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

Date: 09/10/2019

Contact Information:
Organization Name: Camp Dreamcatcher
Contact Name: Patty Hillkirk
Address: 148 West State Street, Suite 104
Contact E-mail: campdreamcatcher@kennett.net
Phone: 610-925-2998
Website: www.campdreamcatcher.org

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 ___ 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:
135 HIV/AIDS impacted youth, between the ages of 5-29. 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. 100% of the youth served come from low-income families and 50% have lost one or both parents. 270 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
$ 429,329
88 % of budget for program expenses
9 % of budget for administrative expenses
3 % of budget for fundraising expenses

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


Grant Amount Requested from CCCF: $ 7,000
Camp Dreamcatcher 2019-2020 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-three 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. All of our programs are free and children attending our programs come from Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Maryland and Virginia. 70% of the children served are from Philadelphia and the surrounding counties. We are currently providing services throughout the year to twenty-three HIV/AIDS impacted youth in Chester County.

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-THREE YEARS:
- Total Number of unduplicated HIV/AIDS Impacted Youth served: 5,600 children
- Camp Dreamcatcher has provided 24 camp sessions and 28 retreats to children and families coping with HIV/AIDS.
- We provided 35 Reunion Events for HIV/AIDS impacted children and their families.
- 960 children received gifts through our holiday Adopt-a-Family Program.
- 1,100 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.
- 175 of the total 270 (65%) volunteers during the 2019 Camp Session were from Chester County. These included counselors, medical personnel, professionals and community members.
- THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS SINCE INCEPTION IS 240,000!

2. Funding Request:
Camp Dreamcatcher 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 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. 92% of the youth served are African American, 3% Caucasian, 1% Asian American and 4% Biracial. 100% of the youth come from low-income households and only 13% 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 and AIDS related complication. Our largest program is the therapeutic camp session and 75 females and 60 males participated in the program this year. There were 122 children between 5-17 years of age, and another 13 campers moved into the role of counselors at camp. Twenty of the children participated in camp for the first time in 2019.

Organizational impact:
We provide a “disclosure” camp experience, which means that the campers know about the HIV infection in their family. They are free to talk about the 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. All of the children, ages 5-17, attend HIV/AIDS educational groups during the camp session. The campers, parents/guardians, hospital personnel and other referral agencies confirm the positive physical, emotional and social impact of the camp week program.
The children attending our programs are facing issues beyond HIV/AIDS. 70% have experienced some form of abuse, 50% have lost one or both family members and 25% have been diagnosed with a mental health condition. Over the past five years, there has been an increase in the number of families that are homeless or at risk of losing their homes and/or healthcare benefits. There has also been an increase in the number of children experiencing serious mental health issues and trauma; and often conditions like anxiety, suicidal ideation, family or community violence, addiction, abuse, eating disorders, depression, and self-harm are first identified during our camp session. Our therapeutic team assesses the level of care necessary during the camp session and beyond. We have strong connections with the hospital personnel, social workers and therapists that refer children to our programs. During, or after the camp session, we connect families with support systems in their own communities or continue to provide therapeutic and advocacy services through Camp Dreamcatcher.

**Strategies to implement the organization’s mission and anticipated outcomes:**
What started as a one-week camp session has expanded to year-round programming. Our camp session continues to be our largest program. It was held August 18th – 24th and 135 HIV/AIDS impacted youth and 270 volunteers participated in the session.

**Program Goals and Outcomes:**
- To improve the physical and emotional health of the children. **112 therapeutic sessions** (psychotherapy, music therapy, art therapy, and sessions with therapeutic dogs, yoga, mindfulness therapy, wilderness-based therapy and massage) were offered during the camp week. Our“Charlotte’s Circle” therapeutic center is where all of the groups are held, and it is filled with soft pillows, beanbag chairs, weighted blankets, aromatherapy, mindfulness games and sound machines.

- To offer educational sessions that explore issues, problems and concerns common amongst HIV/AIDS infected and/or affected youth. **50 age appropriate educational sessions** were provided on depression, HIV/AIDS, grief, eating disorders, body image, abuse, addiction, HIV medication compliance, leadership, teambuilding, conflict resolution, anger management, puberty education and suicide prevention.

