

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Date: November 15, 2019

Contact Information

Organization Name: Phoenixville Community Education Fdn
Address: PO Box 348, 120 Main Street
Phoenixville, PA 19460
Phone: (610)933-5911
Website: www.PCEFonline.com
Year Incorporated: 2002
FEIN: 14-1855127

Executive Director Name: Joan Cadigan
Executive Director Email: jcdigan@pcefonline.com

Board of Directors Chair Name: Cindy Stevens
Primary Contact Name: Joan Cadigan
Primary Contact E-mail: jcadigan@pcefonline.com

Has your nonprofit ever applied to the Community Foundation? Yes **XX** No__ Not Sure__
Has your nonprofit ever received funding from the Community Foundation? Yes **XX** No__ Not Sure__
XX Donor Advised Fund(s) ___ Fund for Chester County ___ Don't know/Not sure

Field/s of Interest:

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

Organization Information:

Geographic Area Served: Borough of Phoenixville, Schuylkill Township, East Pikeland Township

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served: We serve approximately 4,000 children ages 3 through 18 years old residing within the Phoenixville Area School District boundaries.

Mission: To secure and provide resources that enhance the overall educational experience within the Phoenixville Area School District, including learning initiatives, preparedness programs, and out-of-the-classroom activities

Proposal Summary: Phoenixville Community Education Foundation is seeking \$2,000 in support for our Pack a Backpack and Phantom Food Pack programs serving financially disadvantaged students residing in the Phoenixville area.

Annual Budget \$ <u>375,655.00</u>	<u>1.5</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>89.0</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>17</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>5.5</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>70+</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>5.5</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>650</u> # of Volunteer Hours
<i>100 % total</i>	

Top 3-5 funding sources: Annual Dinner/Auction; Phoenixville Community Health Foundation; Phoenixville Area School District

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$ 2,000.00

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

1. Phoenixville Community Education Foundation history, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness

Founded in November of 2002, Phoenixville Community Education Foundation (PCEF) is a 501c3 nonprofit charitable corporation dedicated to improving the quality of public education in the Phoenixville area. The foundation has grown from providing \$500 in funding to one program in its first year to supporting over 30 programs with approximately \$272,000.

The goal of the Phoenixville Community Education Foundation is to help the children of Phoenixville to thrive, thereby strengthening the entire community. PCEF provides funding for programs and projects that fall outside of the school district budget - including after-school clubs and organizations, area pre-schools, and community organizations delivering outside the school day educational programs. PCEF serves students in grades Pre-K through 12. Programs we support range from remedial to robotics. It is the foundation's goal to have a positive impact on every child in our district through the programs we support.

Phoenixville Community Education Foundation is unique in the community in that it connects the students, parents, and greater community with the public school district. With all parties working together, we are able to provide funding to support a multitude of programs for students in the district so that they ALL have the resources and opportunities to achieve success inside and outside of the classroom

A few key achievements:

- Provided weekend food packs to 70+ food-insecure children during the 2018-19 school year.
- Distributed \$30,500 in scholarships/awards to 26 students in the PAHS Class of 2019.
- Granted \$9,000 to PASD teachers to bring innovative learning opportunities into their classrooms.
- Provided \$8,000 in grant funds to PASD principals to support educational initiatives in their buildings.
- Granted \$12,512.85 to 230 students with financial need in order to participate in extracurricular and educational activities/field trips.
- Recipient of the "2014 Community Betterment Award" from the Phoenixville Regional Chamber of Commerce and received citations from the Pennsylvania State House & Senate, and the Chester County Board of Commissioners.
- Our biggest annual "fund and friend" raiser, held in March 2019 at RiverCrest Golf Club, welcomed over 300 members of our community. PCEF raised over \$90,000 to fund educational programs for children.
- Since 2002, PCEF has granted over **\$2.7** million to support education in the Phoenixville area.

