

**I. CHESTER  
COMMUNITY**

**GRANT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES**

**COUNTY  
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: September 11, 2019**

**Contact Information**

**Organization Name:** Kennett After-School Association    **Executive Director Name:** Dawn Doherty Kohl  
**Address:** PO Box 1068, Kennett Sq., PA 19348    **Executive Director E-mail:** [executivedirector@afterthebell.org](mailto:executivedirector@afterthebell.org)  
**Phone:** 610-268-5889    **Board of Directors Chair Name:** Dr. Rudy Karkosak  
**Website:** [www.afterthebell.org](http://www.afterthebell.org)    **Primary Contact Name:** Dawn Doherty Kohl  
**Year Incorporated:** 1998    **Primary Contact E-mail:** Same  
**FEIN:** 23-2984132

**Organization Information:**

**Field/s of Interest:**

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

**Mission:** After-The-Bell provides a supervised after-school program of recreational, social, and academic skill-developing activities for Kennett Middle School students. The program is led by community volunteers and provided without charge.

**Geographic Area Served:** All students attend middle school in the Kennett Consolidated School District, which includes the communities of Kennett Square Borough, Kennett Township, New Garden, and a portion of East Marlborough. While the majority of students attend Kennett Middle School, the program is available to students who reside in the district and are home-schooled or attend charter schools.

**Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:** In 2018-19, 342 unique students attended After-The-Bell, representing 33.7% of the total population of Kennett Middle School students. Last year, 52% of our students were eligible for Free & Reduced Lunch, 17% had Special Needs, and 42% lived in homes where Spanish was the primary language spoken. In regard to ethnicity, 40% of students were Caucasian, 53% were Hispanic, 2% were African American, 1% were Asian, and 4% were multiethnic. Students participated in 145 activities, including 10 new activities. A total of 169 people, including 71 high school students, volunteered in the program last year.

<b>Annual Budget</b> \$ <u>203,797</u>	<u>2</u>	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>72.2</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>15</u>	# of Board Volunteers
<u>14.3</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>155</u>	# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>13.5</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>~3125</u>	# of Volunteer Hours
<small>100 % total</small>		

**Top 3-5 funding sources:** Top Funding Sources Already Allocated for 2019-20

- The United Way of Southern Chester County - \$24,820
- Beiler-Campbell Realtors - \$19,000 (Beiler-Campbell named ATB as a recipient of proceeds from 2019 Charity Golf Tournament. This was a one-time gift.)
- CCRES - \$5,000

**Is this grant proposal for:** Capacity Building \_\_\_ or General Operating \_\_\_?

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

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

**Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:** \$ 500 – 7,500

**Proposal Summary:** After-The-Bell was founded by three caring members of the Kennett Square community who believed that the people of Southern Chester County would be willing to donate their time and financial resources to keep vulnerable middle-school students safe and engaged after school. Now, 21 years, more than 6,000 students, and more than 1,000 volunteers later, it is obvious that their belief in the generosity of this community was well-founded. The donor-advised funders of the Chester County Community Foundation have been integral to the success of our founders’ vision. Financial gifts we have received from these donors help us to provide an extraordinary array of meaningful and education activities for approximately 350 students each year. These funds enable us to purchase supplies, provide healthy snacks for hungry students when they first arrive, and pay for transportation to amazing offsite facilities as well as providing students with a bus ride home each day.

## II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

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

**History** – After-The-Bell (ATB) was created in response to a Kennett community listening study, conducted in the late 1990s, that revealed deep concerns among parents, law enforcement officials and community leaders about the welfare of adolescent students home alone after school. Evidence indicated that students between the ages of 11-14 were at a greater risk to be exploited by older children and adults, and/or to begin engaging in risk behaviors that could imperil their futures. The Kennett After-School Association (KASA) was established in 1998 to create a program to address these concerns and provide a safe, educational and fun place for middle school students to go after school. The KASA Board reached out to the community to seek financial support and to recruit volunteers willing to donate their time to create an engaging place for these young people to go after school. The Board also formed a vital partnership with the Kennett Consolidated School District (KCSD). Although the district was not asked to provide financial support for the program, they do provide the use of Kennett Middle School (KMS) to house the program at no cost. In addition, administrators, teachers and support staff regularly volunteer in the program, offer guidance on the creation of activities, and help to encourage the enrollment of students who could benefit from the services offered in the program. ATB opened its doors to 80 students in January 1999 and this fall, we will welcome our 6,000<sup>th</sup> student!

