

ZELINDA LEBOUTILLIER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



I. SUMMARY SHEET

(One page only. This page will be shared with Grant Committee Members.)

Note: If the Philanthropy Network's Common Grant Application is used, this Summary Sheet MUST accompany application. Please visit our website at www.chescocf.org to obtain an electronic version of this application.

Date: 5/5/22

Contact Information:

Organization Name: Camp Dreamcatcher
Address: 148 West State Street STE 104
Kennett Square, PA 19348
Phone: 610-925-2998
Web Address: <https://campdreamcatcher.org/>

Contact Name: Patty Hillkirk
Contact Title: Executive Director
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Year Incorporated: 1996

Has your nonprofit previously applied to the Community Foundation: Yes No

Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture and Humanities Environment/Animal Welfare Health
 Human Services Education Religion

Organizational Information:

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

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. About 25% of campers are from Chester County.

Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served:

Camp Dreamcatcher serves approximately 120 children and youth every year, many of whom stay engaged with us year after year. 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 own 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. 70% have experienced some form of abuse or trauma. Many are experiencing understandable fears about their own compromised immune systems and an increased vulnerability to contracting COVID-19. Half of campers have lost at least one parent to HIV/AIDS.

96% of the youth served by our programs are Black or Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC), so they face challenges specifically related to systemic racism, including limited access to high quality health care and health coverage, limited access to testing and treatment, underlying health conditions that can impact the immune system, and lack of access to mental health support for the difficult circumstances they face because of HIV/AIDS.

Mission Statement:

The mission of Camp Dreamcatcher is to provide safe, therapeutic and educational programs to HIV/AIDS impacted youth and their families. Our vision is to foster an environment of tolerance, compassion, respect, and understanding of those whose lives have been touched by HIV/AIDS.

Organization Description:

Camp Dreamcatcher has been providing free services to HIV/AIDS impacted youth for more than 26 years. We offer the only therapeutic camp program for children coping with HIV/AIDS on the East Coast. All of our programs are free of charge. Although our Therapeutic and Educational Summer Camp is the flagship program for our organization, we provide support for our campers and their families year-round,

in addition to education on HIV/AIDS in the community. Our Progressive Leadership Program leverages our longtime relationship with campers as they grow up, equipping them for success and leadership.

Annual Budget \$ <u>385,550</u>	<u>2</u>	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>83</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>10</u>	# of Board Volunteers
<u>13</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>120</u>	# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>4</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>13,000</u>	# of Volunteer Hours
<i>100 % total</i>		

Top 3-5 funding sources:

Julian and Lois B. Brodsky Foundation, \$30,000

PayPal Community Impact Fund, \$20,000

The Philadelphia Foundation, \$20,000

Philly AIDS Thrift, \$20,000

The Gatewood Foundation, \$20,000

Proposal Information:

Grant Amount Requested: \$ 2,000

Summary Description of Grant Purpose: Therapeutic and Educational Camp Session for HIV/AIDS Impacted Youth.

ZELINDA LEBOUTILLIER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

II. LOI (LETTER OF INTENT)

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1. Organization's history, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness

Camp Dreamcatcher offers the only therapeutic camp program for children impacted by HIV/AIDS on the East Coast. For most of our campers, we are their only source of free or affordable therapeutic services. Above all, we are a safe, understanding and supportive community of love that children return to, year after year. Since our start 26 years ago, we have achieved the following:

- **Total Number of unduplicated HIV/AIDS Impacted Youth served: 5,800 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.
- 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:

- A. Specific Chester County or other County needs and issues addressed**
- B. Organizational impact (for general operating) or project impact**
- C. Overall strategies to implement the organization's mission (or project)**
- D. Why it is important to fund this grant now**

About a quarter of campers attending summer camp hail from Chester County. Despite the general good health and prosperity enjoyed by many residents of this County, our campers face numerous barriers to good health and success, in addition to the HIV/AIDS that they or a loved one has or has had. Our campers are predominantly people of color, and nearly all live in poverty. 70% of the youth who attend Camp Dreamcatcher have experienced some form of abuse, trauma, or other Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE). Our trauma-informed programming provides the four key factors necessary to support youth as they heal from their trauma. These include safety, positive caring relationships with adults, a feeling of achievement or success, and activities that develop a sense of agency or control in their lives. Camp Dreamcatcher is a touchstone in the lives of these vulnerable young people, and most campers look forward all year to returning to camp to see their friends and our counselors and volunteers.

