

March 27, 2020

Contact Information

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1. What geographic area is served? (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served)

We serve clients in all areas of Chester County.

2. What population is served, what has been the impact of COVID-19, and how has your nonprofit responded?

We help clients who are struggling with unmet medical expenses due to a transplant or a catastrophic injury or illness. COVID-19 has already had a significant and detrimental effect on our clients. Before this pandemic, many of them were already deemed "high risk" due to compromised immune systems. All of our clients were burdened with thousands of dollars in medical expenses exacerbated by a reduced income due to missed work. Our clients rely on community fundraisers to make ends meet and survive. Now that public gatherings are not permitted and previous donors are also facing economic uncertainty, our clients need our support now more than ever.

Our Client Services Coordinators provide customized one-on-one fundraising guidance and access to specialized resources. In order to face the challenges that COVID-19 has brought, our coordinators are working closely with each client to come up with fundraising ideas in communities that are socially distancing. One of our clients revamped a shopping fundraiser into an online event where customers could shop for items on Facebook and help our clients in the process. Our Coordinators have been working over the past few weeks to help all of our clients adapt their campaigns to this new reality.

Help Hope Live also currently provides assistance of up to \$2,000 a month for up to three months to cover rent or mortgage payments and basic utilities. Already, this has affected Chester County. Boden Miller was a 14-year-old in Devon when he sustained a spinal cord injury in a trampoline accident. In order to care for him, Boden's mother had to take an unpaid leave of absence from her teaching job; this loss of income jeopardized her family's housing and stability, and Help Hope Live stepped in to make sure the Millers did not lose their home in addition to their son's mobility.

Because of COVID-19, Help Hope Live recently made the decision to temporarily eliminate the three-month limit, and we seek to provide for all of our high-risk clients who may be facing housing insecurity as long as the effects of this pandemic last

3. How much funding is sought? How does this compare to your annual operating budget? What will the funding be used for? What is the expected timeframe for use of funds?

Help Hope Live seeks a grant of \$5,000 from the Chester County Community Fund to grow our Mid-Atlantic Regionally Restricted Fund and help vulnerable families struggling with housing security. Our annual operating budget is \$1.9 million, but not all of this is devoted to these emergency requests. For example, in February of 2020, before the effects of COVID-19 were felt by community, Help Hope Lived fulfilled emergency requests for nine families nationwide, one of whom was in Chester County, with an average amount of \$1,145 per family disbursed. This grant would allow Help Hope Live to sustain our existing clients as well as help more families in Chester County throughout the spring and into the summer.

We would be able to start using these funds as soon as we receive them. The Fund would join hundreds of supporters who want to make sure that our clients have secure housing as they face a particularly difficult time. We have started to see a significant rise in both the number of requests and amount of funding requests over the past two weeks. Our clients calls now include additional fears and concerns over housing and basic needs in the midst of this pandemic. Support from the Fund would allow Help Hope Live to continue to be a long-term outlet of support for our high-risk clients.