

GRANT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

- The Chester County Community Foundation **connects people who care with the causes that matter**, so their philanthropy makes a difference **now & forever**.
- We are **a collection of Field of Interest & Donor Advised Funds** with **\$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:

Field of Interest & Donor Advised Funds (No Deadline)

- ◇ Grants **focus on Chester County** causes & issues, but are not limited to Chester County.
- ◇ Charitable nonprofits working **in all fields of interest** are considered for grant awards. (I.e. arts, culture, & humanities; education; community improvement; environment; religion; health; & human services)
- ◇ **General operating** grants are encouraged. Nonprofits should be specific about their mission, goals, & measurable outcomes.
- ◇ Proposals can be submitted **anytime all year**.
- ◇ Grant decisions are made **intermittently** all year, as Fund Advisors desire.
- ◇ Grant **awards** typically range from **\$500-\$7,500**.

Fund for Chester County Capacity Building Grants (Due 9/15)

- ◇ For eligibility in this grant program, nonprofits must be **located in & serve Chester County**.
- ◇ Nonprofits **budgets** must be **\$500,000 or less**.
- ◇ The goal of capacity building grantmaking is to **strengthen the effectiveness of NPO's serving the Chester County region**, in areas including:
 - Mission, Vision & Strategy
 - Governance & Leadership
 - Partnerships & Collaborations
 - Operations & Technology
 - Fundraising, Development & Marketing
- ◇ Proposals must be submitted by **September 15** to be eligible for consideration.
- ◇ Grant **awards** typically range from **\$500-\$5,000**, with monies distributed by **February**.

- Use this form @ www.chescocf.org to apply online for grants from all Community Foundation Funds.
- **Email proposals to grants@chescocf.org**
- Proposals are considered "complete" when CCCF 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@chescocf.org**](mailto:grants@chescocf.org) with any questions.

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

One page only. This page will be shared electronically with Grant Panel Members & Fund Advisors.

Note: If Philanthropy Network's Common Grant Application is used, CCCF's **Summary Sheet MUST accompany application.**

To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit www.chescocf.org

Date: September 12, 2022

Contact Information

Organization Name: The Barn at Spring Brook Farm

Address: 360 Locust Grove Rd.

West Chester, PA 19382

Phone: 610-793-1037

Website: www.springbrook-farm.org

Year Incorporated: 2005

FEIN: 20-3417567

ED/CEO Name: Nan Latona

ED/CEO E-mail: nan.latona@springbrook-farm.org

Board Chair Name: Sharon Cichocki

Board Chair Approval (check here): X

Primary Contact Name: Nan Latona

Contact E-mail: nan.latona@springbrook-farm.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

☐ Arts, Culture & Humanities

☐ Environment/Animal Welfare

☐ Education

☐ Health

☒ Human Services

☐ Religion

Mission: The mission of The Barn at Spring Brook Farm is to enrich the developmental skills and lives of children with disabilities through animal-assisted and nature-based experiences.

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

The disabled children served by The Barn are primarily from Chester County, with some coming from neighboring communities.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

The children we serve, ages 2 to 12 years old, represent a wide diversity of religious, ethnic, racial and economic backgrounds. Some of the common diagnoses of the children we see include autism spectrum disorder; Down syndrome; attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; cerebral palsy; physical disabilities; epilepsy and seizure disorders; genetic disorders; and intellectual and developmental disabilities. In 2021 489 disabled children received our services.

Annual Budget \$ \$420,912.00

80 % of budget for program expenses

11 % of budget for administrative expenses

9 % of budget for fundraising expenses

100 % total

3 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

12 # of Board Volunteers

138 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

5000 # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources: To date in 2022: Robert & Jennifer McNeil: \$20,000; Pia Family Foundation: \$20,000; McCausland Foundation: 15,000; BlackRock Foundation: \$10,000, Huston Foundation: \$6,000

Is this grant proposal for: Capacity Building

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is: Other: Capital need

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$ 4,680

Proposal Summary: The Barn at Spring Brook Farm is in need of 4 large storage cabinets with dollies to store vital program materials. Currently all of our programming materials are stored in plastic storage containers on metal shelves in our barn loft. The containers and contents regularly get destroyed by exposure to humidity, mice and other vermin. Every year we spend a good amount of money replacing materials that otherwise wouldn't need replacement.

2022 Capacity Grant Proposal Narrative Chester County Community Foundation

History, Goals, Key Achievements & Distinctiveness

The Barn at Spring Brook Farm ("The Barn") is in its 16th year of providing services to area children with disabilities. It began in 2004 as a dream of Mary Beth Drobish, founder and former owner of the property on which The Barn resides, who felt called to combine her passion for farm animals with her love for children. She believed that children with disabilities would benefit physically, psychologically, cognitively, and developmentally from interactions with specially selected farm animals. Located on a 17-acre farm in West Chester, The Barn was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) organization in 2005 and opened its doors in 2006.

Our mission is to enrich the developmental skills and lives of children with disabilities through animal-assisted and nature-based experiences. The Barn strives to be the leading, regional organization and resource committed to providing children with disabilities and their families with a nurturing and interactive, animal and nature-based experience that brings joy and inspires them to pursue their best lives. Staff, dedicated volunteers, and health profession students/interns achieve this mission through our signature programs offered annually March through November: Camp Geronimo, Individual Programs/Life Skills Development, Socialization Events and Educational Field Trips. Through our Professional Clinical Affiliation Program, we serve as an experiential learning facility for occupational and physical therapy, nursing, special education and psychology students from many colleges and universities throughout Greater Philadelphia, including Temple University, The University of Pennsylvania, West Chester University, and Thomas Jefferson University. Over the course of 2021, our core staff of three full-time employees served 489 (non-unique) children for a total of 798 non-duplicated service hours. 150 volunteers provided nearly 5,000 hours of service in support of The Barn and the children and families we served.

