



AIP GRANT APPLICATION FORM

The AIP Fund, c/o Chester County Community Foundation
28 W. Market Street
West Chester PA 19382
(610) 696-8211 www.chescocf.org grants@chescocf.org

Chester County
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

All Children Deserve a Good Life

Our grants focus on nonprofit programs that help children & youth deal with any/all of these issues:

- 1. alleviate homelessness, hunger & poverty**
- 2. instill holistic health & well-being: physical, cognitive, emotional & social**
- 3. educate for academic and social excellence**

- Our aim is to develop resilient, self-sufficient children empowered with strong coping skills, so we help build families, groups, communities and a world where loving kindness towards all prevails.
- We fund nonprofit projects in and near Chester County, PA.
- 1, 2 and 3-year project requests are considered, with a plan of self-sufficiency after 3 years of funding.
- Proposals are welcome anytime throughout the year. Decisions are made monthly.
- Per IRS regulations, applicants must be charitable, tax exempt organizations with 501(c)(3) certification. Applicants cannot be individuals.
- E-mail proposals are strongly encouraged to grants@chescocf.org
- Receipt will be confirmed by e-mail.
- Questions? Please contact Kevin Baffa at (610) 696-8211 or grants@chescocf.org

Thank you.

AIP GRANT APPLICATION COVER SHEET

For an electronic version of this application, visit www.chescocf.org

Date: 1/25/20

Contact Information

Organization Name: Camp Dreamcatcher Executive Director/CEO Name: Patty Hillkirk
 Address: 148 West State St., STE 104, Kennett Square, PA 19348 Executive Director/CEO E-mail: phillkirk@kennett.net
 Phone: 610-925-2998 Board of Directors Co-Chair Names: Ginny Fineberg & KC Wolfe
 Website: <https://campdreamcatcher.org/> Primary Contact Name: Patty Hillkirk
 Year Incorporated: 1999 Primary Contact E-mail: phillkirk@kennett.net
 FEIN: 23-2980323

Have you received grant money from the Chester County Community Foundation in the past?
 Yes X No Not Sure

Please indicate which of these AIP Fund priorities are embedded in your program:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alleviate hunger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alleviate homelessness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alleviate poverty
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Physical well being	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emotional & mental well being	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social well being
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Educate for social intelligence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Educate for academic success		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mindfulness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Creativity & problem solving		

Mission: To provide free therapeutic and educational programs to HIV/AIDS impacted youth.

Geographic Area Served: PA counties: Chester, Delaware, Philadelphia, York, Lancaster, Montgomery and Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey.

Describe the number & type of children/youth to be served by this program annually: 135 youth served annually between 5-17 years of age. 100% of those served are from low-income households.

Resources:

\$ 2,000 per year How much grant funding do you seek from the AIP Fund?

\$ 114,750 What is your overall budget for this program?

\$ 452,200 What is your overall budget for this year?

1 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

8 # of Board Volunteers

285 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

13,000 # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources: The Philadelphia Foundation, The Wyss Foundation, The Julian A. & Lois G. Brodsky Foundation, The C. E. Bennett Foundation, The Cabot-Kjellerup Foundation.

Grant Amount Requested from the AIP Fund @ Community Foundation \$ 2,000 multi-year funding

Proposal Summary (3-5 sentences): A grant will support the therapeutic and educational programs offered during our annual therapeutic camp session in August for 135-140 youth. The youth attending the program are HIV/AIDS infected themselves, have an HIV/AIDS infected family member, or have lost a family member to AIDS. Over 270 counselors, medical personnel, professionals and community members volunteer during the therapeutic camp program each summer.

AIP GRANT APPLICATION NARRATIVE

Please describe briefly, 2 pages maximum.

1-What are you trying to achieve with this program, and how does this resonate with your nonprofit's mission, other programs and track record?

In 1996, a small committee launched Camp Dreamcatcher with the goal of providing a safe and supportive camp for children coping with HIV/AIDS. The camp program is at the heart of our mission to provide free therapeutic and educational programs for HIV/AIDS impacted youth. We offer the only therapeutic and educational camp program for HIV/AIDS impacted youth on the east coast. 92% of the youth served are African American, 3% Caucasian, 1% Asian American and 4% Biracial. 100% of the youth come from low-income households and only 13% have access to free or affordable therapeutic and educational programs in their own communities. Loving Kindness prevails at Camp Dreamcatcher. As one of our new therapeutic volunteers said last summer "I've never experienced the level of love, safety and support that you provide to the children at camp." We have created a loving Camp Dreamcatcher family, and that is the reason that 70% of our volunteers have been returning to camp for ten years or more. Last summer, over **\$355,000 in volunteer services and in-kind supplies were donated during the camp session!**

Program Goals: **135 youth, ages 5-17, will attend the camp session August 23-29, 2020**

