

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Date: November 26, 2018

Contact Information

Organization: The Parkesburg POINT (The POINT) Executive Director Name: Dwayne Walton
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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) X Fund for Chester County ___ Don't know/Not sure

Field/s of Interest:

___ Arts, Culture & Humanities ___ Environment/Animal Welfare X Education
X Health X Human Services X Religion

Organization Information:

Geographic Area Served The Greater Parkesburg and Coatesville Communities (Western Chester County).

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served: The POINT serves over 400 youth ages 8-18 annually. POINT students primarily come from the Octorara School District; however, approximately 20% of students now travel from Coatesville Area School District. Chester County is not immune to the debilitating, overwhelming effects of poverty. POINT students predominantly come from single-family households, 90% of which fall below the poverty level and many of whom have experienced homelessness, transient housing conditions, mental or physical abuse, hunger, are struggling or failing academically and have parents addicted to drugs/alcohol.

Mission: To empower youth and their families to live victoriously by offering a safe, engaging and Spirit-filled environment.

Proposal Summary: The POINT respectfully requests \$5,000 of general operating support.

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

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

Annual Budget \$705,000 _____ 3 FT/11 PT# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
74 % of budget for program expenses 14 _____ # of Board Volunteers
9 % of budget for administrative expenses 487 _____ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
17 % of budget for fundraising expenses 7,680 # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: Springbank Foundation (\$50,000), W.W. Smith Charitable Foundation (\$30,000), Nelson Foundation (\$10,000), Patricia Kind Family Foundation (\$10,000), & Stewart Huston Charitable Trust (\$10,000).

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

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

1. Organization's history, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness

The POINT was collaboratively founded in 2003 by local businesses, churches, and community leaders in the Borough of Parkesburg. Since its founding, The POINT has developed innovative strategies to address spiritual, physical, emotional and academic needs for an ever-increasing number of youth and has developed a reputation for excellence within the Greater Western Chester County community.

After 10 years of renting a 7600 sq./ft. warehouse and using it as a community center, The POINT launched a capital campaign in 2011-2013 which resulted in the purchase of a 4.25-acre property in Parkesburg. The property now hosts a 22,000 sq./ft. community center with an indoor skatepark, gymnasium, cafeteria, commercial kitchen, student chapel, fitness center, trade-skills workshop, classrooms and our community's local food cupboard. The POINT is in the final stages of a second campaign to install an outdoor skatepark, outdoor basketball court and to re-pave the parking lot.

Today, The POINT is open free of charge 5-6 afternoon/evenings a week and reaches over 1,000 youth through community outreach (bookbag drive, meals, motivational speaking) and directly serves over 400 youth through our core after school and evening programs. With the help of 487 volunteers and 20+ local churches, our program holistically addresses the physical, academic, emotional and spiritual needs of our community's most vulnerable youth. Each of our programs are designed around the following goals:

- 1) Provide access to a safe and supportive environment
- 2) Empower students to develop leadership skills, confidence and a positive identity
- 3) Encourage students to stay in school & set goals for post-secondary education/employment
- 4) Create access to activities, education and resources that promote a healthy lifestyle
- 5) Foster student's spiritual exploration and development

We are pleased to report that in our most recent survey of core students, 68% said The POINT helps them feel more motivated academically, 67% are doing better in school and 77% plan to enroll in college or a trade school after high school. Additionally, over 87% said that since coming to The POINT they feel more confident, better about themselves, have developed new friendship and over 79% said The POINT helps them avoid alcohol, drugs, and skipping/dropping out of school.

2. Funding request

The POINT respectfully requests \$5,000 of General Operating Support to help fund the ongoing expenses of our After-School Program in Parkesburg, PA.

