbey for "Spiritual Direction" (*a one-to-one companionship that uses*

*the gifts of fifteen women and men, who are credentialed spiritual directors). Second, we have an equal number of "Stephen Ministers". Again, they are women and men whose training enables them to gently accompany individuals in times of personal struggle (perhaps after an illness or at the loss of a loved one).*

4. To give just one more example of the people we seek to serve. The Abbey has an Outreach Committee that collects non-perishable food items (*usually gathered at the Sunday Eucharist*) and delivers them to Bethesda Project (*a ministry to the homeless in Philadelphia*), St. Gabriel's Food Cupboard (*based at our Norbertine parish in South Philadelphia*) and Mision Santa Maria (*which works with migrant worker families in our own Chester County*). Throughout the year, but especially at Christmas and Easter, we have special collections on behalf of these groups. Last year, we passed on almost \$ 17,000 that was donated through our Outreach envelopes.

#### **Proposal Summary**

The primary vehicle for us to speak to the community who pray and serve with us at Daylesford Abbey is the liturgy that takes place in the Abbey church. Several years ago, we put in a new sound system. However, we have been having problems with it of late and need to have an outside evaluation. This will cost \$ 7,500 and that is what we are requesting the Foundation to support.

**Annual Budget \$** 2,000.000

**Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:** \$7.500

## **HISTORY**

While Daylesford Abbey was founded in 1954, our Order was founded by Saint Norbert in 1121 in a French village called Prémontré. St. Norbert and his first followers pledged themselves to a life of progressive transformation and the Order soon spread all over Europe, including the foundation of the Norbertine Abbey of Berne in the Netherlands in 1134.

In 1893, Father Bernard Pennings and two other Norbertines from Berne Abbey came to the United States to minister to Belgian immigrants in Northern Wisconsin. They became the first Norbertine Abbey in America in 1925.

In 1932, Abbot Pennings sent a handful of Norbertines to open Archmere Academy, a college preparatory school for boys in Claymont, Delaware. Two years later, in 1934, the Norbertines were asked to open an archdiocesan high school for boys in South Philadelphia.

This culminated in opening a novitiate-seminary in 1954 at the Cassatt Estate in Daylesford. In 1963, the community moved about a mile away to its present location. In 1963, the community became independent from Wisconsin and, in 1971, became Daylesford Abbey. Soon thereafter, the Abbey began offering continuing education courses to the many people who joined us for prayer each Sunday morning. Eventually, this gave birth to a series of retreat programs that were open to all believers, and

soon we were having groups from a variety of schools and churches who used the Abbey for days of recollection, weeklong programs and weekend retreats.

In 2004, the Abbey remodeled its original building and opened what we call the Spirituality Center. Among our enclosures is our most recent Newsletter which lists some of the upcoming Center programs.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

**Find attached the following for your perusal and record;**

1. Copy of 501 (c) (3) federal tax-exempt letter
2. List of Board of Directors, with their affiliations
3. Most recent annual report and financial statement, audited if available
4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year and current fiscal year to date
5. If capacity building initiative, itemized budget (including external consultant's proposal, if applicable)
6. Current strategic plan. If your nonprofit does not have a current strategic plan, explain why.

For over 50 years, Daylesford Abbey has been home to cultural and spiritual programs in Chester County and the tri-state area. Many different religious and non-denominational nonprofit groups come to the Abbey for cultural and spiritual enrichment. These programs include retreats, seminars, book discussions, concerts, job fairs, art shows, and a variety of cultural and religious programs sponsored by our Spirituality Center.

We are presently in need of major repair to the roof of the Spirituality Center, which is estimated at \$50,000. The work has been commissioned to Crown Roofing Co. and hopefully will begin before the end of this calendar year. It is our request that a grant from Chester County Community Foundation will help to defray some of the expenses of repairing our roof so that we may continue our outreach program to those who seek cultural and spiritual renewal.