**Goals** – Each year, ATB staff creates a series of goals to enhance the program and the experience of our children. These goals are approved by the KASA Board. In the coming year, our goals include plans to Celebrate Our Diversity, specifically recognizing the incredible diversity of the students we serve, the volunteers who make this all possible, the activities we offer, and the community members and organizations that support our efforts. Other goals include the creation of a vibrant, new, interactive website; plans to increase our board by 2-3 members to better represent our diverse population; efforts to identify new funding sources; and further enhancing our mutually-beneficial relationship with KMS and KCSD.

**Key Achievements** - The following were among key achievements at KASA/ATB during the last year:

- During our 2018-19 program year, we celebrated ATB's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We were thrilled that staff, board members, volunteers and students proudly joined in the celebration of this important milestone. We held a number of events to mark the anniversary, and with the support of local news media, we received significant publicity about the contributions ATB has made in the Kennett Community for the last 20 years. The publicity helped us to attract new supporters who are now valued members of the ATB family.
- In March 2019, After-The-Bell was named a Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network (PSAYDN) AFTERSCHOOL CHAMPION in the *QUALITY* category. The award was based on "exemplary commitment, dedication, and outstanding work in supporting meaningful high quality afterschool/out-of-school time (OST) for children and youth in your community."
- The following are examples of some new activities we added to our roster in 2018-19:

***You're the Author!*** – In a new partnership with the National Youth Foundation, students work together to write a book about a person who inspires them. The final book will be entered into a competition for national publication.

***Cops & First Responders*** – Police and fire department representatives describe what it is like to be a First Responder and teach students the importance of being good citizens as they obey the laws and support the men and women who answer the call.

***Mindful Minutes*** – Students learn to conquer stress and sadness through hands-on activities such as crafting, dance, meditation, and music. Students keep mindfulness journals that help them to document their journey to a happier life.

**Distinctiveness** – After-The-Bell is different than many other after school programs in both its structure and scope. The program is open to all middle school students who reside in KCSD at no cost to any family and with no financial or physical barriers to attendance. Students of all abilities are welcome to attend and participate at any level that is deemed safe and appropriate. Each year, a significant percentage of our students have been identified with special needs. Those students who have aides during the school day also have aides with them at ATB. However, most special needs students do not have aides, and this is where our wonderful volunteers make all the difference. They are patient and caring and work hard to ensure that each child has a rewarding experience. We often assign high school students to work one-on-one with special needs students to make sure they can have that sense of accomplishment by completing an art project, tasting treats they made themselves, or racing a homemade car down the hallway at KMS.

Another feature that sets ATB apart is our level of supervision. Students may not come and go as they please. They sign up for specific activities and we take attendance multiple times during each session to ensure that students are where they are supposed to be. Students wear different name badges each day that list the activities they are in on that day, making it possible for us to easily monitor their whereabouts at all times. If a student does not show up for ATB on any given day and we were not informed in advance of their absence, we call the parents to check on the safety of the child.

## 2. Funding request

**Description of key initiatives** – After-The-Bell is fortunate to have a dynamic team of staff, volunteers, board members, and community partners who are committed to providing a uniquely beneficial program for adolescent students in the Kennett community. The most important ongoing initiative is the design and implementation of activities for students that will provide meaningful, educational, forward-reaching, and fun activities for students. We really want to open their eyes to new passions and new possibilities. Each year, we brainstorm about activities that can excite and inspire our students. We seek volunteers who bring their expertise and their enthusiasm into our classrooms. We work with educators in the school district to find ways to enhance educational outcomes by providing activities that are relevant to our students and their worlds. The following are examples of the new activities we will be offering in 2019-20:

***Wonders of Winterthur*** – Students have the opportunity to take a behind the scenes tour of this extraordinary Museum, Garden and Library. They will travel back in time to see how families gathered and children played in centuries past, and they will have the chance to wander through exquisite gardens and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere of this magical place.

