

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Date 5/1/2022

Contact Information

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Organization Information:

Field of Interest:

Religion and human services

Mission:

Seeking, Sharing, and Showing God's Love

Geographic Area Served

Phoenixville Borough and surrounding areas

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

Three thousand (3,000) meals per year are prepared through The Kitchen Ministry, Good Works, and St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter programs. They are aimed to support low income families and individuals with food insecurity issues, but are delivered without qualification, payment or proselytizing. The Kitchen Ministry program is currently expanding through Phoenixville Area Community Services. FUMC also supports Phoenixville Meals on Wheels program with leadership, volunteers, and donations which delivers seven thousand eight

hundred meals per year (7,800). We forecast the population experiencing food insecurity will continue to expand as food, fuel, and housing costs increase. These costs always have an ill proportioned impact on the population served.

Annual Budget

In 2022 FUMC budgets \$5,000 100% for program food expenses. Expenditures are supplemented by congregational donations to the program (\$2,000) and a fund raiser Script where prepaid credit cards sold only to the congregation, return a portion of the face value (1,000). Raw food from the FUMC community garden, Phoenixville Hospital, and Phoenixville Area Community Services are utilized, when they are available to lower the costs of meals provided.

Capital or Capacity Building expenditures are not budgeted and have exceeded \$200,000 over the 7 year history of the programs. Funding is provided from capital campaigns, long term savings, memorial gifts, and extra mile giving (in excess of amounts pledged to the general fund). We expect to spend \$50,000 from Memorial Gifts in 2022 to expand oven capacity, upgrade hot water production, and to air condition the space.

Top 3-5 funding sources:

General Fund (pledged by congregation)
Capital Campaign Fund
Endowment and long term saving earnings
Memorial Gifts
Extra Mile Gifts (in excess of pledged support)
Script

Is this grant proposal for:

General Operating expenses which are the cost of the food delivered to the client population. FUMC will build and maintain the capacity in compliance with Chester County Food Safety requirements.

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

Proposal Summary:



Volunteers Celebrate The Kitchen Ministry delivery of 720 dinner meals in 2015

Matthew 25:35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.

History and Infrastructure

The Kitchen Ministry of First United Methodist Church Phoenixville was first established in 2015 as part of a team of area congregations who provided satellite kitchens to support a dinner meal program hosted by St Peter's Episcopal Church. Volunteers from FUMC would prepare a meal, transport, serve, and cleanup the dinner served to those individuals who desired a meal at no charge. All community members were welcomed to participate in the meal.

Since the ministry was focused on serving the public, the Chester County Health Department became involved to ensure that compliance with county food safety

regulations were met. FUMC was tasked to renovate our kitchen to include a washable ceiling tile system, impervious counter tops, commercial grade refrigeration and dishwashing appliances, grease trap, stainless steel dishwashing stations, automated fire suppression system, and ventilated cooking surfaces. The initial round of renovations was funded by FUMC and exceeded \$100K.

The Kitchen Ministry is licensed once per year with an onsite inspection by a Chester County Health Department inspector and has been judged to be fully compliant, with no citations throughout the history of the ministry. Pastor Mark Young and Jill Brown serves as a Certified Food Manager for the facility and obtains recertification at five year intervals. This task requires training, coursework, and written exam to become certified. There is also an annual fee to maintain the license.

The Kitchen Ministry is embarking on a second renovation phase to improve the speed and productivity of the ovens used in baking, by purchasing two commercial grade convection ovens. In addition, a gas powered tankless water heater will be added to improve the amount and temperature of hot water supplied to our sinks and dishwasher. We will add air conditioning to the space to improve the comfort of working in the kitchen to volunteers that are older. These upgrades will require a gas line upgrade and electrical circuit breaker box drawn from the main. Estimated expenditure is \$50K and will be funded by contributions of labor, equipment, and sweat equity as well as Memorial Gifts from recently departed members whose devotion to First United Methodist Church we honor.

Community Drive Through Program

Under the able direction of Karen Bretzius The Kitchen Ministry has attracted a pool of 40 volunteers of which 25 to 30 rotate in service monthly to prepare, package, and deliver meals to the Community Drive Through Program. The volunteers are young and old and Karen finds tasks which match their abilities. The Kitchen Ministry has united the congregation of the First United Methodist Church in service to the community of Phoenixville and strengthened our faith. The program impact was even more meaningful during the endless COVID19 period.

Meals Prepared:



Phoenixville Community Cars Lined UP:



Meals Served:



The Kitchen Ministry Meals Served
First United Methodist Church
Phoenixville, PA

Programs	Year					
	2015	2016	2016	2017	2018	2019
St. Peter's Episcopal Church	720	960	960	1,200	1,200	1,000
Community Drive Through						
Phoenixville Area Community Services						
St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter	360	360	360	360	360	360
Good Works	200	200	200	200	200	200
Dine in Fellowship Hall						
Total Meals Prepared	1,280	1,520	1,520	1,760	1,760	1,560
Phoenixville Meals on Wheels*	7,800	7,800	7,800	7,800	7,800	7,800
Total Meals Prepared and Supported	9,080	9,320	9,320	9,560	9,560	9,360
*Meals prepared by Phoenixville Hospital						

New Programs

First United Methodist Church has a long history of congregational support to the Phoenixville Area Community Services (PACS) non profit. The congregation has

provided donations of shelf stable foods, financial contributions, and volunteers over the years. In a new collaboration with Mary Fuller and PACS, The Kitchen Ministry will provide 60 casseroles to feed 6 people to distribute from their Bridge Street Phoenixville location. This is a pilot program which may expand in quantity or frequency based upon demand. PACS has also placed and will service a neighborhood community pick up bin filled with shelf stable foods at First United Methodist Church.

Under Karen's leadership a lunch program for Seniors is under consideration in September. This luncheon would occur once a month in the Fellowship Hall of First United Methodist Church.

Old Established Programs

Meals on Wheels

Under the leadership of FUMC members Dot Woods, Linda and John Keenan the Phoenixville Chapter of Meals on Wheels was and continues to be organized, staffed, and managed. Linda serves to coordinate teams of volunteers who deliver prepared lunches from the kitchen of Phoenixville Hospital. Three routes of daily delivery provide lunches to on average 30 family's in the Phoenixville area.

Lydia Circle

Under the leadership of Linda Lamborn Lydia Circle the FUMC Women's Circle organization provides, prepares, and delivers 50 lunches per quarter in support of the Good Work's nonprofit. Good Work's assist low-income families and individuals who are below 175 percent of the federal poverty level and reside in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Applicants must own and live in their homes. Lydia Circle has been recently challenged to provide additional monthly support to this organization and has responded by increasing the frequency of their support.

St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter for Homeless Families

Under the leadership of Jeanne Thompson FUMC produces 15 casseroles and desserts to feed 90 persons every month in support of St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter for Homeless Families. The shelter acts to provide temporary shelter for homeless families referred by the church network of Phoenixville. The Shelter acts to provide coaching and guidance to help accelerate the move towards independence. A stable environment to help insure that families have a chance to get on their feet is the goal.

Food Insecurity in Phoenixville

First United Methodist Church is proud to work in conjunction with the network of concerned citizens, nonprofits, churches, and organizations to reduce food insecurity in Phoenixville. The congregation has fueled the effort by funding, volunteering, sharing their talents and abilities to make the mission possible. They have sustained the effort over time and the customers have remained loyal and grow in numbers every year.

