

# I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

**One page only.** This page will be shared electronically with Grant Panel Members & Fund Advisors.

Note: If Philanthropy Network's Common Grant Application is used, CCCF's **Summary Sheet MUST accompany application.**

To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit [www.chescocf.org](http://www.chescocf.org)

**Date February 22, 2021**

## **Contact Information**

Organization Name: Keystone Human Services  
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Year Incorporated: 1972  
FEIN: 23-1915567

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Board Chair Approval (check here): X   
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## **Organization Information:**

### **Field/s of Interest:**

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

**Mission:** To create opportunities for growth and meaningful life choices so that all people can be valued, contributing members of their community.

**Geographic Area Served** For the purposes of this grant application, Chester County.

**Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:** Keystone Human Services provides resources, support, opportunities and care to individuals and families living with intellectual disabilities. In Chester County, KHS operates 9 small neighborhood homes, each one is home to 3 or 4 individuals. Additionally, through its subsidiary program Susquehanna Service Dogs (SSD), KHS has bred, trained and placed five service dogs in Chester County. Two full-time volunteer puppy raisers for SSD are also based in Chester County.

### **Annual Budget \$10,641,336 (for Chester County)**

**91%** of budget for program expenses  
**9%** of budget for administrative expenses  
**0%** of budget for fundraising expenses\*

100 % total

# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff: **90**  
# of Board Volunteers: **12**  
# of Active Non-Board Volunteers\*: **2**  
# of Volunteer Hours annually\*: **5,600, including puppy raisers' hours**

**Top 3-5 funding sources:** For the entire KHS organization: The Donald B and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation; the Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust and Team Foster.

**Is this grant proposal for:** ~~Capacity Building~~ or **General Operating x?**

### **If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:**

Mission, Vision & Strategy     Governance & Leadership     Partnerships & Collaborations  
 Fundraising, Development & Marketing    Technology    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:** Up to \$10,000

**Proposal Summary:** To provide support, resources, opportunities and independence to some of Chester County's most marginalized individuals .

## II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

*Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.*

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

Keystone Human Services provides care, resources and support to individuals with intellectual disabilities, mental health conditions and autism in dozens of counties in Pennsylvania; and also in New Jersey, Connecticut and Delaware. Our care is primarily provided in neighborhood residential homes. The organization was founded in 1972 in Harrisburg for the purpose of ending the horrific practice of institutionalizing individuals with developmental disabilities or mental health conditions. Today, KHS serves thousands of individuals and their families every year. In Chester County this means 33 individuals and their families in nine neighborhood homes operated by KHS.

Through Susquehanna Service Dogs, a subsidiary program of KHS, we further facilitate independence. Our expertly trained dogs support people with mobility challenges, autism, special needs and psychiatric needs including veterans experiencing post-traumatic stress or traumatic brain injury. Hearing and seizure response dogs, as well as facility dogs for schools, courthouses, hospitals (including CHOP) nursing homes, criminal justice systems, and more have been placed for a total of more than 300 dogs throughout the Mid-Atlantic.

In all of our programs, our goals are to promote the highest level of independence possible for each individual, through a person-centered planning process. Disability should not mean a loss of dignity or opportunities to pursue a passion. It is difficult for anybody to feel they need to rely on assistance in order to perform tasks such as going out or preparing a beverage.

The distinctive qualities of KHS is the person-centered planning process, which makes sure that every voice is heard: that of the individuals, their family, their support professionals, clinical staff and health professionals. Multiple goals are identified to best mitigate each person's disability: this may include training a dog to retrieve items or provide psychiatric support; or it may mean identifying opportunities for employment, running a small business, pursuing a hobby, volunteering, implementing technology to promote greater independence, improving health outcomes or expanding a social network.

Key achievements of the organization include pioneering the implementation of assistive and adaptive technology in Pennsylvania to increase each person's capacity for independence: this includes voice-activated devices and apps to mitigate learning disabilities; smartstoves for cooking safety, and remote monitoring of homes that respects privacy yet makes caregivers aware of unusual inactivity, flooding risks, or missed medications. In 2019, the first KHS "smart home" was designed to support "Melody". She previously lived with her parents, receiving 24 hour observation being provided by her parents and hired staff. Melody's parents were very hesitant to allow Melody to live on her own in her own apartment and so assistive technology was introduced as she joined KHS' Supported Living Program. Melody began Supported Living in March 2019 with 24 hours of support being provided by staff and, her parents. In May, 2019, the "Simply Home" system was installed, and less than two weeks later, staff began to titrate in the evenings for three hours. One week later, overnight staff were removed, because Melody's parents recognized the success of the system. If an alert is received, Melody is now able to (and prefers to) use FaceTime to talk to the people receiving the alert. Melody loves living independently and is happy to be living in her new neighborhood.

