

I. **CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET**

Date: November 14, 2019

**Contact Information**

**Organization Name:** The Parkesburg POINT  
**Address:** 700 Main Street  
P.O. Box 731 Parkesburg, PA 19365  
**Phone:** 610-857-3393  
**Website:** www.parkesburgpoint.com  
**Year Incorporated:** 2003  
**FEIN:** 03-0399261

**Executive Director Name:** Dwayne Walton  
**Executive Director E-mail:** Dwayne@parkesburgpoint.com  
**Board of Directors Chair Name:** Dr. James Holt  
**Primary Contact Name:** Sarah Daniels  
**Primary Contact Email:** sdaniels@parkesburgpoint.com

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) X Fund for Chester County \_\_\_ Don't know/Not sure

**Field/s of Interest:**

\_\_\_ Arts, Culture & Humanities \_\_\_ Environment/Animal Welfare  
X Health X Education  
X Human Service X Religion

**Organization Information:**

**Geographic Area Served:** The Greater Parkesburg and Coatesville Communities (Western Chester County).

**Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:** The POINT serves over 400 youth ages 8- 18 annually. POINT students primarily come from the Octorara School District; however, approximately 20% of students travel from Coatesville Area School District. Most POINT students come from single-parent households, 90% of which fall below the poverty level and many of whom have experienced homelessness, transient housing conditions, mental or physical abuse, hunger, are struggling or failing academically and have parents addicted to drugs/alcohol.

**Mission: To empower youth and families to live victoriously by offering a safe, engaging and Spirit-filled environment.**

**Proposal Summary: The POINT respectfully requests \$5,000 of general operating support.**

**Annual Budget** \$841,329

69.5 % of budget for program expenses  
7.8 % of budget for administrative expenses  
22.7 % of budget for fundraising expenses  
*100 % total*

3 FT 7 PT # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff  
15 # of Board Volunteers  
275 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers  
7,695 # of Volunteer Hours

**Top 3-5 funding sources: Individuals, Special Events, Springbank Foundation, W.W. Smith Charitable Trust, & The Rite Aid Foundation.**

**Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:** \$5,000

## II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

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

The POINT was collaboratively founded in 2003 by local businesses, churches, and community leaders in the Borough of Parkesburg. Since its founding, The POINT has developed innovative strategies to address spiritual, physical, emotional and academic needs for an ever-increasing number of youth and has developed a reputation for excellence within the Greater Western Chester County community.

After 10 years of renting a small warehouse, The POINT launched a capital campaign in 2011-2013 which resulted in the purchase of a 4.25-acre property in Parkesburg. The property now hosts a 22,000 sq./ft. community center with a full gymnasium, cafeteria, e-gaming center, ninja warrior obstacle course, commercial kitchen, student chapel, boxing gym, trade- skills workshop, academic classrooms and our community's local food cupboard. Most recently, The POINT completed the addition of an outdoor skatepark and basketball court .

Today, The POINT is open free of charge 5-6 afternoon/evenings a week and reaches over 1,000 youth through community outreach (bookbag drive, meals, motivational speaking) and directly serves over 400 youth through our core after school and evening programs. With the help of over 275 volunteers and 20+ local churches, our program holistically addresses the physical, academic, emotional and spiritual needs of our community's most vulnerable youth. Each of our programs are designed around the following goals:

- 1) Provide access to a safe and supportive environment
- 2) Empower students to develop leadership skills, confidence and a positive identity
- 3) Encourage students to stay in school & set goals for post-secondary education/employment
- 4) Create access to activities, education and resources that promote a healthy lifestyle
- 5) Foster student's spiritual exploration and development

We are pleased to report that in our most recent survey of core students, 96% said they feel safe, supported and cared for at The POINT, 76% said they feel more motivated academically, 52% improved literacy skills and 77% set goals for post-secondary education and/or employment. Over 83% increased confidence and self-esteem and 77% said they made new friends at The POINT. Additionally, 73% are getting in trouble less and over 88% said The POINT helps them avoid experimenting with alcohol, drugs, and sex. And finally, 92% said The POINT helps them avoid skipping/dropping out of school.

**2. Funding request:** The POINT respectfully requests \$5,000 of General Operating Support to help fund the ongoing expenses of our After-School Program in Parkesburg, PA.

#### Description of key initiatives

The POINT's After School Program is available to students Monday – Thursday from 4-8PM during the school year and continues in a modified format M-Th from 12:30 – 6:30PM during the summer. The following are our key initiatives:

- ❖ **Academic Enrichment:** The POINT connects students to the support and resources needed to stay in school, improve grades, graduate on time and set goals for post-secondary education.
- ❖ **Health & Nutrition:** The POINT provides dinner daily at 6PM and both lunch and dinner during the summer. The POINT also partners with MainLine Health and ChesPenn to provide free bi-monthly health services for our students and the community.
- ❖ **Sports & Recreation:** The POINT has a gymnasium, ninja warrior course, skate-park and boxing gym. Sports and Recreation are very popular with our students, so we use it as an incentive through both

formal and informal activities to keep students motivated and engaged academically. Special clinics are offered on a rotating bases and include judo, gymnastics, basketball, soccer, dance, boxing and skating.