Description of key initiatives

- ❖ **Academic Enrichment:** The POINT connects students to the support and resources needed to stay in school, improve grades, graduate on time and set goals for post-secondary education.
- ❖ **Health & Nutrition:** The POINT works in partnership with over 20 local churches to provide dinner for students, year-round. Without this program, many of our students would go hungry. Hunger has a direct impact not only on a child's health, but on their capacity to focus and thrive academically, socially and emotionally. The POINT also partners with MainLine Health and ChesPenn to provide free health services for our students and the community.
- ❖ **Sports & Recreation:** The POINT has a gymnasium, indoor skate-park and boxing gym. Sports and Recreation are very popular with our students, so we use it as an incentive through both formal and informal activities to keep students motivated and engaged academically.
- ❖ **Boys and Girls Program:** The Program provides students with inspirational teachings, mentoring, and structured activities designed to instill values of faith, hard work, integrity, service and leadership. It is our hope that every boy and girl who walks through our door experiences increased self-esteem, improves academically, grows deeper relationally and spiritually and exhibits leadership and kindness toward one another.
- ❖ **Music Program:** The POINT's Music Program is designed to provide students who have never seen/held an instrument with the opportunity to learn a few songs and/or to read music. A digital recording studio is also available for older students.
- ❖ **Hands-On-Training:** Hands-On-Training teaches students how do basic home plumbing, electrical work, fix drywall, culinary skills, car maintenance, and other important skills. This exposure empowers students to take advantage of the Vo-tech programs offered in their school and also helps to develop competencies, increase confidence, and cultivate career opportunities for students.

Specific needs and issues to be addressed

Chester County is one of the country's most affluent regions; however, it is not immune to the debilitating, overwhelming effects of poverty. POINT students predominantly come from single-family households, 90% of which fall below the poverty level and many of whom have experienced homelessness, transient housing conditions, mental or physical abuse, hunger, and are struggling or failing academically. The POINT provides our programs free of charge between 4PM and 8PM because, "the hours between 3PM and 6PM are the peak hours for juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and sex...(and)...teens who do not participate in afterschool programs are nearly three times more likely to skip classes than teens who do participate" (After School Alliance).

The lack of safety and overall sense of "fear" in Coatesville has influenced nearly 20% of our students now traveling from Coatesville in pursuit of a safe-haven at The POINT (some walking up to 6 miles). In a recent report of Chester County youth, 41.2% of youth have experimented with alcohol, 16% with marijuana, and 5.2% of youth have been involved with a gang (a rise from 4% in 2013). Additionally, in Octorara School District the graduation rate is 86%, 72% for economically disadvantaged youth. In Coatesville Area School District, the graduation rate is 78%, 73.06% for economically disadvantaged youth. The POINT primarily serves economically disadvantaged and minority youth; 40% of our students are African American, 20% Mixed Race, 10% Latino and 30% Caucasian. The POINT helps bridge the gap for these students, making high school graduation and post-secondary education obtainable.

Organizational impact if initiative is undertaken

Financial support of The POINT will help to produce the following outcomes:

- Students will report feeling safe and supported at The POINT
- Students will indicate resistance to risky behaviors including gangs, sex, drugs, and alcohol
- Students will not skip or drop out of school
- Students will set goals for post-secondary education and/or employment
- Students will improve literacy
- Students will increase grades and/or maintain positive grades
- Students will report an increase in self-esteem and confidence
- Students will develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ

Our impact is demonstrated through students like Addy.

For Addy, The POINT bridged the gap from homeless/orphaned teen, to high school graduate, to college student. At age 18, a senior in high school, Addy's family became homeless and she had to disengage from all extracurricular activities to work at The POINT's neighboring laundromat, so she could help support her family. When The POINT learned of Addy's situation they quickly intervened. The POINT knew Addy was bright, motivated and eager to go to college. The POINT was able to connect Addy with both the support and mentorship she needed to excel academically and graduate high school. Addy is now enrolled at Cairn University (partially under a "Lighthouse" scholarship Cairn provides POINT students) with plans to one day work as a Victim's Advocate (Watch Addy's story: <https://vimeo.com/264320523>).

How will this grant enhance your organization's capacity?

A significant portion of The POINT's funding is restricted to specific program activities, equipment purchases, building renovations or populations that we serve. General operating support allows us the flexibility to direct funding to where it is needed most in our agency so that we can most effectively carry out our mission and maintain high quality staff, programs and volunteers.

How will this increase in organizational capacity be measured?

An increase will be measured by volunteer growth and level of commitment, the number of students served annually, student retention rates from year-to-year, and our student's academic, behavioral and social outcomes.

Activities to implement the initiative.

