

I. **CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET**

One page only. This page will be shared electronically with Grant Committee Members & Fund Advisors.
Note: If Philanthropy Network Greater Philadelphia's Common Grant Application is used, the CCCF's Summary Sheet MUST accompany application. To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit www.chescocf.org

Date: 9/8/20

Contact Information:

Organization Name: Camp Dreamcatcher
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Website: www.campdreamcatcher.org

Contact Name: Patty Hillkirk
Contact Title: Executive Director
Fax: 610-925-0403
Year Incorporated: 1999

Has your nonprofit ever applied to the Community Foundation? Yes X No__ 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

Field/s of Interest:

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

Organization Information:

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

All of Chester County and other parts of PA, DE, NJ, NY, MD and VA

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:

130 HIV/AIDS impacted youth, between the ages of 5-35. 25% of the youth are HIV/AIDS infected and 75% have an HIV/AIDS infected family member or have lost a family member to AIDS. 98% of the youth served come from low-income families and 50% have lost one or both parents.

Mission:

To provide safe, therapeutic and educational services to HIV/AIDS impacted youth and their families.
To foster an atmosphere of tolerance, compassion, respect and understanding through volunteer opportunities, services and expanded community involvement.

Proposal Summary:

A grant will support our FREE programs for HIV/AIDS impacted youth, including a therapeutic camp session, weekend retreats, a mentoring program, holiday adopt-a-family program and HIV/AIDS education, training and community outreach.

If Capacity Building Proposal:

__ Mission, Vision & Strategy __ Governance & Leadership __ Strategic Relationships
__ Fundraising & Development __ Operations __ Other: _____

Annual Budget \$ \$290,000

89 % of budget for program expenses
8 % of budget for administrative expenses
3 % of budget for fundraising expenses

1 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
11 # of Board Volunteers
200 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
5,000/yr # of Volunteer Hours

100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: Wyss Charitable Foundation, Julian A. & Lois G. Brodsky Foundation, the Cabot-Kjellerup Foundation and the Forney Family Foundation.

Grant Amount Requested from CCCF: \$ 5,000

Camp Dreamcatcher 2020-2021 Application

1. Camp Dreamcatcher's history, goals, key achievements, and distinctiveness:

Camp Dreamcatcher has been providing free services to HIV/AIDS impacted youth for almost twenty-five years. We offer the only therapeutic camp program for children coping with the HIV/AIDS on the East Coast. All of our programs are free and children attending our programs come from Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Maryland. 70% of the children served are from Philadelphia and the surrounding counties. We are currently providing services throughout the year to 130 HIV/AIDS impacted youth and their families.

The mission of Camp Dreamcatcher:

- To provide safe, therapeutic and educational services to HIV/AIDS impacted youth and their families.
- To foster an atmosphere of tolerance, compassion, respect and understanding through volunteer opportunities, services and expanded community involvement.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST TWENTY-FOUR YEARS:

- **Total Number of unduplicated HIV/AIDS Impacted Youth served: 5,700 children**
- Camp Dreamcatcher has provided 26 camp sessions and 29 retreats to children and families coping with HIV/AIDS.
- We provided 35 Reunion Events for HIV/AIDS impacted children and their families.
- 1,000 children received gifts through our holiday Adopt-a-Family Program.
- 1,100 counselors have attended our HIV/AIDS & Diversity Training.
- HIV/AIDS education and outreach has been provided to over 500 schools and community groups, reaching over 20,000 people.
- **THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS SINCE INCEPTION IS 240,620!**

2. Funding Request:

Camp Dreamcatcher requests a \$5,000 grant from the Chester County Community Foundation to support our free programs for HIV/AIDS impacted youth.

Specific needs to be addressed:

98% of the youth served by our programs are from low-income households, and only 13% have access to free or affordable therapeutic support in their communities. Children attending our programs are HIV/AIDS infected themselves, have an HIV/AIDS infected family member, or have lost a family member to an AIDS-related complication.

