

## 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](http://www.chescocf.org)

Date

### Contact Information

Organization Name: Thorncroft Equestrian Center  
Address: 190 Line Road, Malvern, PA 19355

Phone: 610-644-1963

Johnston

Website: [www.thorncroft.org](http://www.thorncroft.org)

Year Incorporated: 1981

[Gary@thorncroft.org](mailto:Gary@thorncroft.org)

FEIN:

Executive Director/CEO Name: Sallie Dixon

Executive Director/CEO E-mail:

[Sallie@thorncroft.org](mailto:Sallie@thorncroft.org)

Board of Directors Chair Name: Richard

Primary Contact Name: Gary Klemowicz

Primary Contact E-mail:

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

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** Thorncroft serves students ages 5-85 with and without special needs in Chester, Delaware and Philadelphia Counties.:

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

Now in our 50th year, Thorncroft continues to use the common bond of horsemanship to develop the physical and emotional well-being of our riders in an environment of love and respect helping them grow and excel in ways never believed possible. The Farm welcomes approximately 350 students each week. Fully 50% of our riders have at least one disability either physical, mental or emotional including autism, PTSD, Down Syndrome as well as other diagnoses.

### **Mission:**

Founded in 1969 Thorncroft strives to develop the physical and emotional well-being of all who come to the Farm. In an environment of love and respect, Thorncroft helps individuals grow and excel in ways never believed possible.

**Proposal Summary:** Now in our 50th year, Thorncroft continues to use the common bond of horsemanship to develop the physical and emotional well-being of our riders in an environment of love and respect helping them grow and excel in ways never believed possible. What began with one visually impaired rider and an inherent belief in the therapeutic power of horses has evolved into a vibrant program serving over 350 riders each week, children and adults including veterans who served

our country as far back as WWII. Fully 50% of our riders have at least one disability either physical, mental or emotional including autism, PTSD, Down Syndrome as well as other diagnoses.

A grant from the Chester County Community Foundation would support Thorncroft's commitment to helping individuals of all abilities and financial backgrounds, heal, grow and develop through the use of our 24 instructors, over 30 horses, 2 indoor arenas on 70 acres of open space in Chester County Pennsylvania. The 2019 budget for the Scholarship Fund for Therapeutic Riding is \$62,000. This will provide financial assistance to approximately 70 riders and their families (up from 65 in 2018) who otherwise would be unable to afford our therapeutic riding services.

**If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:**

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

**Annual Budget** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,364,591 \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff  
\_\_\_ 75 \_\_\_ % of budget for program expenses    \_\_\_ 15 \_\_\_ # of Board Volunteers  
\_\_\_ 22 \_\_\_ % of budget for administrative expenses    \_\_\_ 212 \_\_\_ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers  
\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_ % of budget for fundraising expenses    \_\_\_ 10,680 \_\_\_ # of Volunteer Hours  
100 % total

**Top 3-5 funding sources:**

Individual Giving  
Corporate Sponsorships  
Foundation Grants

**Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:** \$ \_\$2,500\_\_\_\_\_

## **History, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness:**

Unique in its longevity in the therapeutic riding community Thorncroft is one of the leading continuously operating nonprofit organizations of its kind. The Farm continues to grow and evolve as we seek to meet the demand for service. A successful Capital Campaign enabled the construction of a second indoor riding arena, the expansion of meeting and office space. In addition, the Farm was able to purchase remaining acreage to designate Thorncroft as a mortgage free preserved open space in perpetuity.

Thorncroft uses the common bond of horsemanship to develop the physical and emotional well-being in an environment of love and respect helping students grow and excel in ways never believed possible. Fully 50% of Thorncroft students have at least one disability either physical, mental or emotional including autism, PTSD, Down Syndrome as well as other diagnoses.

The work and mission of Thorncroft is steeped in science and experience. The Farm has provided opportunities for researchers to study equine physiology, hippo therapy and biomechanics. Through this research as well as first-hand experience Thorncroft has learned that the bilateral movement of the horse teaches the human body the correct motion of walking. This research is the basis of therapy whereby riders gain balance, strength, mobility and improved self-esteem. The potential is limitless and the progress palatable every day as staff and instructors witness individual accomplishments and hurdles once thought out of reach.

