

CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Date 4/25/2022

Contact Information

Organization Name: The Kinney Center for Autism
Education and Support at Saint Joseph's University
Address: 5600 City Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19131
Phone: 610-660-2311

Website: <https://sju.edu/kinney>

Year Incorporated: 2009

FEIN: 23-1352674

ED/CEO Name: Angus Murray, M.S., NPL,
Executive Director

ED/CEO E-mail: amurray@sju.edu

Board Chair Name: Paul Hondros (Co-Chair);
Margaret Hondros (Co-Chair)

Board Chair Approval (check here): **X**

Primary Contact Name: Madalina Veres

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Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture & Humanities

Environment/Animal Welfare

Education

Health

Human Services

Religion

Mission: The Kinney Center for Autism Education and Support has a two-fold mission: to educate and train the autism professionals of tomorrow, while supporting and serving the individuals and families affected by autism today.

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

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: The Kinney Center provides comprehensive and caring individualized support for individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their families, and education for future autism professionals. We serve approximately 500 people per year.

Annual Budget \$ 2,200,000

36 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

80 % of budget for program expenses

9 # of Board Volunteers

15 % of budget for administrative expenses

75 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

5 % of budget for fundraising expenses

10,000 # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources:

(1) Fee for services provided; (2) The Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Disabilities; (3) Pennsylvania Department of Health; (4) The Wawa Foundation; (5) The Henry A. Quinn Charitable Foundation.

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

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$7,500

Proposal Summary: The Kinney Center for Autism Education and Support at Saint Joseph's University is respectfully requesting a grant to support the attendance of low-income autistic children from Chester County in all of our programs, including but not limited to Summer Camp, Social Skills Classes, and Recreation. This support will help us expand our mission of training and educating the professionals of tomorrow while serving the families affected today, throughout Chester County.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

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

Since its founding in 2009, the Kinney Center has established itself as a center of national renown, offering services across the lifespan and trailblazing many firsts in the field: the first major and minor in autism studies in the country; one of the first college support programs for individuals with autism; one of the first and only accredited camps in the Delaware Valley to implement reverse inclusion, fostering meaningful interactions between individuals across the autism spectrum and their neurotypical peers.

2. Funding request

DESCRIPTION OF KEY INITIATIVES

Kinney Center's programming is designed to meet our dual mission of training and educating the autism professionals of tomorrow, while supporting and serving the individuals and families affected today.

Our client serving programs are designed to meet participants where they are in their learning and to help them build independence and self-confidence so they can maximize their potential. For some participants, this means learning the basics of social skills so they can learn to make and keep friends. For others, it means learning the vocational skills required to be successful in the workplace.

Our SCHOLARS (Students Committed to Helping Others Learn about Autism Research and Support) program is designed to help students gain the skills necessary to advocate for and support individuals with autism, no matter what field they are entering. SCHOLARS do not just go on to be autism professionals; we count doctors, lawyers, corporate leaders and many other professionals amongst our graduates, changing the way industries view and serve those on the spectrum.

Specific needs & issues to be addressed

A 2014 study shows that autism rates in Chester County increased by 84% between 2005 and 2011, from 718 to 1,324 individuals.¹ Not only do these staggering rates increase demand for services, but also for autism professionals to meet the significant community need. To date the Kinney Center has trained 30 Chester County residents through our SCHOLARS training program who have gone on to serve the county's autism community in immeasurable ways.

A grant from the Chester County Community Foundation will allow us to serve more low-income children with autism from Chester County. The Kinney Center is located less than twenty miles from Chester County and provides critical services including:

1. Camp Kinney - Six week traditional summer camp experience that builds on the social and life skills needed for children to be successful during the academic year.
2. Youth Social Skills - Two ten-week sessions (Fall and Spring) focusing on improving social interaction in a group-learning environment. Children work toward mastering a set of goals that is specific to their strengths and challenges.
3. Adult and Transitional Skills - Two ten-week sessions (Fall and Spring) helping people with autism aged 15 - 40 develop the skills necessary to live an independent life. Classes include lessons on cooking, how to navigate public transportation, budgeting, grocery shopping, and more.
4. Saturday Sports and Recreation - Two ten-week sessions (Fall and Spring) giving children the opportunity to learn a new sport or skill in an inclusive and accepting atmosphere. From basketball to swimming, yoga and more, recreation programs facilitate self-confidence and a sense of belonging through exercise and team building.