- 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 **160 recreational programs**. These included arts & crafts, archery, karate, swimming, fishing, hiking, go-kart racing, movies on a giant blow up screen, the Hedgerow Theatre, miniature golf, dodge ball, basketball, horseback riding, a camp wide carnival, Dorrie’s Store, dancing, cooking, a visit from the Brandywine Zoo and the annual John Flynn Concert!

- **We offer Progressive Leadership Opportunities.** At the age of fifteen, the campers become Senior Campers, and can participate in the Wilderness-based Therapy Program. **Camper Quest** is a journey all 15-year-old Senior Campers participate in during the camp session. Camp Dreamcatcher has adapted the concepts of creating a safe and healing space for youth to explore their emotional availability while embarking on a three day/two-night adventure into the woods of Camp Saginaw. While on the overnights, counselors, and staff facilitate group team building challenges, teach basic camping skills such as outdoor cooking, hygiene and safety practices, fire building and adventure challenges. Campers are encouraged to share their experiences, ideas, and topics for discussion and are supported by staff and volunteers. During this time they will be asked to journal, support one another, and step outside of their comfort zones both physically and mentally to completely benefit from the program. Camper Quest is challenging and fun and provides campers an opportunity to break away and find themselves. Also at the age of 15, campers are invited to participate in the **Teen Leadership weekend retreats** for 15-17 year-olds and to begin the two-year track of the **Leaders in Training Program** at camp for 16 & 17 year-olds. The program provides a variety of therapeutic, educational, team building, leadership building, and life skills programming. Topics include resume writing, budgeting, college scholarship applications, interview skills, and cooking. The **Camper to Counselor (CTC) Program** is for counselors who are 18 years of age and above. The program provides additional training and support to this wonderful group of young adults as they transition from the role of a camper to a counselor at Camp Dreamcatcher. The first CTC Retreat was held at Camp NorthBay in May of 2019.
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.

Other Programs:
- **Counselor HIV/AIDS & Diversity Training** is held in June and July in Kennett Square and in August at Camp Saginaw.
- The **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.
- The **Paul Harris Human Potential College Scholarship** was established by a long-term volunteer, Doug Harris, and awards two $1,000 scholarships per year to college bound campers.
- **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. Over 10,000 people are reached through our education and outreach efforts each year.
- **Adopt-a-Family Program**: This annual program is held in November and December each year. In 2018, over 1,500 gifts were distributed to 145 children.

Why is it important to fund this now?
Donors can support specific programs, or general operating expenses. The options include sponsoring children for our camp session, supporting our weekend retreats, college scholarship program, our adopt-a-family holiday gift program, our mentoring program or our HIV/AIDS education, training and community outreach. The Camp Dreamcatcher Board of Directors began a Strategic Planning Process in February of 2019, and we will complete the plan in November of 2019. It includes an overview of our current programs and accomplishments, interviews with a cross section of stakeholders (campers, staff, parents/guardians, donors and board members) and a focused set of goals and actions for the next three years. Funding from CCCF will enable us to sustain our dream of providing free therapeutic and educational programs to the growing number of children in need of our services.

How impact and results will be demonstrated:
HIV/AIDS impacted youth and volunteers complete evaluations at the conclusion of each program. The results give us an understanding of the positive physical, emotional and social impact of our programs.

The data below is from the 2019 Camper Questionnaires:
- Did you feel accepted at camp? Yes 100%
- Did you have fun at camp? Yes 100%
- Do you feel safe at camp? Yes 100%
- Did you feel supported by the staff and volunteers at camp? Yes 100%
- Did you feel there was someone to talk to at camp? Yes 99%
- Is it important to have a place like Camp Dreamcatcher? Yes 99%
- Did you feel like you could ask for help at camp? Yes 96%
- Were you able to talk openly about HIV/AIDS at camp? Yes 96%
- Did you make new friends at camp? Yes 95%
- **How were the staff and volunteers supportive of you?**
  - “They picked up the broken pieces of me.”
  - “They support us emotionally and physically when we are going through issues or anything.”
  - “They love me.”
- **What makes Camp Dreamcatcher special to you?**
  - “This is where my family is. This camp is perfect.”
  - “I can talk about my illness to friends without them saying “ewww.”
• “We care for each other like a big family would.”
• If you could share one part of Camp Dreamcatcher with the world, what would it be?
  • “That it is a safe place.”
  • “The love we have here. People need love.”
  • “That you can love people with HIV/AIDS.”