

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

Date: 12/19/2019

Contact Information

Organization Name: Bethesda Project
Address: 1630 South Street
Philadelphia, PA 19146
Phone: 215.985.1600
Website: www.bethesdaproject.org
Year Incorporated: 1979
FEIN: 23-2209338

Executive Director/CEO Name: Tina Pagotto
Executive Director/CEO E-mail:
tpagotto@bethesdaproject.org
Board of Directors Chair Name: Susan Stickley
Primary Contact Name: Emma Stern
Primary Contact E-mail: estern@bethesdaproject.org

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

Bethesda Project serves men and women experiencing homelessness at 14 different locations in Center City Philadelphia.

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:

Bethesda Project serves over **1,500 unique individuals** annually across 14 locations. In the many years that Bethesda Project has been serving homeless and formerly homeless individuals, staff members have identified clear trends in the struggles that guests and residents have faced. Mental illness, substance abuse, and medical conditions often contribute to homelessness and create ongoing challenges for formerly homeless residents. 100% of the men and women Bethesda Project serves have low incomes, as defined by federal poverty guidelines.

According to the City of Philadelphia Office of Homeless Services' 2019 Point-in-Time Count, there are 967 unsheltered adults in the city, which demonstrates an increase in need. It is estimated that about half of these individuals are chronically homeless. The 2019 Point-in-Time Count also showed that there are 2,770 individuals in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and Safe Havens. These numbers illustrate a clear and ongoing need for a continuum of care for homeless and formerly homeless individuals in Philadelphia.

In response to the overwhelming need to serve and house the most vulnerable, Bethesda Project places special emphasis on entry-level programs, with the goal to move the most at-risk individuals into permanent housing by building long-term, caring relationships with them. This focus allows the organization to adopt a consistent style of engagement across programs and create a more fluid continuum of care.

This integrated continuum will help shelter and Safe Haven guests to transition to permanent housing while giving them time to develop skills and acquire necessary documentation.

Mission:

Providing needed housing options and a caring community is at the heart of Bethesda Project’s work. For 40 years, the organization has provided homeless adults with affordable housing, emergency shelter, and supportive services in order to fulfill its mission “to find and care for the abandoned poor, and to be family with those who have none.”

Proposal Summary:

Funding from Chester County Community Foundation would support the ongoing operations of our three levels of programming: Entry Level, Emergency Shelter and Permanent Housing. All of our program models target adults experiencing chronic homelessness with accompanying disabilities including severe and persistent mental illness, substance abuse, and chronic medical conditions.

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

___ Mission, Vision & Strategy ___ Governance & Leadership ___ Strategic Relationships
___ Fundraising & Development ___ Technology Other: _____

Annual Budget \$___\$4,998,575_____ _72_____ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
88.1_____ % of budget for program expenses _13_____ # of Board Volunteers
7.6_____ % of budget for administrative expenses _4,000_____ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
4.2_____ % of budget for fundraising expenses _10,000_____ # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

Foundation Support

- The PEW Charitable Trusts \$237,000 (3-year grant)
- MKM Foundation \$30,000 (2-year grant)
- Independence Foundation \$30,000 (3-year grant)

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$_7,500_____

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Bethesda Project began in 1979 when Reverend Domenic Rossi and members of his prayer group reached out to a group of women experiencing homelessness in Center City Philadelphia. Three years later, Bethesda Project bought a house at 11th and Spruce Streets, which became a permanent home for formerly homeless women. Bethesda Project became a registered non-profit and began to expand its programming, including more housing sites in the city and expanding our services free of any religious affiliation. Because we have learned that each individual experiencing homelessness has a unique story and unique challenges, the organization's locations and services are tailored to meet different sets of needs. From emergency shelters to permanent supportive and independent housing residences (definitions provided below), Bethesda Project's locations create a "continuum of care." Now, 40 years since its beginning, Bethesda Project remains committed to its mission "To find and care for the abandoned poor and to be family with those who have none," serving 1,500 homeless and formerly homeless men and women each year at 14 sites throughout Center City Philadelphia.

Bethesda Project's goals and objectives are best summarized by its mission statement, "to find and care for the abandoned poor and to be family with those who have none." Every decision Bethesda Project makes is an effort to enact the organization's mission, and our dedication to that mission is expressed by staff at every level. From outreach staff engaging chronically homeless individuals on the streets in the winter, to housing residents in apartments directly over Bethesda Project's administrative office, the organization strives to take every opportunity to reach out to those in need.

Bethesda Project subscribes to a Housing First model and uses a client-centered approach that includes trauma-informed practices. In all of Bethesda Project's residences, case managers work to build relationships with residents. Case managers work on a specialized care plan for each resident, and they focus on using a harm reduction model to help residents meet their goals. Data from the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness states that a "Housing First" approach improves housing outcomes by removing as many obstacles and unnecessary requirements as possible that stand in the way of people's access to permanent housing. In all of Bethesda Project's residences, case managers work to build healthy relationships with residents. Case managers work on a specialized care plan for each resident and focus on using a harm reduction model to help residents meet their goals. Over 350 hours are spent annually connecting individuals to services such as employment and income/financial stability in Entry-Level Programs and 96% of residents remain in Permanent Housing for a year or longer.

Bethesda Project's guests and residents receive personalized, caring attention, and are encouraged to achieve the most independent level of housing possible. Staff work with guests and residents to set achievable, realistic goals appropriate to each individual, utilizing a three-pronged approach.