COVID-19 has increased the challenges faced by families coping with HIV/AIDS, who have fears about their compromised immune systems and increased vulnerability to contracting COVID-19. Many have lost their jobs, or their benefits have been impacted by COVID-19. In addition, they are significantly impacted by **Systemic Racism** and the systems in place that create and maintain racial inequality in every facet of life for people of color. Racial disparities are prevalent in our public health systems and result in Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) being impacted by HIV/AIDS and COVID-19 disproportionately when compared to whites. 98% of the youth served by our programs are BIPOC and Camp Dreamcatcher's Circle of Love creates a safe space where children and teens can process their grief and trauma related to those they have lost, and to the trauma and fear they have experienced in their own lives due to the color of their skin, racial profiling and police brutality.

Organizational impact:

The children attending our programs are facing issues beyond HIV/AIDS. 70% have experienced some form of abuse, 50% have lost one or both family members and 25% have been diagnosed with a mental health condition. Our programs offer a safe place to talk about the concerns and feelings associated with HIV/AIDS in a therapeutic and confidential environment. We provide factual information about HIV/AIDS, and dispel the myths and stigma associated with the disease. We provide a variety of therapeutic, educational and recreational programs throughout the year to improve the physical and emotional health of children, adolescents and young adults coping with HIV/AIDS.

Current Programs:

1. **Therapeutic and Educational Camp Sessions:** This summer, we shifted our one-week camp session into two weeks of virtual camp programming. **68 of the 78** children registered for camp attended the sessions. This means **87%** of those registered for camp logged on for ZOOM CAMP! The 6-10 -year-olds attended two hours of camp per day during the week of August 10-14th, and the 11-17-year-old campers attended 3-4 sessions per day during

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the week of August 17th – 21st. Our traditional evening programs were held at 7:00pm each night during the week of August 17th – 21st. These included the Opening Ceremony, Movie Night, Wish Log Ceremony, Dance and Talent show.

The following Program Goals were achieved during the camp sessions:

- We provided **70 therapeutic and educational programs** (psychotherapy, music therapy, art therapy, yoga, mindfulness, team building, drumming, videography, wellness – HIV/AIDS, COVID-19, healthy nutrition and hygiene - writing workshops, story-time & discussions, guided imagery, guest speakers, puberty education and the Senior Art Project) during the camp sessions. This summer we increased the number of BIPOC volunteers during the camp sessions, and created a library of books for story-time and book discussion sessions written and illustrated by BIPOC. 125 volunteers, medical personnel, professionals and community members volunteered during the camp session, and provided 650 hours of service!
 - We provided a **Career Readiness Program** during the “Leaders in Training” program for the 16 & 17-year-olds. The program was held for 1.5 hours each day and included the following sessions:
 - How to assess and apply emotional intelligence principles during the interview process
 - Identify local community service and volunteer opportunities
 - Create professional resumes
 - The opportunity to network with professionals and college students in various career paths chosen by the campers (business, nursing, interior design, cosmetology, special education, animal science, culinary arts & baking, sports marketing, computers/IT).
 - Participate in mock job interviews
 - We had FUN!!! We provided **45 recreational programs** during the two weeks of camp. These included arts & crafts, story-time, GAMES facilitated by the PayPal volunteers, (Scavenger hunts, “Minute to Win it”, Escape Rooms), BINGO, exercise, cabin time, “Jack Box” Games, and karate.
 - The Health Center Volunteers provided confidential **Health Check-In’s** each week for the parents/guardians of the campers to address any health-related concerns.
2. **COVID-19 Relief Services for Families:** Beginning in April, we created a donation drive to purchase food, clothing, toiletries and household supplies. We reached out to families to identify their specific physical and emotional needs, made referrals to local resources and shipped or dropped off supplies to the families. We started an **Emergency Fund** to purchase \$100 grocery gift cards to stores closest to each family. In April, and again in August, we sent \$100 grocery gift cards to 52 families – serving a total of 200 people each time!
 3. **We offer Progressive Leadership Opportunities** starting at age fifteen, when the Senior Campers participate in the Wilderness-based Therapy Program. **Camper Quest** is a journey all 15-year-old Senior Campers participate in during the camp session. The 2020 Senior Campers will complete their Camper Quest in 2021. The **Teen Leadership** weekend retreats are for 15-17-year-olds, and on June 6th & 7th, we welcomed thirty-one participants to our first **Virtual Teen Retreat**. The **Leaders in Training Program** is offered during the camp session and provides a two-year track of leadership and life skills programming to 16 & 17-year-old campers.
 4. **Counselor HIV/AIDS & Diversity Training** is held prior to the camp session in August.
 5. The **Mentoring Program** offers an experiential learning environment for young adults whose lives have been touched by HIV/AIDS and empowers youth to understand their full potential as caring and compassionate citizens through the development of a mentor/mentee relationship.
 6. **The Paul Harris Human Potential College Scholarship** was established by a long-term volunteer, Doug Harris, and awards two \$1,000 scholarships per year to college bound campers.
 7. **HIV/AIDS Education and Community Outreach:** Camp Dreamcatcher staff, volunteers and members of the “Teen Speaker’s Bureau” provide HIV/AIDS education, training and community outreach.
 8. **Adopt-a-Family Program:** This annual program is held in November and December each year. In 2019, over 1,500 gifts were distributed to 160 children.