¹ Autism Services, Education, Resources, and Training Collaborative, *Chester County Census* (2014), accessed at: <https://paautism.org/resource/chester-county-autism-census/>

5. Transitional Day Program - This year-round program serves high school students who are vocationally bound. Their time is spent discovering passions, and developing the skills and experience needed to hold independent employment.

Due to the unique 1:1 staffing model that the Kinney Center employs, each program participant allows us to train at least one more Kinney SCHOLARS (Students Committed to Helping Others Learn about Autism Research and Support). Our SCHOLARS program trains students who are pursuing career paths that directly impact individuals on the spectrum such as education, behavior analysis and psychology. For students pursuing other fields of study, their work as a Kinney SCHOLAR provides them with the tools to advocate and support an increasingly neurodiverse world.

Support from the Chester County Community Foundation would impact Chester County by creating a pipeline of future leaders in Southeastern Pennsylvania in the field of autism studies through the Kinney Center's SCHOLARS Program.

Kinney's signature SCHOLARS Program, for students of any major, teaches and trains undergraduates to work with individuals with autism. SCHOLARS graduate with up to 2,000 hours of direct care experience and make a commitment to support individuals with ASD throughout their personal and/or professional lives. More than 75% of SCHOLARS alumni pursue careers related to ASD and are able to serve individuals with autism worldwide.

While it is hard to say a specific number of residents that will be positively affected through this support (all of our programs have different fees), we can guarantee that support from the Chester County Community Foundation will be used to support program slots for low-income Chester County residents. We have already reached over 270 families from Chester County over the last decade, so we should not have any problems distributing the funds.

The Kinney Center operates on a budget of just over \$2,000,000 per year. Our Scholarship fund gives away anywhere between \$20,000 and \$25,000 per year. This grant would supplement our normal disbursements. The Kinney Center is requesting scholarship funds that will be used to cover program fees for low-income residents of Chester County.

Approximate costs for the programs are as follows:

1. One camp session per participant: \$700 per week
2. Youth Social Skills Classes, ten-week session per participant: \$450
3. Adult and Transitional classes, ten-week session per participant: \$1000
4. Saturday Sports and Recreation, eight-week session per participant: \$1000
5. Transitional Day Program: \$60 per hour

Why it is important to fund this now

The Kinney Center and the Chester County Community Foundation share the common goal of addressing unmet community needs in Chester County. Kinney provides opportunities for children with autism to build independence and self-confidence and a wide array of important life skills.

Kinney advances the health and welfare of these children through its focus on skills development including lessons on social skills, healthy relationships, vocational preparedness, and physical exercise. The Kinney Center provides access to enrichment activities for children with autism that they otherwise would not have access to in a safe and supportive environment, overseen by credentialed staff who accommodates their sensory and behavioral needs.

Furthermore, the Kinney Center trains future leaders in the field of autism studies through its SCHOLARS Program. SCHOLARS alumni, some of whom will impact Chester County positively, advocate for and support individuals with autism, improving the health and welfare of this under-served population.

How impact & results will be demonstrated

The Kinney Center will use the following criteria to measure the success of the program;

1. Kinney will track all program scholarships granted to ensure that at a minimum the entirety of the Chester County Community Foundation grant is spent on scholarships for Chester County residents.
2. Utilizing the methods of Applied Behavior Analysis and in conjunction with the participants and their support teams (parents, teachers, case managers, etc.) all programs will develop measurable individual goals for each participant. By the end of each program, 85% of participants will reach 75% of their goals.
3. Kinney will offer all undergraduate students who train with us, pre and post tests to measure their learning and growth.