- Shelter and Housing: To stabilize single adults who are homeless and help them find and remain in affordable housing that meets their personal needs within the most independent setting possible.
- Case Management and Supportive Services: To provide case management and follow-up support to help people progress in their efforts to secure a reliable income, manage mental illness and medical conditions, and remain drug and alcohol free.
- Community Life Activities: Bethesda Project's mission embodies a belief in the power of positive relationships among shelter guests, residents, staff, and volunteers to help people heal from the alienation of homelessness and become valued members of a caring community. Volunteers cook and serve meals, assist with facilities improvements, take residents to appointments and celebrate milestones together as one compassionate family.

Bethesda Project operates 14 locations in Center City Philadelphia. Each site is designed for adults with specific sets of needs, and each Case Manager personalizes his or her work to best meet individual challenges. Guests and residents may stay at a Bethesda Project site for a few nights or for years, depending on their needs. The following is a description of each of the organization's locations.

EMERGENCY SHELTER

Goal: Connecting guests who are episodically homeless to resources, moving them to stable housing, and ending housing crises quickly at our 149-bed shelter

Location:

Our Brothers' Place, 907 Hamilton Street

Overnight shelter for 149 men each night as well as meals and a day program for up to an additional 75 men who walk in every day seeking help. Our Brothers' Place also supports Bethesda Project's church shelter program with meals, clothing, showers, case management and other resources. This shelter is operated in partnership with the City of Philadelphia.

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Goal: Maintaining long-term residential housing stability through case management and supportive services.

Location(s):

Bethesda Bainbridge, 700 S. 15th Street

Permanent single room occupancy (SRO) housing for 30 adults with histories of addiction or mental illness.

Bethesda North Broad, 722 N. Broad Street

Permanent SRO housing for 49 adults with histories of addiction or mental illness.

Bethesda Spruce Street, 1110 Spruce Street

Permanent SRO housing for 16 adults who cope with chronic mental illness.

Connelly House, 1212 Ludlow Street

Permanent SRO housing for 24 adults in recovery from substance addiction. This building is operated in partnership with Project HOME.

Bethesda Sanctuary, 816 S. 20th Street

Permanent SRO housing for 16 adults in recovery from substance addiction.

Bethesda Serenity, 1829 Wolf Street

Row home for four formerly chronically homeless adults. This house is operated in partnership with the City of Philadelphia Office of Homeless Services.

Domenic House, 1628-1630 South Street

A six-unit apartment building for seven formerly homeless adults.

Mary House, 707 S. Hicks Street

Subsidized living arrangements for four adults.

ENTRY-LEVEL PROGRAMS

Goal: Engagement with vulnerable individuals who are street homeless to build trusting relationships and meet their most basic needs utilizing a Harm Reduction approach

Safe Haven

Vulnerable men are offered an array of supportive services to stabilize their medical and mental health conditions to help prepare them for more independent living. A Housing First philosophy helps negate relapse and/or avoidance of recovery by providing an individual a stable living environment and meeting basic needs.

Location:

My Brother's House, 609 S. 15th Street

Safe Haven for 20 vulnerable men with chronic mental illness and substance abuse problems.

Church-Based Shelters

Overnight shelter for 96 homeless adults each night.

Locations(s):

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
1831 Bainbridge Street

Trinity Memorial Church (*winter only*)
22nd and Spruce Streets

Old First Reformed Church (*winter only*)
4th and Race Streets

The Well
Operated in partnership with The Welcome Church
and Trinity Memorial Church

Funding from Chester County Community Foundation would support the ongoing operations of our three levels of programming: Entry Level, Emergency Shelter and Permanent Housing. Our program models target adults experiencing chronic homelessness with accompanying disabilities including severe and persistent mental illness, substance abuse, and chronic medical conditions. Further, as government funding to Bethesda Project remains stagnant, the organization's reliance on charitable contributions grows, all while the demand for and cost of services continues to increase. A \$7,500 general operating grant from the Chester County Community Foundation will help Bethesda Project continue to find and care for the abandoned poor and to be family with those who have none.

Bethesda Project measures the overall success of our social service delivery based on the individualized care plans developed with case managers. Because each person who experiences homelessness faces unique challenges, each individual measures success differently. Success can mean finding work through a job program and moving from shelter into permanent housing. It can mean learning to keep doctors' appointments independently, staying sober or learning to manage mental illness. With this personalized definition of success, Bethesda Project compassionately and strategically engages residents to help them meet their highest personal potentials. Case managers work with residents to identify and achieve goals in three areas: residential stability, increased skills and income, and greater self-determination. Case Managers are responsible for entering activity notes and care plan updates in a centralized data system; Program Coordinators are responsible for monitoring progress, reviewing database activity, and reporting monthly to respective Directors; and Directors are responsible for reporting and sharing data with our Board of Directors on a monthly basis.

Because of the importance of "family" to Bethesda Project's mission, our success is also measured qualitatively by the creation of our housing communities. The organization's Community Life department works with staff at each site to create events and bring volunteers to the sites. Staff also mediates interpersonal dynamics and work with residents and shelter guests to maintain clean facilities and instill a sense of personal pride in the physical environment of their homes. The Community Life department has developed a Family Spirit Survey designed to gauge satisfaction among residents and our application of the mission. The most recent survey completed in 2018 indicated that 87% of guests and residents feel that Bethesda's way of doing things is positively and noticeably different from other housing experiences.

Success can also be seen anecdotally with the increase in quality of life our residents achieve by becoming more self-sufficient and independent.

The following indicators are evidence of our best practices yielding positive outcomes for those experiencing homelessness across our programs:

- Guests in our Entry-Level Programs have an average length of stay of 96 days.
- In our Emergency Shelter, 1,000+ unique individuals are served annually.
- Our Permanent Housing Programs maintain a 95% occupancy rate with 96% housing stability rate.