2. Funding request:

a. Description of key initiatives

Grant funding will be used to support our two "back pack" initiatives. Some of the funds will help provide fully stocked backpacks at the start of the school year for economically-disadvantaged students residing in the Phoenixville area and to continue to replenish those supplies as needed throughout the school year. Students identified by the schools as living at or below the poverty line based on his/her family's eligibility for the federal free and reduced lunch program--or students from families who have fallen temporarily on hard times are eligible to receive backpacks and supplies. For the current school year (2019-20), over 400 backpacks and thousands of dollars of school supplies were distributed in grades preschool through 12th grade at all of the Phoenixville Area School District buildings and Phoenixville Area Children's Learning Center.

The balance of the grant funds will be used to support our Phantom Food Packs program which provides supplemental nutrition over the weekend to our kindergarten through second grade food-insecure students. The objective is to keep these students nourished and healthy so they may continue to be successful in the classroom.

The program currently services 73 students each week. We estimate that there are at least that many siblings in the program households, so in 2018-2019, this program reached at a minimum 120 children, but we believe it assists closer to 225 people.

Our Food Packs program allows these food-insecure students to have adequate nutrition over the weekend. Students in the program no longer must spend energy on worrying whether they will have meals over the weekend. They can instead focus on schoolwork and other important things. Having adequate nutrition over the weekend means the students arrive at school Monday morning in good physical condition and ready to learn

b. Specific needs and issues to be addressed

Closing a persistent achievement gap between our financially advantaged/non-minority students in Phoenixville and their minority and/or socio-economically disadvantaged peers is a responsibility for which we all must take ownership. This donation will be used to provide fully stocked backpacks at the start of the school year for underprivileged students, helping to level the playing field for these students and will nourish the bodies of our little learners so that they may stay focused in the classroom along with their peers.

c. Why it is important to fund this now

PCEF is seeking support now for the Pack a Backpack program so that the funds are available to purchase the school supplies as they go on sale throughout the year. We have seen an increase in the number of students in need over the years and have more requests for replenishing supplies throughout the school year. If we receive funding now, we are able to purchase more supplies at sale prices than during the summer months. Also our main source for donated backpacks is no longer able to provide them, requiring PCEF to seek more funding in order to purchase the backpacks.

PCEF is looking for new sources of funding for the Phantom Food Packs program. We have seen the number of qualifying families increase over the past 5 years and have had increased enrollment. Along with the increased numbers, we lost one of our grantors due to a change in their mission parameters. We are in need of replacing this lost income for the upcoming school year so that we may continue to provide nutritionally healthy weekend meals for these food-insecure children.

d. How impact and results will be demonstrated

PCEF does not know who receives the backpacks, we simply know the number at each grade level and the list of supplies needed for each grade level. However, what we have been told by school administrators is that these are the children whose parents have to choose between buying shoes and buying supplies. Prior to the onset of the program, children came to school without the proper 'tools' to do the job. This is no longer happening (on a broad scale), which is the demonstrated result both PCEF and school staff were hoping to achieve.

We are proud to be wrapping up our 16th year of this program and have distributed over 6,500 backpacks to Phoenixville's students. With your support, we will be able to continue to help our most vulnerable population find success in the classroom, thereby improving their opportunities for success after graduation.

Our guidance counselors monitor the children in the Phantom Food Packs program and receive feedback from them and their parents. The teachers can also informally ascertain that their students are coming to school with fewer worries about food and meals.

At the end of the school year we send out a comprehensive survey to all eligible food pack recipients. For those who did not participate, we ask them to explain why they declined. For those who did participate, we ask several questions regarding the food pack program, food provided, and how the program helped their student and family. The information received from these surveys will also provide data on the success of the program and whether we need to make adjustments.

We will measure success by observation - did the teachers and counselors see a reduction in the number of children coming to school hungry? And the survey results will also let us know more specifically how the food packs helped the individual families.

Thank you for your consideration in funding these two vital support programs for our Phoenixville children.

II. 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.

If Philanthropy Network of Greater Philadelphia's Common Grant Application is used, the Community Foundation's Summary Sheet MUST accompany application. Available at www.chescocf.org

- **E-mail proposals to grants@chescocf.org.** Receipt will be confirmed by e-mail.
 - Please contact Grants Administrator Kevin Baffa at (610) 696-8211 grants@chescocf.org with questions.

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