

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Date September 26, 2019

Contact Information

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Has your nonprofit ever applied to the Community Foundation? Yes ___ No X Not Sure ___
Has your nonprofit ever received funding from the Community Foundation? Yes ___ No ___ Not Sure ___
___ Donor Advised Fund(s) ___ Fund for Chester County X Don't know/Not sure

Field/s of Interest:

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

Organization Information:

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served):

Kennett Square area/Southern Chester County

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:

95 members, involved with numerous civic activities, including grantmaking, serving all of Southern Chester County

Mission:

Longwood Rotary official mission statement:

- To establish, support, manage, and supervise programs of a philanthropic, charitable, educational, or other eleemosynary nature without regard to race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.
- To operate and maintain a not-for-profit corporation organized exclusively for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes.

Proposal Summary:

It has been shown that pre-K is a reliable predictor of success in Kindergarten, El-Hi education, college and life. And yet, 71% of eligible Chester County children do not have access to high-quality publicly funded pre-k.

There are 324 eligible children ages 3-4 in the Kennett Consolidated School District (Kennett Square, PA). Of those, 185 are unserved. Longwood Rotary will commit \$25,000 a year for three years to fund subsidies to local high-quality pre-k providers to address this disparity.

Now, Longwood Rotary is seeking matching funds for this project, and has begun the process of submitting grant applications to those foundations that share the focus of improving education for underserved populations.

Annual Budget \$ 225,600 0 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
52 % of budget for program expenses 7 # of Board Volunteers
12 % of budget for administrative expenses 88 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
36 (gala) 100 % of budget for fundraising expenses over 10,000 # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

Gala - \$145,000
Other donations and sources - \$80,600

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$ 25,000

CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

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

The Rotary Club of Kennett at Longwood Foundation (Longwood Rotary) was created in 2000 as the nonprofit fundraising arm of the Rotary Club of Kennett at Longwood. It is a 501(c)3 organization that raises funds and disperses those funds as grants to local charities.

Longwood Rotary specializes in implementing and funding sustainable change. Locally, they have become a major funder and volunteer pool for the parenting and kindergarten readiness camps that are part of this project. On a larger scale, Longwood Rotary was involved with the creation of Operation Warm, which now is a nationwide effort, and they continue to support it financially.

Longwood Rotary has about 95 members, and beyond its annual granting functions (about \$73,000 per year) can commit an additional at least \$25,000 a year for three years to a new initiative. Between the large number of volunteer hours available and the funds designated to a focus area, Longwood Rotary is positioned to make a significant difference in the lives of pre-k children in the Southern Chester County area.

2. Funding request

The Rotary Club of Kennett at Longwood Foundation (Longwood Rotary) asks the Chester County Community Foundation to please consider a grant of \$25,000 to help fund a new initiative – the Kindergarten Readiness Project. Longwood Rotary will commit to matching this grant every year over a three year period - \$25,000 per year, or a total of \$75,000 of their own funds.

The Need

It has been shown that pre-K is a reliable predictor of success in Kindergarten, El-Hi education, college and life.

High-quality pre-k reduces the need for special education by nearly 50%, reduces grade repetition by nearly 33%, and increases the likelihood of high school graduation and college enrollment. The "domino effect" of affordable accessible pre-k impacts the preservation of tax dollars, a reduction in crime and incarceration, and a stronger economy.

And yet, 71% of eligible Chester County children do not have access to high-quality publicly funded pre-k.

There are 324 eligible children ages 3-4 in the Kennett Consolidated School District (Kennett Square, PA). Of those, 139 are enrolled in high-quality, publicly funded pre-k, leaving 184 unserved. This project will begin to address this disparity.

There is a well-documented learning gap that exists between children of different races and socioeconomic status. These learning gaps are exhibited in children by age 2 indicating that children who are not even halfway to kindergarten are already well behind their peers.

CCCF Grant Proposal Narrative from Longwood Rotary – page 2

Background and Detail - Description of key initiatives

In the Fall of 2018, Longwood Rotary conducted a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) involving 36 community leaders and those interested in the future of the Longwood area. It was determined that the focus area of greatest concern and with the greatest chance of immediate impact was pre-k education.

As an early step, Longwood Rotary partnered with the Kennett Kindergarten Readiness Collaboration that includes community leaders, school officials, and representatives from local high-quality day care centers, as well as numerous Longwood Rotarians. The Kindergarten Readiness Collaboration has as their core purpose: "To promote

K-readiness in a way that it becomes a community-wide investment, in a way that all children and families have the fundamentals for the educational process and literacy.”

It operates several workgroups that meet regularly, functioning as action committees:

- The Kindergarten Readiness Advocacy Group
- A Literacy Workgroup
- A Supporting Vulnerable Families Workgroup (reaching the most at-risk families in our community)

With their narrow focus and numerous volunteers from Rotary and the community, they can achieve realistic operational goals.

Why it is important to fund this now

Every day that goes by without addressing this “gap” means that dozens of local preschoolers will fall further and further behind.

How impact and results will be demonstrated

The Advocacy Group will be creating a follow up report that will show attendance and impact for these student and families. There will be reasonable, achievable metrics and they will be compared to actual results on a school year basis.

Additional Details

Criteria for Pre-K Subsidies in Order of Priority for Use by Pre-K Providers

- Financial Need—Fits 300% of the poverty guidelines
- Children 4 years old by priority, then 3-year-old children
- Parents financially participating—Amount to be decided by the respective preschools.
- Parents will be involved with the preschool and community in some identified way. (Volunteerism is a possibility, as well.)
- 4-Star (Pennsylvania State rating) day care facility

Parenting Classes

Locally, there are five main components of pre-k education:

- Parenting classes – parents are the first teachers
- Day care scholarships

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- Transportation
- Food
- Summer camps

Parenting classes are a main component of pre-k success. Cultural and socio-economic differences can prevent wholly or in part the lessons learned at a day care center in a pre-k curriculum. Longwood Rotary will be funding these classes as a separate project - \$10,000 per year for three years.

How Subsidies Will be Determined

The Readiness Collaboration will not be involved in deciding who or what families receive the subsidies, and the pre-k centers will work with very well-defined guidelines. The goal is to help as many families as possible and the Collaboration believes strongly that the families should have some financial commitment.

It should be noted that there may be public funding forthcoming for some of these pre-k children, but there will always be a greater need than what the public funding will cover. The Kindergarten Readiness Project will fill in the gaps for those children who cannot afford pre-k without help.

Sustainability of the Project

At the end of the project period – three years – a number of possibilities for the future of the project will emerge, but the three with the greatest likelihood of being considered are:

- Creating a separate nonprofit to carry on the limited mission as developed by the Kindergarten Readiness Project with continued Longwood Rotary funding.
- Find existing nonprofits that can assume the work of the Kindergarten Readiness Project.
- Continue to manage the project, and continue with the yearly level of support, seeking other outside funding or revenue sources.

Outcomes

- Subsidizing and/or providing for as many slots as possible based on fundraising.
- Involving other local Rotary clubs and other service organizations in the Project. Longwood Rotary is making presentations about this project to them.
- Creating a pool of funds from a variety of sources that can be used to create subsidies for pre-k, then as funds are available, to cover transportation to and from pre-k, any food costs that may arise, and summer camps that prepare children for pre-k.

Summary and Thank You

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this proposal, and thank you for all you do for the nonprofit community.