KHS has also achieved remarkable growth and defined aspirations for global equality. KHS holds Special Consultative Status with the United Nation's Economic and Social Council and participates in UN events and its concurrent side events. From a small passionate organization founded more than 40 years ago in Central Pennsylvania, today KHS provides (or has provided) consultation and assistance to programs in Romania, Azerbaijan, Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan, while never forgetting the needs of those whom we serve in the US. All of our programs are designed to reduce institutionalization, assist and support children in difficult situations, and to develop services that help society's most vulnerable individuals. Nearly 11,000 people were served by KHS in 2020.

## 2. Funding request.

### Description of key initiatives

The primary goal of KHS is to foster the greatest level of independence possible for those living with disabilities. As referenced above, this means identifying ways that enable lives to be lived in a meaningful, fulfilling manner. Achieving this requires a different plan for each individual: for some, KHS employment services work with area businesses to identify meaningful work and manage the State's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation requirements for the program. For others, it may be implementing "smart" technology – for instance, stoves that turn themselves off after a period of time, or an ALEXA system to manage household electronics. For another family, it may mean training a service dog to mitigate specific disabilities.

### Specific needs & issues to be addressed

There are many investments that need to be made – and prioritized – in order to meet the goal of comfortable, maximized independent living. Many of these are mundane that simply make sure that everything "works properly" – including house maintenance, both interior and exterior, the replacement of furnishings that see heavy use; some of it is necessary renovations such as building ramps for wheelchair access, and another need is to keep vehicles well-serviced. The initiative to implement assistive and adaptive technology into each of the homes that will increase people's capacity for independence is a long term commitment. Yet none of these costs are allowable by Medicaid. It does not cover "housing/living" expenses such as the following necessities:

- Exterior Home modifications for accessibility (ramps)
- Interior home modification: bathrooms; door widening; ceiling tracks and lifts for mobility; kitchen accessibility, etc.
- Utilities, food, household supplies, etc.
- Exterior upkeep: mowing, snow clearance,
- Interior upkeep: cleaning, maintenance
- Vehicle maintenance or replacement
- Independent Living Technology to support each person's capacity for independence.

**A note about Independent Living Technology:** In 1991, IBM stated *"For people without disabilities, technology makes things easier. For people with disabilities, technology makes things possible."* KHS can attest to the fact that the greatest desires of the disability community are 1) personal choice and control; 2) a greater sense of personal identity; and 3) personal space and privacy. **All** of the services we provide – from accessibility ramps to home maintenance - are geared towards meeting these desires. KHS has elected to implement *"SimplyHome"* into the homes that we operate. It is a cloud-based system designed to alleviate concerns such as fire safety, cooking safety, missed medications, chronic health conditions, and to establish routine. It promotes the highest level of independence possible for the individual without compromising safety or meaningful human interaction. The system is tailored to meet the specific needs of each person, and has multiple options including

- *General Independence* (“just in case” situations) - for individuals with developmental disabilities or autism but are well-capable of living independently.
- *“Cuing” Independence*- skill development and cuing activities for daily living, such as reminders to brush teeth, take medication, prepare food, wash clothes, or shower at a specific time of day.
- *Environmental Controls* - enable individuals, particularly those with mobility challenges to control their home environment, such as lighting, doors, electronics, heating and cooling.

There are also multiple expenses associated with the Service Dog program, and none of these costs are met by Medicaid. In fact, 90% of the service dog program’s costs has to be found through grants, donations and special event fundraising. It costs more than \$30,000 to breed, rear, train, partner and monitor one dog from birth to retirement meaning to meet our commitment to people in Chester County who qualify for one of our sweet, special dogs has run to more than \$150,000.

**For all of these reasons, Keystone Human Services would appreciate a grant from Field of Interest/Donor Advised Funds to be used for general operating support. A grant would be used in the most appropriate manner to facilitate the highest level of independence and well-being for some of Chester County’s most susceptible individuals.**

**Why it is important to fund this now**

COVID-19 has impacted the lives of those whom we serve, and with stay-at-home measures put in place, homes have seen heavier use than normal. The winter we are experiencing is also impacting the maintenance required for the homes, not to mention the mental health of all whom we serve. KHS is committed to the well-being of all whom we serve and seeks funding that will allow us to make investments that improve surroundings, individual capacity, independence, mental health, self-esteem, optimism, and wellness for those whom we serve in Chester County. This can be as simple as investing in a new mattress that improves sleep quality. It can be as complex as designing and implementing the specific technology that enhances the capacity for independent living.

**How impact & results will be demonstrated**

In general terms, there is a high expectation of increased quality of life: however, “happiness” is hard to quantify so the measurements come through conversations, observations and interactions with each individual, their family and their care team. Truly defined impact will be measured by meeting the goals identified in each person’s individualized plan: a comprehensive evaluation process that has been developed using the expertise and recommendations of a consultant. Success in monitoring health and safety is easier to quantify: electronic health records make relevant information available instantly and securely to authorized users.

An additional measureable outcome made possible from greater independence and balanced mental health is greater opportunities for community engagement - through KHS employment services, volunteer opportunities and neighborhood connections.