GRANT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

- We connect people who care with causes that matter, so their philanthropy makes a difference now & forever.
- We are a collection of Field of Interest & Donor Advised Funds with @$3.5M granted annually to nonprofits in Chester County & beyond.
- 99% of our grants are made by our generous Fund Advisors, who make grant decisions all year.

Proposals submitted by nonprofits are considered for 2 types of grants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field of Interest &amp; Donor Advised Funds (No Deadline)</th>
<th>Fund for Chester County Capacity Building Grants (Due 9/15)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>◇ Grants focus on Chester County causes &amp; issues, but are not limited to Chester County.</td>
<td>◇ For eligibility in this grant program, nonprofits must be located in &amp; serve Chester County. NPO's with budgets of $500,000 or less are given preference.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◇ Charitable nonprofits working in all fields of interest are considered for grant awards. (i.e. arts, culture, &amp; humanities; education; community improvement; environment; religion; health; &amp; human services)</td>
<td>◇ The goal of capacity building grantmaking is to strengthen the effectiveness of NPO's serving the Chester County region, in areas including:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◇ General operating grants are encouraged. Nonprofits should be specific about their mission, goals, &amp; measurable outcomes.</td>
<td>◇ Mission, Vision &amp; Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◇ Proposals can be submitted anytime all year.</td>
<td>◇ Governance &amp; Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◇ Grant decisions are made intermittently all year, as Fund Advisors desire.</td>
<td>◇ Partnerships &amp; Collaborations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◇ Grant awards typically range from $500-$7,500.</td>
<td>◇ Operations &amp; Technology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Use this form @ www.chescof.org to apply online for grants from all Community Foundation Funds.
- Email proposals to grants@chescof.org
- Proposals are considered "complete" when CCCC has confirmed receipt of the Grant Proposal Summary Sheet, Narrative & Attachments.
- Proposals are shared electronically and online with Fund Advisors, Donors & Grant Panels.
- Per IRS Regulations, applicants must be charitable, tax exempt organizations with 501(c)(3) certification & cannot be individuals.

Please contact Grants Administrator Kevin Baffa at (610)-698-8211 or grants@chescof.org with any questions.
Chester County Community Foundation
Grant Proposal Summary Sheet
Thorncroft Equestrian Center

Date August 18th 2021

Contact Information
Organization Name: Thorncroft Equestrian Center
ED/CEO Name: Tiffany Meyer
Address: 190 Line Road, Malvern, PA 19355
ED/CEO E-mail: tiffany@thorncroft.org
Phone: 610-644-1963
Board Chair Name: Richard Johnston
Website: www.thorncroft.org
Board Chair Approval (check here): ☐
Year Incorporated: 1981
Primary Contact Name: Mikaela Potrako
FEIN: 23-2218431
Primary Contact E-mail: mikaela@thorncroft.org

Organization Information:
Field/s of Interest:
___ Arts, Culture & Humanities   ___ Environment/Animal Welfare   ___ Education
___X Health                     ___ Human Services               ___ Religion

Mission:
Thorncroft’s Mission is to develop the physical and emotional well-being of all people regardless of their individual challenges. We are committed to personal growth and education in an equestrian environment of respect, love, and inclusion.

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served):
For over 52 years, Thorncroft Equestrian Center has proudly served riders of all abilities and specialized needs from southeastern Pennsylvania, primarily the residents of Chester County.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:
Thorncroft uses horsemanship to develop the physical and emotional well-being of our riders in an environment of love and respect, helping them grow and excel in ways never believed possible. 50% of Thorncroft’s ridership is comprised of therapeutic students having at least one cognitive, physical, or psychosocial disability. Annually Thorncroft serves over 300 riders and our therapeutic student body represents over 50 different types of specialized needs. Our top 3 diagnoses categories represented in our therapeutic program are Autism (31%), Psychosocial Disorders (17%) and Neurological Disorders (11%). Additionally, <3% of riders served are under the age of 18.