***Science Explorers*** – Participating students will learn about the joys and mysteries of science through interactive, hands-on exploration. They will concoct “magical mixtures,” experiment with the forces of physics, and learn why science is a truly awesome field of study.

***KMS Giving Garden*** - In partnership with our wonderful hosts, Kennett Middle School, our students will be working in a community garden, growing vegetables and fruits to support local families and the Kennett Food Cupboard.

***A Taste of Mexico and South America*** – Our students will learn to make and enjoy wonderful ethnic dishes to share with family and friends.

**Specific needs and issues to be addressed** – Monetary gifts from the generous funders of the Chester County Community Foundation help support After-The-Bell in multiple ways. We utilize these funds to purchase sports equipment, cooking and art supplies, science kits, calculators, games, puzzles, and many other items. We use funds to help pay for transportation to offsite locations such as the Kennett YMCA, the Stroud Water Research Center, the Land Conservancy’s Bucktoe Creek Preserve, and New Garden Airfield. Donated funds also support efforts to provide students with a healthy snack each day. The donations support administrative costs such as insurance, computers, and student ID badges.

We are proud that our unique program makes it possible to offer the students we serve such a wide variety of activities, and this is only possible due to the kindness of organizations and individuals who support our mission.

**Why it is important to fund this now** – Like many other not-for-profit organizations across the country, the most significant challenge KASA has faced in the last two years is the loss and reduction of funding from some of our long-time supporters. We are extremely grateful to the many foundations that have chosen to award funds to After-The-Bell, while remaining mindful of the many other organizations in need of support. While ATB does not apply for or receive government funding, many of these other organizations have relied on support from federal, state, and local sources to sustain their operations. Political and social changes, primarily at the federal level, have led to the loss of government funding for some of these organizations, requiring them to turn to private foundations to close their budget gaps. This, in turn, has had an impact on our organization as foundations that have previously provided funding to After-The-Bell are overwhelmed with applications, making the process much more competitive. In addition, changes to tax laws regarding charitable giving have reduced our income from individual donors.

Our Board of Directors is committed to maintaining the quality of activities we offer without turning away a single child. To continue this commitment in light of the loss of funding, over the last two years we have needed to transfer money from our reserve account. Careful management of our reserve account has helped to replenish any funds that we needed to transfer. However, with current concerns about volatility in the Stock Market, we are hoping to avoid taking money out of the reserve account in the coming year.

**How impact and results will be demonstrated** – We are committed to keeping students safe, to ensuring that they feel welcomed and happy while they are at After-The-Bell, to introducing them to new interests, and to providing them with opportunities to expand their educational horizons. To ensure that we are successful in this commitment, we survey both students and volunteers at the end of each cycle to ask them about their experience. The following are some of the key results we saw in our 2018-19 surveys:

The following are key metric results from 2018-19:

99% of students said they had a positive experience at After-The-Bell.

81% of participants said ATB helped them to become better students.

80% of participants said they had learned a new skill or developed a new interest.

99% of students said they found ATB to be a place of respect for self and others.

100% of adult volunteers said they had a positive experience at ATB, and all volunteers rated it as Excellent.

100% of adult volunteers felt that ATB promotes respect, promotes improved interpersonal relationships, and promotes exploration of varied opportunities.

100% of adult volunteers and 97% of high school volunteers would recommend volunteering at ATB to others.

In addition to the student and volunteer surveys, we also survey KMS teachers of students in our *Brain Base* academic assistance activity to determine if the activity has a positive impact on their school performance. In 2018-19, teachers reported that 69.1% of *Brain Base* students saw their GPAs rise during participation, including 7.4% of students who experienced significant GPA improvement.

### 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.

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

- (610) 696-8211 [grants@chescocf.org](mailto:grants@chescocf.org) with questions.