COVID-19 ADDENDUM
The Barn at Spring Brook Farm Mini-Grant Letter Proposal
Chester County Community Foundation
July 8, 2020

The Barn at Spring Brook Farm (The Barn) is grateful for the opportunity to provide the following addendum to our COVID-19 grant request submitted to the Chester County Community Foundation on March 26, 2020.

COVID-19’s Impact on and Response to The Barn’s Programs for Children with Disabilities

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, The Barn suspended all programs to keep our children, parents, staff and volunteers safe. These included our spring Individual Programs, all Educational Field Trips, our Spring Fling socialization event, and Camp Geronimo, our most popular program. At this time, we anticipate the cancellation of our fall Individual Programs, as well. Nevertheless, we recognized that we needed to develop alternate ways to engage our children so they could continue to progress.

While not as effective as the one-on-one (volunteer-to-child ratio) programs we’re known for, we pivoted to develop and deliver several virtual and tele-intervention programs for our children to maintain interaction with our animals, natural spaces and skilled volunteers, while enabling us to retain the relationships we have with the families we serve. Currently, we are running the following programs which are all fee-free unless otherwise indicated, and overseen by our Program Manager, Annie Kozicki, COTA/L, assisted by volunteer occupational therapy and nurse practitioner students from area universities:

- **Spring Brook Spotlight** is a virtual program that features interesting features of Spring Brook Farm, The Barn’s animals and our neighbors such as Baily’s Dairy and Northbrook Market. (Tuesdays at 11am via Facebook or FB Live)
- **Zoom with the Animals** is an interactive exchange between participating children and a facilitator, where each week a different Barn animal is featured along with related games. (Thursdays at 11am via Zoom)
- **Story Time with the Barn** features a live reading of a nature based or animal themed story by a different Barn staff member each week. (Fridays at 1:00pm via Facebook Live)
- **Virtual Summer Splash**, one of four seasonal socialization events hosted by The Barn, will be a live, interactive exchange featuring games and activities with our animals delivered via Zoom on July 11 at 1:00 p.m.

Throughout June a team of volunteer nurse practitioner students from the University of Pennsylvania worked with The Barn to research and establish very comprehensive health-safety and cleaning protocols in preparation.
for the time when we could welcome children back to The Barn. Now that Chester County has entered its Green Phase and is opening up with some eased restrictions, we launched a fee-based ($30) Family Barn Visit program on June 29 as an option for “in-person” programming. Currently, this program is only open to our already-engaged families to avoid the new family orientation process we normally require. Each day one child under the direct supervision of at least one adult household member can visit The Barn and be guided by our Program Manager or an occupational therapy student volunteer from a distance of 6’ to participate in animal-assisted and nature-based activities. We’re engaging one household unit per day to ensure close compliance with the health-safety and cleaning protocols we’ve established; however, it is our hope that we’ll be able to increase to 2-3 households per day prior to the start of the school year. As we move into the fall, and, should we need to continue the practice of social distancing, our Family Barn Visit program will operate in place of our fall Individual Programs.

Finally, we are piloting a virtual fee-based ($50) Special Summer Session the first week of August. This program will be limited to 16 children and delivered daily via Zoom so they can see and interact with each other. Each day will be a little different and will feature a variety of activities such as games, music therapy, animal yoga, dance and crafts. Before the start of the session, participating children will receive an activity box filled with everything they need to engage in the upcoming week’s activities. If our region continues with social distancing into the fall, we’ll likely repeat sessions like this through the end of the year.

For now, there is a “new normal” at The Barn but, on the bright side, even when things return to the “old normal,” we will have successfully created an array of virtual programming we can offer to children whose health is too compromised to participate in our regular “in-person” programs. Nevertheless, we remain confident in our ability to safely continue our work and to remain flexible and creative in order to serve the children and parents who count on us to support their goals and wishes for continued successful development.

Request

Regardless of whether our programs run, we must still have the resources to maintain our facilities and feed and care for our animals which are essential to our mission. We conduct our programming March through November, and suspending our usual programming during this time will result in a loss of earned revenue totaling approximately $61,312. We project that the maximum amount of revenue resulting from the fee-based alternates will yield an estimated $4,580, leaving a deficit of $56,732.

At this time, The Barn would be most grateful for donations in any amount to make up for earned revenue lost and to support our ability to be fully operational as soon as it is safe to do so.