Annual Budget $1,257,350

___ 74% of budget for program expenses 14 # of Board Volunteers
___ 7% of budget for administrative expenses 103 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
___ 18% of budget for fundraising expenses 3,310 (as of 8/1/21) # of Volunteer Hours

100% total

Top 3-5 funding sources:
Goshen Hill Foundation, Herman O. West Foundation, Davenport Family Foundation, Haverford Trust.

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: $ 5,000

Proposal Summary: The following proposal request general operating support for the Thorncroft Therapeutic Horsemanship Program. After 52 years, Thorncroft continues to provide a life changing service for over 300 riders per week with cognitive, physical, and psychosocial disabilities and foster inclusion in our greater community. For the individuals we serve, Thorncroft is a place where transformative change happens, and they experience things never thought possible. General operating support would allow Thorncroft to continue its unique mission, support the impact of existing resources available to our community and invest in an inclusive community filled with opportunity for all.
Chester County Community Foundation
Grant Proposal Narrative
Thoracraft Equestrian Center

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

Thoracraft's Mission is to develop the physical and emotional well-being of all people regardless of their individual challenges. We are committed to personal growth and education in an equestrian environment of respect, love, and inclusion.

Established in 1969, Thoracraft Equestrian Center is one of the Premier Therapeutic Equestrian Centers in the United States. Host to approximately 300 riders per week, Thoracraft's therapeutic and equine assisted activities support the growth of both children and adults with cognitive, emotional, and physical disabilities. Thoracraft helps people grow as individuals and as a community by learning to celebrate the unique abilities of all people through the shared experience of horseback riding. Together, riders of all abilities achieve and learn skills that cannot be provided by traditional educational methods, therapeutic settings, or recreational opportunities available to our community.

Thoracraft's story begins 1969 with one therapeutic rider, Marge Harry, whose remarkable equestrian journey of growth inspired the Farm to expand the use of horsemanship to help those with specialized needs reach their full potential and promote acceptance and inclusion within the community. Since Marge began at Thoracraft 52 years ago, our Farm has been on the cutting edge of research in hippotherapy and innovative approaches to special education. At Thoracraft, our riders physical, cognitive, and psychosocial progress is palatable as staff and instructors witness individual accomplishments and hurdles once thought out of reach.

2. Funding request

- Description of key initiatives

Under the umbrella of Thoracraft's Therapeutic Horsemanship Program, Thoracraft offers an array of sub-programs and activities to address the individualized needs and goals of our riders, support partnering organizations, and foster inclusion within our community. We tailor both mounted and unmounted lessons to each rider to facilitate their unique journey of personal growth. The diversity of our programming is designed to reflect the wide range of abilities and needs of our riders, as well as complement the existing services available to the community.

Mounted Lessons Program

Of the approximately 300 riders served every week, over 50% have a diagnosed special need. Riding lessons take place in a mainstreamed environment to eliminate separation between those with and without special needs...everyone rides, learns, and grows together. Thoracraft encourages an atmosphere of respect and collaboration in the pursuit of a common passion. Riding lessons take place in private, semi-private and group settings weekly, and are tailored to the needs of the individuals. Thoracraft is proud to be a PATH Int. (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International) Premier Accredited Center and a US Para Dressage Center of Excellence.

Unmounted "Pony Tales" Sessions

Thoracraft's unmounted horsemanship lesson program "Pony Tales", is designed to meet the unique goals and needs of the participant. During these sessions participants will groom their horse, learn the basics of ground-work such as lunging and other equine assisted activities which foster cognitive, physical and emotional well-being. Pony Tales provides a therapeutic opportunity for individuals for whom traditional riding would not be appropriate and serve riders during the COVID19 pandemic who cannot ride safely while maintaining social distancing and adhering to mask recommendations. In addition to serving this specific population, the program has expanded to support individuals the mounted lesson program does not currently have the horse capacity to serve. This unmounted program allows Thoracraft to expand the reach of our mission, increase our inclusivity and protect the health and well-being of equine partners.

