

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Date: November 11, 2019

Contact Information

Organization Name: Team CMMD Foundation
Address: 750 Lincoln Hwy Exton, PA 19341
Phone: 610.247.0069
Website: www.teamcmmd.org
Year Incorporated: 2014
FEIN: 46-5739387

Executive Director Name: Christine Meyer, MD
Executive Director E-mail: christine@christinemeyermd.com
Board of Directors Chair Name: Christine Meyer, MD
Primary Contact Name: James Baker
Primary Contact E-mail: james@colrud.com

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 X No ___ Not Sure ___
X Donor Advised Fund(s) ___ Fund for Chester County ___ Don't know/Not sure

Fields of Interest:

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

Organization Information:

Geographic Area Served: The Team CMMD Foundation extends its support to applicants residing in Chester County or within 100 miles of our headquarters in Exton, PA. Almost half (48%) of families receiving assistance reside in Chester County, and the majority (91%) live in Pennsylvania.

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served: In 2018, The Team CMMD Foundation was privileged to provide relief to 214 cancer warriors and their families. Our selection process does not discriminate based on cancer diagnosis, however, almost 40% of our 2018 recipients are struggling with breast cancer. With a growing number of requests and budget limitations, the Board of Directors is committed to prioritizing lower income applicants.

Mission: The Team CMMD Foundation is a nonprofit charity of volunteers committed to making a difference in their community and in the lives of those fighting cancer.

Proposal Summary: We submit this grant request to support our Ask For Help Program that aims to release struggling families in our community from the financial burdens placed upon them by this diagnosis. In 2018 and 2019, with the increased notoriety of the foundation, there has been a corresponding surge in requests that, unfortunately The Foundation has been unable to fund.

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

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

2020 Budget \$503,700 1 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
57 % of budget for program expenses 10 # of Board Volunteers
23 % of budget for administrative expenses 300+ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
20 % of budget for fundraising expenses Countless # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: The Loew Family Golf Outing (\$175,000), Food Fight Gala (\$100,000), The Broad Street Run (\$90,000), This Run Is Personal (\$75,000). Dollar figures are from our 2020 Budget.

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

History

In 2012, cancer overwhelmed Dr. Christine Meyer in her personal and professional life. A dedicated physician, she questioned her worth as patients and their families fought and lost their cancer battles. Despite never running, in the early months of 2013, Christine discovered relief from her own emotional battle when she decided to register for Philadelphia's Broad Street Run and raise funds for the American Cancer Society.

Dr. Meyer, along with three coworkers, formed a fundraising running team. She named the team after herself (Christine Meyer, MD = CMMD). They set a goal to raise \$2,000. This endeavor quickly exploded into a community-wide effort that included 47 runners who raised \$65,000. **Driven by her passion to run for those who are unable, and riding on the enthusiasm of a community around her, Christine formed a life-changing foundation, now known as Team CMMD.** This foundation, operating out of her Chester County medical practice, now comprises an online presence with more than 3,000 community members and volunteers who rally behind cancer patients and their families.

Goals

The Team CMMD Foundation builds a supportive cancer-fighting community through volunteerism. The foundation hosts community events that allow for emotional and financial relief to cancer warriors.



Measurable objectives for 2020 include:

- Providing **\$200,000 of financial relief to approximately 200 families** in our community struggling with the financial and emotional ramifications of a cancer diagnosis.
- Hosting energetic and inspirational events, like The Jack Loew Family Golf Outing and Food Fight, **raising more than \$350,000** and providing hundreds of community members an opportunity to support the cancer survivors in our region.
- Energizing and supporting more than 1000 runners and cyclists to compete in challenges and **raise \$50,000 for the American Cancer Society;**
- **Providing \$25,000 of college scholarship grants** (ranging from \$500 to \$20,000) to two Chester County high school students affected by cancer through the Karen Baker Scholarship Fund;
- **Empowering 60 Chester County youth** who participate in our Team In Training weekly workouts that culminate in the completion of a 5K race; and
- **Hosting approximately 1,000 runners in our annual Downingtown race, This Run Is Personal,** as part of our mission to foster an emotionally supportive community through events that raise funds and awareness for the cancer battle.

Key Achievements

Cancer permeates our community, and the Team CMMD Foundation is committed to support those with cancer as they face challenging financial and emotional realities. The foundation provides financial support for the warriors of cancer as well as a constructive outlet for those who feel overwhelmed by the condition.