Camp Dreamcatcher seeks to create an impact on participating campers in the following ways:

- To improve the physical and emotional health of the campers.
- To offer educational sessions that explore issues, problems, and concerns common amongst HIV/AIDS infected and/or affected youth, including age-appropriate sexual health education.
- To improve the camper's perceptions of, and adherence to, HIV medication regimes.
- To increase knowledge about HIV/AIDS, explore attitudes around HIV/AIDS, and support the mental health of children struggling with the stigma related to HIV/AIDS.
- To give the children and adolescents attending our programs the chance to feel free and have fun – just like any other kids!

Camp Dreamcatcher employs the following strategies to achieve the above goals:

- **Therapeutic and Educational Summer Camp:** For a week in August, we host about 120 children at Camp Saginaw in Oxford for a memorable time during which children can shed the stigma of HIV/AIDS, enjoy a week of fun activities, and also participate in education and activities to improve their health and well-being in the long term.

- **Adopt-a-Family Program:** This annual program is held in November and December each year. In 2021, gifts were delivered to 120 children.
- **Progressive Leadership Program (PLP):** This program was developed to continue to engage and assist young people who attended camp as children and are now ready for new age-appropriate challenges. The PLP starts when campers are aged 15, with our Wilderness-Based Therapy Program. Camper Quest is a safe overnight experience where counselors and staff facilitate group team-building challenges, teach basic camping skills such as outdoor cooking, hygiene and safety practices, fire building and adventure challenges. The Leaders in Training (LIT) Program is for 16- & 17- year-olds, and provides a variety of therapeutic, educational, team building, leadership building, and life skills programming. Topics include resume writing, budgeting, college scholarship applications, interview skills, and cooking. The Camper to Counselor (CTC) Program is for counselors ages 18+ and provides additional training and support to this wonderful group of young adults as they transition from the role of camper to counselor at Camp Dreamcatcher. In 2021, we launched a new Emerging Leaders Program, which offers selected CTC's an opportunity to be matched with a Mentor and to be co-leaders of a Camp Village. The Emerging Leaders receive a stipend for their participation in the program.
- A new program this year, our **Equity Champions** will be team members who receive training in restorative justice and conflict mediation/resolution, and who will apply this training at camp by responding to conflicts through an equity lens.

3. Timetable, with anticipated outcomes and their relevance to the nonprofit's mission

Although our Summer Camp is held in August each year, Camp Dreamcatcher provides support to our campers year-round, and also supports them on an as-needed basis. For example, during the difficult economic times at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, we mobilized to assess our families' needs and support them with basic needs and gift cards. Demand for our camp program has risen 10% this year, and support is more critical than ever due to rising costs. For example, COVID-19 testing is essential for all of our campers, many of whom are already immunocompromised.

4. How the impact and results will be demonstrated

Camp Dreamcatcher has conducted program impact research in partnership variously with Hershey Medical Center, La Salle University, Drexel College of Medicine and the University of Pennsylvania. A study conducted by a physician from Hershey Medical Center found that 78% of campers have an easier time taking their HIV medications while at camp. Another study found that 63% of campers' parents/guardians reported a positive difference in their child's willingness to take his/her medications at home after camp. This is one important difference we seek to achieve for our campers, to ensure their best possible future health outcomes.

We also measure our impact by our success in retaining and engaging campers over time and becoming a longtime partner in their lives. Most of the teens and young adults coming to our programs have been in the program for at least ten years. More than 60% of the graduates of the Leaders in Training Program for 16-17 year-olds return to camp as counselors each year. Twelve of the 17 current CTCs (Campers to Counselors) are currently attending or have attended a trade or professional certification course of college.

Finally, we survey campers on their satisfaction with the camp experience, as one of our goals is for HIV-impacted youth to enjoy a full, memorable week of summer camp like any other kids. At our summer camp session in August 2019, campers responded to the following questions:

Did you feel accepted at camp? Yes 100%

Did you have fun at camp? Yes 100%

Did you feel supported by the staff and volunteers at camp? Yes 100%

Were you able to talk openly about HIV/AIDS at camp? Yes 96%