School and Organizational Partnerships

No organization can serve all the needs that exist within our community autonomously. Because of this, Thoracraft collaborates with outside organizations to expand the reach of our mission, increase the impact of our collective resources, and meet the unique needs of our community together. Thoracraft offers group riding experiences for schools, organizations, and residential facilities to supplement their special education and recreational curriculum. Examples of our partners include...
Special Equestrian Events
Most prominently Thorncroft hosts the Therapeutic Riders Division of the Devon Horse Show as well as assorted clinics throughout the year. Participating in horse shows promotes sportsmanship, goal setting, and fosters teamwork and self-esteem for riders of all abilities. Through these activities, Thorncroft opens doors to equestrian opportunities for riders with special needs and fosters the creation of future inclusive opportunities.

Mainstreamers Drill Team
The Thorncroft Mainstreamers are an equestrian drill team consisting of riders with and without disabilities. The Mainstreamers work and ride together, stewarding collaborative performances and mutual understanding. As the skill of each rider improves, their lives are also enriched by the experience. Founded in 1986, the Thorncroft Mainstreamers have performed across New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware at many esteemed events including the Devon Horse Show and The Belmont Stakes. Their presence demonstrates to our community what can be achieved through teamwork and inclusion.

Intro to Horsemanship for Military Veterans and First Responders
For over 10 years, Thorncroft has welcomed members of our military community to participate in our Veterans Program. Teaching with a strong emphasis on foundational principles of horsemanship, Thorncroft’s equine assisted activities for veterans includes lessons on equine behavior, herd dynamics, round penning, lunging, and riding. Following a similar curriculum Thorncroft recently expanded its programing to support First Responders facing high stress situations in our community. Both Veterans and First responders benefit from Thorncroft’s program through increased emotional awareness, empathy, self-actualization, and stress tolerance. Additionally, Thorncroft collaborates with the Chester County Critical Incident Stress Management Team and The Weekly Fight to effectively serve participants and reach Veterans/First Responders who would benefit from our program. As thanks for their service to our country and communities, Thorncroft offers full scholarships to every Veteran and First Responder who participates in the Therapeutic Horsemanship Program.

Specific needs & issues to be addressed
Education
Children with specialized needs served by our local school districts often require more resources than are available. Adults, who are ineligible for school-based enrichment, also find themselves with few opportunities for cognitive, and psychosocial advancement. With guidance from educators and parents, Thorncroft embraces the opportunity to help our community overcome these barriers and support the cognitive development of people with special needs through affordable and accessible, mainstreamed equestrian education. From a cognitive perspective, Thorncroft’s therapeutic horsemanship program provides an enriching opportunity for riders of all ages to collaborate, learn and grow. Direct results of participation include improved problem-solving skills, direction following, sequencing, improved motor planning, improved left/right discrimination, and multi-tasking ability. The movement of the horse is extremely effective for meeting the base sensory needs of riders especially individuals with autism, ADD and ADHD which open the doors for further verbal, social and cognitive skill development. Additionally, Thorncroft partners with existing educational services, to enhance a student’s educational experience. Our partnering school organizations report an increase in classroom engagement, focus and productivity on the days their student ride at Thorncroft. Funding the Thorncroft Therapeutic Horsemanship Program increases the efficacy of existing educational resources in the community and will provide continued cognitive development for adults who are no longer eligible for school-based programs.

Health and Wellness
Traditional therapeutic methods are often limited in their scope due to insurance constraints and the physical limitations of the therapeutic setting (i.e., a clinical setting or office). Limited recreational and social opportunities for individuals with special needs what opportunities are available often lack appropriate support systems to ensure meaningful participation. Thorncroft uses the modality of the horse to support the physical and mental well-being of the total person by utilizing therapeutic benefits of the movement, shape, and demeanor of the horse. Instructors facilitate the growth of the total person in an empowering, ability focused manner. This approach promotes creativity and critical thinking to unlock a person’s full potential rather than “fixing” or “healing” or “suppressing” what makes them different. Psychologically this increases self-esteem, independence and builds confidence. This unique and empowering approach is not possible when an organization must operate within the confines of insurance reimbursements or patient diagnostic constraints.
The Therapeutic Horsemanship Program serves to supplement existing therapeutic opportunities and provide unique approaches to physical development that only horseback riding can provide. Physically, riding improves overall strength and flexibility, develops coordination and postural control, and improves both gross and fine motor function. One of the unique benefits of therapeutic riding is that the walking motion of the horse mirrors the rotation of the human pelvis during independent movement. Because of this, the movement of the horse helps to facilitate the normal neuromuscular pathways, develop mobility and the proper biomechanics required for walking in individuals who rely on mobility devices such as wheelchairs. This unique application of therapeutic riding was determined by a 1991 study conducted at Thorncroft in tandem with researchers from the University of Delaware.