Why is it important to fund this now?

Camp Dreamcatcher is facing financial challenges due to COVID-19, and we have lost over \$50,000 in funding thus far in 2020. These losses are due to a decrease in donations from individuals, corporations and foundations. Donors have

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shifted their focus to different areas of funding during the pandemic. The challenge is that as our funding has decreased, the need for our services has increased.

Future Goals:

- Continue to provide virtual programming to include support groups, movie nights, story-time, games and more!
- The creation of a Diversity & Inclusion Task Force comprised of a diverse team of volunteers and staff members.
- Engage all staff and stakeholders in conversations about diversity and inclusion.
- Review and update policies, processes, systems, and trainings to promote values of inclusivity and mutual respect and to encourage acceptance and the celebration of differences.
- Update the HIV/AIDS & Diversity Counselor Training to include components on racism, systemic racism and white privilege.
- Expand therapeutic opportunities for youth to discuss and process racial trauma. Offer trainings on Trauma-Informed Programming to volunteers.

How impact and results will be demonstrated:

The positive physical, emotional and social impact of our programs is confirmed by evaluations completed by the children, parents/guardians and volunteers. **The data below is from the 2020 Camper Evaluations:**

What did you get out of virtual camp?

“I LOVED IT.”

“Good. It was different.”

“I like doing camp on the phone.”

“To have fun with your friends.”

“I LIKED IT.”

“I wanted to go in person to camp, but I am happy I was able to attend virtually.”

“I liked it, but the first day we couldn’t get in the pool. Very important to keep your hygiene.”

“I got to meet counselors and see my friends.”

What was your favorite part of camp this year?

“KARATE AND THE PARTIES.”

“PayPal Games. My Favorite game was Mike and Ike game the most because we got to eat the Mike and Ike’s. Also, the caterpillar game.”

“BINGO & the Scavenger Hunt - Games with PayPal.”

“When you had to do the scavenger hunt (games).”

“Fun activities, my favorite one was bingo.”

“Coloring/Art.”

“Adventure.”

“Staying Connected.”

“Everything.”

Tell us what Camp Dreamcatcher means to you, or why is camp important to you?

“LOVE.”

“Camp Dreamcatcher is special to me because we spend it with other campers and counselors.”

“Meet new people and going fishing.”

“We get to go in the pool and meet new people.”

“Camp is important because I have fun and get along with everyone. Camp is about meeting other people and getting along with them.”

“Yes, it was important to have it. Because we could get some air.”

“Camp is important to me because you learn a lot of things.”

“Last year was my first time. I didn’t bring much stuff with me. This year I had everything.”

“Being Friends.”

“You can make new friends.”

“We can talk about our feelings.”

“To have fun with people and to be like a family.”

