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: 9/13/2021

Contact Information:
Organization Name: Camp Dreamcatcher
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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 ___ 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 $358,095
84 ___ % of budget for program expenses
12 ___ % of budget for administrative expenses
4 ____ % of budget for fundraising expenses

100 ___ % total

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


Grant Amount Requested from CCCF: $ 5,000
Camp Dreamcatcher 2021-2022 Application

1. Camp Dreamcatcher’s history, goals, key achievements, and distinctiveness:
Camp Dreamcatcher has been providing free services to HIV/AIDS impacted youth for 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 120 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-FIVE YEARS:

- **Total Number of unduplicated HIV/AIDS Impacted Youth served: 5,760 children**
- Camp Dreamcatcher has provided 26 camp sessions and 26 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 250,620!**

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. 96% 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 trauma, 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.

Description of Key Initiatives:
1. **Therapeutic and Educational Camp Session:** The in-person camp session was held August 22-28 at Camp Saginaw. A total of 85 campers, ages 5-17, attended the camp session. 100 counselors, medical personnel, professionals and community members volunteered during the camp session, and provided 9,000 hours of service! Our wonderful volunteers donated $30,000 of professional services during the camp session. The volunteers included therapists, dancers, karate and yoga instructors, musicians, massage therapists, social workers, educators, nurses, nurse practitioners and physicians.

The following Program Goals were achieved during the camp sessions:

- **We provided 85 therapeutic programs** (psychotherapy, mindfulness, wilderness-based therapy, yoga, massage and sessions with therapeutic dogs) during the camp sessions.
- **We provided 55 educational programs.** These included dance classes with Emanuel “Manny” Chacon (dancer/choreographer from Wilmington, DE), karate and self-defense, step dancing classes, cooking, drumming, guest speakers, teambuilding and leadership programming. The 15-17-year-olds participated in a **Career Readiness** track during the camp session. We partnered with two new organizations for this program: **Junior Achievement** and **Wings for Success.** Topics discussed during these sessions included the following:
  - The Job Search / Interview Process
  - Identifying Interests, Skills and Value to align with Career Paths
  - Wearing the Right Outfit & Attitude / The Impact of Social Media
  - How to Build a Strong Resume / The Importance of Networking
  - Managing Your Money and Financial Literacy
  - Getting Out of Debt / How to Build Your Credit
- **We had FUN!!!** We provided **150 recreational programs** during the camp session. These included arts & crafts, pottery, laser tag, go-kart racing, horseback riding, water slides & sprinklers, GIANT GAMES, fishing, canoeing, paddle boats, story-time, an Escape Room, a GAGA tournament, field games, archery, an adventure course, basketball, movie nights, and our annual talent show and John Flynn concert!

2. **COVID-19 Relief Services for Families:** In 2020, we launched an **Emergency Fund** to purchase $100 grocery gift cards to stores closest to each family served by Camp Dreamcatcher. In April, August and December of 2020 we sent $100 grocery gift cards to 52 families – serving a total of 200 people each time! In 2021, grocery gift cards will be distributed to families during the holiday season.

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 **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. **Emerging Leaders Program.** This new program increases the pathways to leadership for young adults in the organization. The eight participants included campers who grew up at camp and transitioned into the role of counselors. They participated in three sessions prior to the camp week, which included a DEI assessment session with consultants from S’more Melanin.

5. **Counselor HIV/AIDS & Diversity Training** is held prior to the camp session in August.

6. **The Paul Harris Human Potential College Scholarship** 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 2020, over 1,200 gifts were distributed to 120 children.

9. **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Projects:** In 2020, the Board of Directors and Staff made a commitment to expand the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion of our programming by identifying specific DEI goals for 2021. Our DEI goals included an equity & culture audit of the organization which was conducted by S’more Melanin, a company founded by two women of color who grew up at camps, with the mission of assisting organizations to provide a safe and inclusive camp culture that honors diversity and welcomes and embraces BIPOC in the camp world.

We have achieved the following DEI goals this year:
We conducted a DEI assessment with Camp Dreamcatcher staff, board members, volunteers and members of our Emerging Leaders Program.

We engaged all staff, volunteers and board members in conversations about diversity, equity and inclusion.

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- We reviewed and updated our policies, processes, systems, and trainings to promote values of inclusivity and mutual respect and to encourage acceptance and the celebration of differences.
- We increased the number of BIPOC volunteer at camp from 56% in 2020 to 70% in 2021.
- We increased the diversity of materials at camp to include 70 new books for children written and illustrated by BIPOC.
- We provided education on indigenous culture during the camp session.
- We increased the pathways for leadership at camp by launching the new Emerging Leaders Program.
- We updated the HIV/AIDS & Diversity Counselor Training to include components on racism, systemic racism, racial trauma, white privilege, the hidden curriculum at camp, and LGBTQ Inclusivity and Belonging at Camp.
- We provided a training on Trauma-Informed Camp Programming for volunteers at camp.
- We created space for open and honest discussions to encourage radical empathy and practice restorative justice practices at camp.

**Why is it important to fund this now?**
Camp Dreamcatcher provides services throughout the year to children impacted by HIV/AIDS. Funding will enable us to expand and adapt our programs to meet the changing needs of the children and families served by our programs.

**How impact and results will be demonstrated:**
Our biggest achievement in 2021 was our ability to provide a COVID-19 FREE IN-PERSO N CAMP SESSION. We strictly followed all of the CDC and American Camping Association guidelines for residential camp sessions. All of our volunteers were vaccinated and the campers received COVID-19 tests prior to camp. The children taking buses from Johns Hopkins and St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children had PCR tests 96 hours prior to meeting at the bus departure sites, and then received rapid COVID-19 tests before getting on the buses. The children who were being dropped off by parents/guardians stayed in their cars upon arrival and received rapid and PCR COVID-19 tests. Children were only permitted to move into the main camp area after their negative COVID-19 test was confirmed by our medical volunteers. Campers stayed within their own “pods” or cabin family for the week, and wore masks if they were within 6 feet of distance to another cabin. Meals and programs were held outside, and masks were worn inside program areas.

Campers, volunteers and family members complete program evaluations on an annual basis. The Camp Dreamcatcher Board of Directors is actively involved in program assessment, strategic planning and updates the organization’s policies and procedures on an annual basis.

The DEI Assessment Survey was completed by Camp Dreamcatcher staff, board members, volunteers and Emerging Leaders in April of 2021.

100% of those surveyed “AGREED OR STRONGLY AGREED” to the following statements:

- “I would recommend Camp Dreamcatcher to friends and colleagues due to the welcoming and inclusion culture.”
- “I am satisfied that I have opportunities to apply my talent and expertise at Camp Dreamcatcher.”

**Quotes from the DEI Survey:**

“Camp Dreamcatcher is a second home for the campers, and for most, it is the only place they feel safe and free from the secret of HIV/AIDS.”

“Dreamcatcher includes everyone and provides support no matter who or where they are from.”

“Very open and accepting to all.”

“Very diverse group of volunteers, high levels of inclusion for a new first-time volunteer”

“The camp staff were from all walks of life, of various ages, locations, backgrounds, jobs etc. which made me feel accepted immediately as it came across as an all-inclusive environment.”
“I’ve never felt more welcomed anywhere else in the world, and I try to create that sense of belonging for the campers, constantly.”