- To improve the physical and emotional health of the children. **112 therapeutic sessions** (psychotherapy, music therapy, art therapy, and sessions with therapeutic dogs, yoga, equine mindfulness-based therapy, wilderness-based therapy and massage) will be offered during the camp week. Our mindfulness center is filled with soft pillows, beanbag chairs, weighted blankets, aromatherapy, mindfulness games and sound machines. Licensed or certified therapists/educators facilitate all of our programs.
- To offer educational sessions that explore issues, problems and concerns common amongst HIV/AIDS infected and/or affected youth. **50 age appropriate educational sessions** will be provided on depression, HIV/AIDS, grief, eating disorders, body image, abuse, addiction, HIV medication compliance, leadership, teambuilding, conflict resolution, anger management, puberty education and suicide prevention.
- To give the children and adolescents attending our programs the chance to feel free from the secret of HIV/AIDS and have fun. During the camp week, we will provide **160 recreational programs**. These will include arts & crafts, archery, karate, swimming, fishing, hiking, go-kart racing, movies on a giant blow up screen, the Hedgerow Theatre, miniature golf, dodge ball, basketball, horseback riding, a camp wide carnival, dancing, cooking, a visit from the Brandywine Zoo and the annual John Flynn Concert!
- **We offer Progressive Leadership Opportunities that teach healthy coping skills, provide opportunities for empowerment and build resiliency.** **Camper Quest** is a wilderness-based therapy program that the 15 year-olds participate in at camp. Camp Dreamcatcher has adapted the concepts of creating a safe and healing space for youth to explore their emotional availability while embarking on a three day/two-night therapeutic adventure into the woods of Camp Saginaw. While on the overnights, counselors, and staff facilitate group team building challenges, teach basic camping skills such as outdoor cooking, hygiene and safety practices, fire building and adventure challenges. Also at the age of 15, campers are invited to participate in the **Teen Leadership** weekend retreats for 15-17 year-olds. The 16 & 17 year-olds participate in the **Leaders in Training Program** during the camp week. The program offers a variety of therapeutic, educational, team building, leadership building, and life skills programming. Topics include resume writing, budgeting, college scholarship applications, interview skills, and cooking. We now offer two college scholarships per year to college bound Leaders in Training. The **Paul Harris Human Potential Scholarships** are awarded to LIT's that have transformed their personal experience with HIV/AIDS into becoming positive leaders at camp and in their own communities. The **Camper to Counselor (CTC) Program** is for counselors who are 18 years of age and above. The program provides additional training and support to this wonderful group of young adults as they transition from the role of camper to counselor at Camp Dreamcatcher.

2-How you will discern the impact and results of this program?

The children and volunteers complete evaluations at the conclusion of each program. The results give us an understanding of the positive physical, emotional and social impact of our programs.

The data below is from the 2019 Camper Questionnaires:

- Did you feel accepted at camp? Yes 100%
- Did you have fun at camp? Yes 100%
- Do you feel safe at camp? Yes 100%
- Did you feel supported by the staff and volunteers at camp? Yes 100%
- Did you feel there was someone to talk to at camp? Yes 99%
- Is it important to have a place like Camp Dreamcatcher? Yes 99%
- Did you feel like you could ask for help at camp? Yes 96%
- Were you able to talk openly about HIV/AIDS at camp? Yes 96%
- Did you make new friends at camp? Yes 95%
- **How were the staff and volunteers supportive of you?**
- *"They picked up the broken pieces of me."*
- *"They support us emotionally and physically when we are going through issues or anything."*
- *"They love me."*
- **What makes Camp Dreamcatcher special to you?**
- *"This is where my family is. This camp is perfect."*
- *"I can talk about my illness to friends without them saying "ewww."*
- *"We care for each other like a big family would."*
- *"It's fun. You get to eat every day."*
- **If you could share one part of Camp Dreamcatcher with the world, what would it be?**
- *"That it is a safe place."*
- *"The love we have here. People need love."*
- *"That you can love people with HIV/AIDS."*

The board of directors is actively involved in evaluation of the organization. A 3-5 year Strategic Plan has just been completed and the goals include the following:

- Create a three-year development plan to **"Sustain the Dream."** Our goal is to specifically increase the level of donations from individuals and corporate donors.
- In preparation of our 25th Anniversary in 2021, our goal is to increase the amount raised through fundraising campaigns and events.
- Increase the number of full-time therapeutic support from two to at least four in 2020. Our commitment is to provide a high level of clinical care that ensures the physical and emotional safety of the youth served by Camp Dreamcatcher.

3-Why is it important to fund this now?

Although the camp session isn't until August 22nd – 29th, 2020, our preparation and planning takes place throughout the year. Volunteer recruitment, training and development is occurring now, and children are already registering for the session. Funding will aid in our ability to continue our mission of providing high quality professional support to a vulnerable population. In addition to the issue of HIV/AIDS, 70% of the youth served have experienced some form of abuse, 50% have lost one or both parents and 25% have been diagnosed with a mental health condition. Over the past five years, there has been an increase in the number of families that are homeless or at risk of losing their homes and/or healthcare benefits. There has also been an increase in the number of children experiencing serious mental health issues and trauma; and often conditions like anxiety, suicidal ideation, family or community violence, addiction, abuse, eating disorders, depression, and self-harm are first identified during our camp session. Our therapeutic team assesses the level of care necessary during the camp session and beyond. In Chester County specifically, we work closely with 25-30 families throughout the year in providing ongoing support, therapy, and advocacy services.

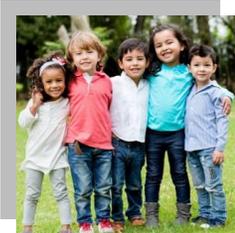
III. ATTACHMENTS

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. Organizational operating budget, with actual results for prior FY and current FYTD
5. If multi-year funding is requested, detailed project budget for full program
6. Current strategic plan. If your nonprofit does not have a current strategic plan, explain why.

- E-mail proposals are strongly encouraged to grants@chescofc.org
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