Community Need for Inclusion and Opportunity

Thorncroft’s mainstreamed approach to equestrian education plays a critical role in the service of our mission and greater impact on the community. The integration of therapeutic and recreational riders, quickly yet unassumingly, promotes acceptance rather than rejection of those with special needs. Horses are the facilitators of growth, and they provide a common passion between riders with and without special needs. The environment of inclusion, collaboration, and respect generated by people of all abilities working together in the pursuit of a shared passion is one of Thorncroft’s greatest contributions to the community in which we live. Individuals without special needs view the world from a broader lens because of their experiences at Thorncroft. Through Thorncroft’s collaborative education, neurotypical riders develop the empathy, desire and the skills necessary to foster inclusion and opportunity for all people within our community.

Why it is important to fund this now

The COVID19 Pandemic exacerbated mental, physical, and cognitive health concerns while making community supports and resources inaccessible. From an educational lens, school aged individuals were isolated from peers and faced the challenges of learning remotely. Schools with limited resources before the pandemic struggled further to support students with IEPs in a virtual learning environment. Parents and caregivers struggled to support the physical, cognitive, and emotional needs of their children while maintaining employment. Parents with dependent children of all ages personally faced stress and isolation as they could not risk becoming ill and incapable of caring for their child. This increased the incidence of mental health issues among care givers and the isolation deteriorated the physical, cognitive, and emotional conditions of their dependents with special needs. Individuals with physical challenges declined as gyms, physical therapy offices and recreational opportunities were either suspended or created greater risk. Individuals with cognitive challenges such as autism, dementia and learning disabilities struggled with the social isolation, remote learning environments and suspension of enriching activities. People with and without special needs suffered from the anxiety of becoming ill, the isolation from social interaction, dysfunctional family/living situations, grief of lost loved ones, stress caused by financial hardship etc. Veterans managing PTSD and other combat related injuries became further distanced from their circles of support. First responders in our community directly experienced this community wide stress as they witnessed, on the frontlines an increase in violent crimes, domestic abuse, suicide, and substance abuse crises.

The Aforementioned effects of COVID19 increased the demand on existing community resources making Thorncroft’s program even more vital to collectively supporting our suffering community. Additionally, the outdoor and naturally socially distanced nature of equestrian education allows Thorncroft to continue serving people and combating isolation related issues where other resources cannot.

How impact & results will be demonstrated

Thorncroft’s Therapeutic Horsemanship Program impacts both the individual participants and the strength of our community. Riders develop, physically, cognitively, and emotionally leading to a higher quality of life. This higher quality of life includes, physical and mental wellbeing, success in school, fulfilling social interactions, and beyond. From a community perspective, riders, volunteers, and staff with special needs learn to support and collaborate with people of all abilities and learn to foster inclusion and acceptance in other areas of their lives.

Progress of riders in the Thorncroft Therapeutic Horsemanship Program are documented quarterly by instructors in accordance with PATH Int. (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International) standards. Additionally, Thorncroft plans to implement a self-reported functional gains survey in the Fall of 2021 to quantify the qualitative information we currently receive from parents and riders. This tool is being developed with the help of researchers from the Children’s Hospital of Pennsylvania. Riders and/or caregivers will complete this survey upon entry into the program establishing a baseline and then annually for the tenure of their involvement within the program. Internally, the information gained through the progress reports and functional gains survey will allow Thorncroft’s leadership to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and adapt to the evolving needs of our riders. Externally, these impact measures will be used in this pursuit of future funding and to create engagement through our outbound marketing efforts.