

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

Contact Information

Organization Name: Melmark

Address: 2600 Wayland Rd, Berwyn PA 19312

Phone: 610-325-4953

Website: www.melmark.org

Year Incorporated: 1966

FEIN: 23-6399542

Executive Director/CEO Name: Rita M. Gardner

Executive Director/CEO E-mail:

advancementops@melmark.org

Board of Directors Chair Name: Larry Cancro

Primary Contact Name: Ellen Mansfield

Primary Contact E-mail:

ellenmansfield@melmark.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):

Chester and Delaware Counties

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:

Melmark is a comprehensive multi-service agency, providing residential, educational and therapeutic services for 105 children and 215 adults with autism, intellectual disabilities, brain injuries, and other neurological and genetic diagnoses.

Mission:

Melmark is a multi-state human service provider with premier private special education schools, professional development, training, and research centers.

We are committed to enhancing the lives of individuals with autism, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and their families by providing exceptional evidence-based and applied behavior analytic services to every individual, every day.

Proposal Summary:

Melmark requests a \$4,900 grant to purchase specialized wooden desks for students in the Melmark School. The Melmark School offers services to children and adolescents, ages 5 to 21, with learning difficulties and challenging behaviors stemming from intellectual and developmental disabilities. The school program is offered across a 10-month school year plus six-week Extended School Year (ESY) programs for day students and residential students.

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

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

Annual Budget \$ <u>94,978,000</u>	<u>796</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>92</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>12</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>8</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>338</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>1</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>3,700</u> # of Volunteer Hours
<small>100 % total</small>	

Top 3-5 funding sources:

The Wawa Foundation, Boeing Employees Community Fund, and Melmark families have all contributed to this project.

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$ 4,900

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

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

Paul and Mildred Krentel established Melmark in 1965 as a home for children with developmental disabilities after their youngest daughter, Melissa, was born with Down syndrome. In 1966, with the financial help of friends and family, they moved into a 35-room mansion in Berwyn, Pennsylvania, that remains the site of Melmark's Pennsylvania campus. The initial mission was to provide a safe and nurturing home for Melissa and other children with developmental disabilities. As these children grew and required formal education, the Krentels opened an approved, private special education school that has expanded several times to meet demands for additional enrollments.

Over the next 30 years, with philanthropic support from friends, families, and associates, Melmark's services and resources increased significantly. Melmark New England, a community-based, approved private school opened in Andover, Massachusetts, in 1998. The New England team brought many years of clinical and administrative expertise in service to children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other neurological disorders resulting in complex behavioral profiles. The expertise and clinical systems from this team facilitated the expansion of services for autism and complex behavioral profile students now served at Melmark PA. In 2018, Melmark created a program to serve children with autism in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Today Melmark provides residential, educational, vocational, and clinical services for 105 children and 215 adults on the Berwyn, Pennsylvania campus. Melmark's varied programs promote independence and help each individual grow to his or her fullest potential. We deliver highly individualized and effective, evidence-based services utilizing the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) while emphasizing personal achievement. Melmark's programs and services are offered in a homelike environment of warmth, care, and respect.

2. Funding request

- **Description of key initiatives**
- **Specific needs and issues to be addressed**
- **Why it is important to fund this now**
- **How impact and results will be demonstrated**

Melmark's students include children with autism, Down syndrome, and acquired brain injury. Many of these children have been referred to Melmark because they have challenging behaviors that cannot be addressed by their home school districts. Children with developmental disabilities like autism often exhibit challenging behaviors because they:

- may have trouble understanding what is happening around them – for example, what other people are saying or communicating non-verbally;
- do not have effective ways of communicating their own wants and needs, which leads to frustration; and/or
- are very anxious.

As a result, some children attempt to throw classroom furniture in frustration or otherwise behave disruptively.

Melmark requires new specialized desks for the school that are sturdier, and are constructed to help prevent tipping from students displaying challenging behavior. These desks will also be able to be used by the students as

they grow. Melmark has identified these specialized wooden desks manufactured by Quality Products. This particular desk has been piloted at Melmark and deemed to fulfill the students' needs in several ways:

- It is weighted at the bottom in a way that prevents children from tipping it over.
- It adjusts in height so it will grow with the child. The desk will move with the child as he or she grows and changes classrooms.
- It is designed with a wider base and top than a typical classroom desk. The wider top is useful because Melmark School children often have iPads or other communication devices stationed on their desks in addition to notebooks or workbooks. The wider base allows children in wheelchairs to use the desks as well.

Each classroom holds six to eight children, grouped together based on age and developmental abilities. Each desk costs \$350. A grant of \$4,900 will pay for the desks for two classrooms, for a total of 14 children.

It is important to fund this need now, so that Melmark can provide a safe and successful environment for students. The purchase of these new desks supports a decrease in challenging behavior and an increase in the opportunity for learning and growth. Impact and results will be demonstrated through the tracking of the frequency of challenging behaviors in the classroom associated with desks. A decrease in these disruptions will allow for more time for skill building and individual success.

III. ATTACHMENTS

E-mail or mail this support information

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.

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- **E-mail proposals to grants@chescocf.org.** Receipt will be confirmed by e-mail.
 - Please contact Grants Administrator Kevin Baffa at (610) 696-8211 grants@chescocf.org with questions.

Chester County
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
*Connecting people who care with causes that matter,
so their legacies make a difference.*