Since our founding, Team CMMD has:

- Cultivated hundreds of Chester County runners and cyclists to participate in athletic challenges that have **raised more than \$1 million in funding for the American Cancer Society** in support of cancer research;
- Developed our **Ask For Help program, which has provided almost \$650,000 to 658 cancer warriors** in the greater Philadelphia region - 318 of whom reside in Chester County;
- **Awarded 17 Chester County-area high school students touched by cancer with \$171,000 of scholarship money** through the Karen Baker Scholarship Fund;
- **Introduced 470 Chester County youth to the power of running** through our Team In Training program;
- Fostered lasting friendships through frequent Team CMMD routine group runs and rides, online support groups, communal support efforts like meal delivery and errand running for those battling cancer, and other community service activities like food drives and coat drives; and
- **Energized more than 3,000 Chester County residents** to participate in Team CMMD fundraiser events.

Distinctiveness

Team CMMD creates a place where those impacted by cancer can put their grievances to work, make a difference in their communities, and form friendships through service. **Team CMMD is distinct in our ability to pull hundreds of people together** over a grievance that permeates the Chester County community. The people who have created and who sustain Team CMMD are from all walks of life. The dedicated board contains prominent business and medical professionals in the community. The volunteers who fuel operations and dedicate countless hours are as diverse in age, race, and religion as the whole of Chester County.

Team CMMD's programs serve cancer fighters in need. There is **no cancer type diagnosis or formal income qualifications** for receipt. However, as the foundation is struggling with requests that exceed capacity, the Board prioritizes financially or emotionally dire circumstances. **Cash distributions to those in need can be spent in any way that suits the recipient.**

2. Funding Request

Description of Key Initiatives

The Team CMMD Foundation has two major initiatives that quantifiably and directly support cancer fighters in our community: Ask For Help and the Karen Baker Scholarship Fund.

Selected Ask For Help families receive a modest, no-strings-attached, no-questions-asked cash injection ranging from \$500 to \$10,000 (but most commonly \$1,000). This program is administered utilizing a simple online request form that can be submitted by any community member or medical professional on behalf of a cancer fighter. Grant recipients are awarded and selected by our board members on a weekly basis. While the board gives preference to financially struggling families, there is no formal income requirement. There is no cancer type diagnosis qualification.

Each year, the Karen Baker Scholarship Fund awards one or two \$20,000 scholarships in response to 50 to 100 Chester County high school applicants whose lives have been touched by cancer. Since its founding in 2015, this scholarship fund has awarded 17 well-deserving high school students with more than \$170,000. Karen Baker was a Chester County resident who, in 2016, passed away from liposarcoma - a rare form of soft tissue cancer. Like many other cancer warriors, she lives on through Team CMMD, and her story inspires many in the Chester County community. James Baker sits on the Board of Directors.

Specific Needs and Issues to Be Addressed

This proposal is a request for support for our most valued program, Ask For Help, which has been unable to fund many of the requests that flow in each week.

Just two years after incorporation, The Team CMMD Foundation maintained a budget of \$735,000 and was recognized as one of the largest 501(c)(3) charities in Chester County. The foundation has been managing the unique and challenging territory of quick growth and success. The presence and reach of the foundation has been significant, and as a result, the requests for support have steadily grown over time. Unfortunately, while requests for support have increased, funding since 2017 has decreased by more than 20%.

The Board of Directors, comprised of prominent business owners and members of the medical profession, is fully committed to the strategic planning process - balancing the structural needs of The Foundation with the programmatic funding requirements. With commitment to sustainability, The Foundation is dedicated to diversifying funding sources and establishing stability in order to better meet the needs of the community.

Why It Is Important to Fund This Now

Support for general operations is critical at this juncture as Team CMMD has a talented board that is dedicated to the foundation's mission. It is important to seize this energy so that the foundation can build the infrastructure that will provide a sustainable future. Meanwhile, our **Ask For Help program is drastically underfunded and unable to fully support the community that has grown to rely on our support.**

How Impact and Results Will Be Demonstrated

The Team CMMD Foundation provides financial support for the warriors of cancer as well as serves as a constructive outlet for those who feel overwhelmed by the condition. Donor support provides relief to struggling families, fuels a commitment to community building, and aids in building a sustainable future for this powerful team.

Cancer affects everyone. In 2018, more than 1.7 million people found out they had cancer, and more than 600,000 individuals succumbed to it. These diagnoses and lives lost profoundly impact not only the individuals with the condition but their family and friends.

Cancer is a costly medical condition, and the financial realities that come after a diagnosis are distressing. According to the National Cancer Institute, one in eight people will avoid cancer treatment because of the costs associated with it. While several household factors impact financial distress, many with cancer struggle to work and pay their bills. Some people cannot afford prescription copays, so they will not take medicines needed for treatment. Others will go into debt or have to declare bankruptcy as a result of their diagnosis and treatment.

Your contribution directly supports the efforts and dedication of Team CMMD to care for the members of the Chester County community who are facing the tough financial and emotional realities of this horrible disease.