## **Funding request:**

Living with special needs often results in mounting medical bills for prescriptions and special equipment. In order to ensure that our services are available to those most in need, Thorncroft offers scholarship assistance to families who otherwise would be unable to afford our services.

In 2018, Thorncroft awarded \$67,220 in scholarship to 65 students who, due to financial constraints, were unable to afford our equestrian-related therapeutic programs. The average scholarship awarded is \$2400 per year which covers 4 lessons per month. Funding from the Chester County Community Foundation would enable Thorncroft to continue to serve those in need as well as grow the Scholarship Fund to help those special riders from Chester County, Delaware and Philadelphia Counties in need of financial assistance.

A grant from the Chester County Community Foundation will support Thorncroft's commitment to helping individuals of all abilities and financial backgrounds, heal, grow and develop through the use of our 24 instructors, over 30 horses, 2 indoor arenas on 70 acres of open space in Chester County Pennsylvania. The 2019 budget for the Scholarship Fund for Therapeutic Riding is \$62,000. This will provide financial assistance to approximately 70 riders and their families (up from 65 in 2018) who otherwise would be unable to afford our therapeutic riding services.

## **Programs Offered**

Thorncroft's goal is to provide programs that fully integrate the needs of riders by effectively mainstreaming students with and without special needs. All students learn and ride together in a supportive environment of respect and love. Our philosophy is to use the horse and farm environment as motivational tools to enhance skill development, stimulate learning and build self-confidence. A core value of Thorncroft is to create a space where people of all abilities can work and learn together. Staff, students and volunteers of all abilities are role models to all by showing their ability to accomplish a task

or do a job. Together they achieve and learn leadership skills that cannot be provided by special needs schools or programs.

Thorncroft also offers a summer camp experience. This camp introduces students to the excitement, challenges and responsibilities of horseback riding and care. While learning respect and cooperation with each other campers' days are filled with horse related activities. Thorncroft also hosts a Counselor in Training (CIT) program as part of this camp. CIT's must be 13 years or older.

Working with very nearby Bryn Mawr Rehab, Thorncroft created "The Therapeutic Riders Division of the Devon Horse Show" which would coincide with the nationally renowned Devon Horse Show. Sunday winners of the different divisions are invited to compete for the Hope Montgomery Scott Grand Champion at the Devon Horse Show Grounds. Eleven riders competed in that first show, setting a standard of excellence, and creating the foundation for a show that has grown to recently include over 175 riders from the northeast. The original ring located quietly and safely in the indoor arena, has exploded to include two dressage arenas, two trail classes, equitation, jumping and musical kurs. Over the many years devoted volunteers and riders have nurtured and developed the show to where it is today, a nationally respected competition.

As part of the Special Equestrian Events offered throughout the year at Thorncroft, we invite therapeutic riding programs throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania to participate in clinics for the continuing education of instructors, as well as spring and fall horse shows at our Farm, specifically designed for riders with disabilities. In addition, riders from our Spring Horse Show are eligible to move onto the "Therapeutic Riders Division" at the Devon Horse Show, the oldest horse show in the US.

In May 2019 Thorncroft was selected by US Equestrian and The United States Para-Equestrian Associated as a USA Para Center of Excellence (COE) Thorncroft is one of only 8 in the country to receive this distinction. As a part of our certification as a COE Thorncroft will work closely with USEF/USPEA to identify potential Para Dressage riders. We will also host clinics and promote awareness of the Para Equestrian sport. Para Equestrian Dressage is the only Equestrian discipline that is included in the Paralympic games. We look forward to Tokyo 2020!

In addition to joining this elite group, Thorncroft is a Premier Accredited member of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Int'l); the only national governing body of therapeutic riding. Our staff includes twelve PATH certified instructors.

The work and mission of Thorncroft is funded through grants, individual donations, special events as well as with fees for service. The organization is governed by a 15-member Board of Directors and supported by the time and talent of over 200 volunteers. Thorncroft's Scholarship Fund for therapeutic horseback riding was established at our founding in 1969 and is a core part of our historic mission. We are grateful for your consideration of this request.

### 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](mailto:grants@chescocf.org).** Receipt will be confirmed by e-mail.
  - Please contact Grants Administrator Kevin Baffa at (610) 696-8211 [grants@chescocf.org](mailto:grants@chescocf.org) with questions.
- questions.