- ❖ **Boys and Girls Program:** The Program provides students with inspirational teachings, mentoring, and structured activities designed to instill values of faith, hard work, integrity, service and leadership.
- ❖ **Music Program:** The POINT's Music Program is designed to provide students who have never seen/held an instrument with the opportunity to learn a few songs and/or to read music.
- ❖ **Bible Studies/Missions:** The POINT provides voluntary Bible studies for students, year round. During the summer months, students also have opportunities to attend mission trips where they are empowered to serve and give back to others.
- ❖ **Hands-On-Training:** Hands-On-Training teaches students how to do basic home plumbing, electrical work, fix drywall, bike repair, car maintenance, and other important skills. This exposure empowers students to take advantage of the Vo-tech programs offered in their school and also helps to develop competencies, increase confidence, and cultivate career opportunities for students.

### **Specific needs and issues to be addressed**

Chester County is one of the country's most affluent regions; however, it is not immune to the debilitating, overwhelming effects of poverty. Most POINT students come from single-parent households, 90% of which fall below the poverty level and many of whom have experienced homelessness, transient housing conditions, mental or physical abuse, hunger, and are struggling or failing academically. The POINT provides our programs free of charge between 4PM and 8PM because, "the hours between 3PM and 6PM are the peak hours for juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and sex...(and)...teens who do not participate in afterschool programs are nearly three times more likely to skip classes than teens who do participate" (After School Alliance).

The lack of safety and overall sense of "fear" in Coatesville has influenced nearly 20% of our students now traveling from Coatesville in pursuit of a safe-haven at The POINT (some walking up to 6 miles). In a recent report of Chester County youth, 41.2% of youth have experimented with alcohol, 16% with marijuana, and 5.2% of youth have been involved with a gang (a rise from 4% in 2013). Additionally, in Octorara School District the graduation rate is 86%, 72% for economically disadvantaged youth. In Coatesville Area School District, the graduation rate is 78%, 73.06% for economically disadvantaged youth. The POINT primarily serves economically disadvantaged and minority youth; 40% of our students are African American, 20% Mixed Race, 10% Latino and 30% Caucasian. The POINT helps bridge the gap for these students, making high school graduation and post-secondary education obtainable.

### **Why it is important to fund this now**

The POINT provides a safe and supportive environment for an ever-increasing number of at-risk youths during the hours in which they would otherwise be home-alone, unsupervised. Youth who are "frequently bored" increase their chances for substance abuse by nearly 50% (National Center for Addiction). Mike Noone, Chester County's First Assistant District Attorney said he classified the current drug crisis as, "the number-one public health epidemic in this country right now" (2017). Coatesville Police Chief Jack Laufer III, also says, "this epidemic knows no boundaries. It's not just a city problem. It impacts all communities. In Chester County, it's pervasive and it's everywhere" (Chester County Press, 2017).

There are over 400 students currently being served by The POINT, the majority of whom bring complex issues of homelessness, poverty, abuse, hunger and/or illiteracy. Financial support of The POINT is critical to ensure we can continue to meet the preventative and interventional needs of our community; ensuring every child who walks through our door has access to the support and resources needed to reach his/her potential.

## How impact and results will be demonstrated

The POINT administers post program surveys and works with the schools to track student's academic performance and graduation rates. Information collected is used to measure the program's success and to continuously refine and improve our services. Students served by The POINT will demonstrate the following outcomes:

- Students will report feeling safe and supported at The POINT
- Students will indicate resistance to risky behaviors including gangs, sex, drugs, and alcohol
- Students will not skip or drop out of school
- Students will set goals for post-secondary education and/or employment
- Students will improve literacy
- Students will increase grades and/or maintain positive grades
- Students will report an increase in self-esteem and confidence
- Students will develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ

Impact is also demonstrated through students like Bianca. Bianca is a POINT student whose mom passed away after a long battle with cancer 4 years ago. Bianca's mom left behind 4 daughters and 4 grandsons who all lived with her in Parkesburg. Several months after the passing of her Mom, Bianca's family lost everything in a house fire, including their oldest sister who was wheelchair bound and unable to get out. Bianca's older sister took custody of Bianca and her siblings in addition to her own 4 children. Bianca has faced far more loss and trauma than most students her age. The POINT has been a constant source of love and support for her - providing meals, Christmas gifts, clothing and financial assistance for Bianca's family as they tried to get by without the support of a parent.

Since the age of 8, Bianca has been a faithful attendee at The POINT. Bianca said she was always drawn to The POINT and enjoyed being "surrounded by loving people" and that for her, The POINT is "family". As Bianca entered into high school, she struggled academically. She barely passed 9th grade and when she got to her senior year, she was 2 classes short of graduating. Bianca was required to complete 2 online courses to graduate and said she could not have completed them without The POINT's support. Bianca utilized The POINT's computer lab daily to complete her assignments and stayed motivated with the help of staff and tutors. Bianca made a promise to her mother that she would graduate high school. We are thrilled to share that Bianca graduated in May 2019. When asked what she plans to do after high school, Bianca says, "I want to change the world". Bianca has dreams of opening an affordable hair salon and childcare center because she says, "helping others feel confident, beautiful and happy brings me so much Joy".

Bianca says that without The POINT, "I would not have graduated high school." She said The POINT is a, "judgement free place that supported her no matter what." Financial support of The POINT ensures more at-risk youth like Bianca have access to the love, support and resources needed to succeed.

On behalf of our Board, Staff and Students, thank you for the kind consideration.

### III. ATTACHMENTS

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.