

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

www.chescocf.org

Date

Contact Information

Organization Name: WCU Foundation
Address: 202 Carter Drive, West Chester, PA

Phone: 610-430-4157
Website: www.wcufoundation.org
Year Incorporated: 2000

FEIN: 23-3054174

Executive Director/CEO Name: Chris Mominey
Executive Director/CEO E-mail:
cmominey@wcufoundation.org
Board of Directors Chair Name:
Primary Contact Name: Helen Hammerschmidt
Primary Contact E-mail:
hhammerschmidt@wcufoundation.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: The West Chester University Foundation (“the Foundation”) was formed to promote the charitable, scientific, and educational interests of West Chester University whose mission is to be a community of educators that develops graduates to succeed personally and professionally and contribute to the common good. Camp Abilities supports that mission by providing an educational sports camp for children with visual impairments, empowering young people through sport, physical activity, and wellness.

Geographic Area Served *(If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served):*

Chester County and surrounding areas.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

18,000 undergraduate and graduate students; 2,000 faculty and staff

Annual Budget \$ 7,401,200 _____ 55 _____ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
 81 _____ % of budget for program expenses 26 _____ # of Board Volunteers
 14 _____ % of budget for administrative expenses _____ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
 5 _____ % of budget for fundraising expenses 400 _____ # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

West Chester University, University Student Housing, Miscellaneous donors

Is this grant proposal for: Capacity Building or General Operating

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$2,500 - \$5,000

Proposal Summary:

Camp Abilities @ WCU is a 3-day summer camping experience that empowers youth who are blind and visually impaired through adapted sports. The camp serves 30+ blind and visually impaired youth from the ages of 7 to 18 who live in the mid-Atlantic region. The participants take part in a weekend overnight experience that introduces a variety of sports, games, and activities that teach and encourage them to be physically active, healthy and independent. WCU students practice their newly acquired adapted teaching skills in activities while absorbing teaching strategies from veteran adapted sports specialists. West Chester University provides the fields, facilities and housing for the weekend.

Support from local service clubs, businesses, and agencies are critical to the continued success of this experience. Staff support, including coaches and nurses, are 100% volunteers but without the support of the community, Camp Abilities cannot happen.

The funds we are requesting from the Chester County Community Foundation's donors will help cover the costs of meals and supplies, specifically from our "Cooking without Looking" program which is designed to empower the athlete to prepare nutritious meals with minimal assistance. This program is very popular with campers and their parents, but requires additional funding for food and supplies.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

1. Nonprofit's history, goals, key achievements & distinctiveness

Camp Abilities is a concept formulated by Dr. Lauren Lieberman, a West Chester University (WCU) alumna, Class of 1997 and professor at SUNY-Brockport, who established the first camp over 20 years ago to empower youth who are blind and visually impaired through adapted sports.

Currently, there are five, one-week camps in locations around the country, from New York to Washington state and as far south as Puerto Rico. Locally, the 13th annual Camp Abilities PA will be held at West Chester University on Memorial Day Weekend 2020. The camp is run by Dr. Monica Lepore, a WCU professor, and is supported by WCU students currently enrolled in the Adapted Physical Activities minor. Staff members are pre-service special educators, physical therapists, occupational therapists, adapted PE teachers, ophthalmologists, and teachers of the visually impaired who are trained to work one-on-one with children at camp.

Camp Abilities provides children with visual impairments with instruction in sport and physical activity skills, opportunities to develop relationships with other campers who are visually impaired, access to positive role models that encourage independence, and instruction on developing healthy lifestyles. In addition, Camp Abilities' programs meet the educational, orientation and mobility, independent living, and vocational goals of a variety of students with one program. Participation in sport and physical activity reinforces aspects of the legally mandated expanded core curriculum for students with visual impairments, such as self-determination, sensory efficiency skills, social skills, and recreation and leisure skills. Finally, students with visual impairments have high rates of obesity, depression, unemployment, and dissatisfaction with their social situation. Programs that support health and physical activity help to fight negative stereotypes and health risk behaviors in young people with visual impairments.

2. Funding request: \$2,500 - \$5,000

• Description of key initiatives

The funds we are requesting from the Chester County Community Foundation's donors will help cover the costs of meals and supplies, specifically for our "Cooking without Looking" program which is designed to empower the athlete to prepare nutritious meals with minimal assistance.

• Specific needs & issues to be addressed

This program is very popular with campers and their parents, but requires additional funding for food and supplies. Further, WCU Department of Nutrition, which supported the program in the past, is unable to this year due to staff and resource reductions.

• Why it is important to fund this now

See above.

• How impact & results will be demonstrated

Campers will put on a demonstration of their cooking skills for their parents at the end of the camp. Photographs/video will document their success and can be shared with donor(s) upon request. Donor(s) are also welcome to visit during Camp Abilities (Memorial Day weekend) at any time.

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 & financial statement, audited if available
4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year & 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 Portfolio Administrator Kevin Baffa at (610) 696-8211 grants@chescocf.org with questions.