The POINT's organizational budget is \$705,000. Our programs are provided free to students ages 8-18 and are ongoing throughout the year. During the school year our programs run Monday – Thursday from 4-8PM and during the summer Monday-Thursday 12:30 - 6:30PM. The POINT also provides a variety of leadership, enrichment and recreational opportunities on Friday nights or weekends throughout the year. General Operating funds will help The POINT achieve the following goals and objectives:

1) Create an environment where youth feel safe and supported:

- The POINT provides a place where teens feel safe and supported by utilizing the help of over 400 volunteers and making their space available (for free) during the critical out-of-school time hours.

2) Empower students to develop healthy relationships, leadership skills, confidence and a positive identity:

- Girls and Boys Program: Provide weekly and monthly opportunities for students to interact with positive adult role models while engaging in a variety of activities, games and hearing inspirational messages. Staff and volunteers utilize the time to discuss critical topics of depression, anxiety, eating disorders, self-esteem, body image, substance abuse, family dynamics, healthy relationships and future goals.
- Leaders In Training: Older students who have demonstrated a high level of commitment receive training to help facilitate activities for younger students where they can discuss home, family and school issues at age-appropriate levels. This opportunity fosters leadership and empowers our students to serve as friends and mentors to their younger peers.

3) Encourage students to demonstrate a commitment to learning by staying in school, graduating, & setting goals for post-secondary education and/or employment:

- Tutoring: Students have access to tutors and computers daily to assist with homework assignments.
- Incentives: The POINT provides academic incentives to help foster persistence towards a goal.
- College Prep: The POINT takes students to visit colleges throughout the year and has partnerships with several local colleges/universities that provide scholarships for a select number of our students (Cairn University, Eastern University and Delaware County Community College). We also have partnerships with two local trade schools (Williamson Trade School and Thaddeus Stevens Trade School).
- Mentoring: Volunteers mentor students' one-to-one to provide additional support outside of our regular program hours.
- Hands-On Training: The program provides opportunities for students to learn various skills including culinary, plumbing, electrical and automotive.

5) Create access to activities, education and resources that foster Personal Growth and a healthy lifestyle

- Recreation: The POINT provides at least 30 minutes of supervised recreation daily.
- Healthy Meals: Area churches sponsor dinner for students at The POINT daily. There are currently 20+ local churches that help us prepare and serve over 20,000 meals annually.
- Basic Health Care: Main Line Health sends a nurse bi-monthly to The POINT to perform health screenings and provide information about maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Additionally, ChesPenn Health provides quarterly dental screenings, dental health kits and education about maintaining good oral health.

6) Foster Spiritual exploration and development

- The POINT works in partnership with over 400 volunteers from 20+ local churches.
- Bible Studies are provided for students on a weekly basis, year-round, that provide opportunities to study God's word and practically apply it to their everyday lives.
- Student retreats and mission trips are provided for students throughout the year.

Why it is important to fund this now

The POINT provides a safe and supportive environment for an ever-increasing number of at-risk youths during the hours in which they would otherwise be home-alone, unsupervised. Youth who are "frequently bored" increase their chances for substance abuse by nearly 50% (National Center for Addiction). Mike Noone, Chester County's First Assistant District Attorney said he classified the current drug crisis as, "the number-one public health epidemic in this country right now" (2017). Coatesville Police Chief Jack Laufer III, also says, "this epidemic knows no boundaries. It's not just a city problem. It impacts all communities. In Chester County, it's pervasive and it's everywhere" (Chester County Press, 2017).

There are over 400 students currently being served by The POINT, the majority of whom bring complex issues of homelessness, poverty, abuse, hunger and/or illiteracy. Financial support of The POINT is critical to ensure we can continue to meet the preventative and interventional needs of our community; ensuring every child who walks through our door has access to the support and resources needed to reach his/her potential.

3) How impact and results will be demonstrated

The POINT administers post program surveys and works with the schools to track student's academic performance and graduation rates. Information collected is used to measure the program's success and to continuously refine and improve our services.

III. ATTACHMENTS

1. Copy of 501 (c) (3) federal tax-exempt letter (See attached)
2. List of Board of Directors, with their affiliations (See attached)
3. Most recent annual report and financial statement, audited if available (See attached)
4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year and current fiscal year to date (See attached)
5. If capacity building initiative, itemized budget (N/A)
6. Current strategic plan (See attached)