On a modest annual budget of about \$420,000, The Barn at Spring Brook Farm strives to ensure that our quality programs are accessible and affordable to all who wish to participate regardless of their financial means. Each year, in addition to self-subsidizing our programs so they remain affordable, over \$10,000 is allocated for need-based tuition assistance for children whose families might be faced with financial hardship. We are distinct in that our programs and reputation continue to attract experienced and dedicated volunteers who provide unprecedented one-to-one counsel and care for each of our child participants. In addition, each animal in our program is specially selected for its suitability to work with children with disabilities. Among them are miniature horses, miniature Sicilian donkeys, Baby Doll sheep, Nigerian goats, rabbits, hens, and a potbellied pig. Most of the animals are rescues and are lovingly cared for by both the staff and the program participants. Our kid-sized animals provide a range of learning opportunities derived from walking, grooming, and feeding them- leading to higher levels of task management and enhanced communication and socialization skills for the children. The bond between the animals and the children we serve is extraordinarily empowering and life-enriching—and we believe it is the key element that sets our program apart from others in the region.

The Barn itself is a fully handicapped-accessible bank-barn and was constructed with the special needs of children with disabilities in mind. Outside, in addition to a chicken coop housing our hens, children can explore a beautifully preserved environment that includes multiple gardens, fields, and forested areas. A specially designed wheelchair-accessible hay wagon provides trips around the property and a handicapped-accessible tree house lovingly built by volunteers offers a peaceful place for children to spend time in nature. An Outdoor Learning Center established in 2019 includes sensory gardens, raised beds for growing vegetables which are donated to our local food bank, an outdoor music scape, mud kitchens and a labyrinth.

We take pride in our newly acquired status as an approved *Educational Improvement Organization* by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. This designation recognizes our programs as being a complement to public school education and enables us to receive funding from PA tax-paying businesses through the PA Educational Improvement Tax Credit program.

Description of Key Initiatives

Our programs include:

- **Camp Geronimo**, our most popular program, provides up to 96 children ages 6 to 12 a unique summer day camp experience - an opportunity to have fun in a safe, secure setting while learning new skills that address their specific needs. Our unique one-to-one ratio of counselors to campers allows children with a range of abilities to participate in summer camp, truly a first for many of them. A Registered Nurse is on site each day of camp to ensure each child's medical needs are met.
- Our **Individual Programs**, offered to children ages 2 to 12 for four six-week sessions annually, provide one-on-one animal-assisted and nature-based activities with an experienced volunteer. Our staff works with parents and guardians to develop an individualized Barn Activity Plan for each child to help set goals, track progress and to complement any existing therapy or education. Examples of goals include improving fine motor skills, developing communication skills and building self-esteem.
- We also provide an informal **Life Skills/Professional Development** for individuals aged 18 to 25 with a variety of disabilities. Our full-time facilities manager oversees this program and manages students from the Chester County Intermediate Unit, Elwyn School and MelMark, as well as other young adults with disabilities from our community.

- The Barn offers four annual **Socialization Events** geared to local families who have children with disabilities. These include Autumn Festival, Summer Splash, Spring Fling and Pancake Palooza. The goal of these events is to provide our families further opportunities to interact with one another and with the Barn staff and animals and for new families to experience all that we have to offer.
- In addition, 12 **Educational Field Trips** are provided annually to groups of students from local schools and programs such as the Chester County Intermediate Unit, the Arc of Chester County, Greenwood Elementary School, Overbrook School for the Blind, and St. Edmund's Home for Children among others. Each group brings their own teachers and aides and sets goals in conjunction with the Barn's staff. Teachers participating in these field trips are often amazed at the extent of the hands-on interaction involved and many return with new students year after year.

In addition to serving the needs of our children, The Barn's **Professional Clinical Association Program** continues to serve as an experiential learning facility for occupational and physical therapy, kinesiology, special education teaching and social work students and interns from many colleges and universities in the Delaware Valley, including Temple University, Salus University, West Chester University, University of the Sciences, University of Pennsylvania, Thomas Jefferson University and Philadelphia University. Our dual focus advances the health and wellbeing of our children and their families, while furthering the education of future specialized healthcare professionals.

Specific Needs and Issues to be Addressed

The children we serve, ages 2 to 12 years old, are primarily from Chester County. Some of the common diagnoses of the children are autism spectrum disorder (ASD); Down syndrome; attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; cerebral palsy; physical disabilities; epilepsy and seizure disorders; genetic disorders; and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Over the last several years, The Barn has experienced a dramatic increase in the number of children with ASD and about 65% of all the children we served in 2021 had ASD as a primary or secondary diagnosis. The numbers of children and families affected by emotional, physical, and developmental disabilities in our region continues to grow. The 2020 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that 144,841 children with disabilities were living in Chester County alone, or 5.5% of all children under the age of 18.

How Impact and Results will be Demonstrated

Each child is unique in personality, needs and goals. However, all children experience The Barn's beautiful, engaging, peaceful and fun environment, where evidence-based progress is made by allowing them to enjoy and grow from the same types of experiences provided to other children. A child's progress is measured by a variety of goals and objectives related to the child's personal achievements in the course of their activities at The Barn. Examples of goals include but are not limited to: identifying the feelings of adults, children, and animals based on body language/expressions; exhibiting positive social interactions with another child; demonstrating socially appropriate behaviors; making requests using full sentences; following multi-step directions; and engaging in "messy" activities without becoming upset. Here are just a few of the measurable objectives that we see repeatedly:

- Children with disabilities have improved motor skills and muscle development as a result of grooming animals and taking them for walks around the property, as well as planting, tending and harvesting vegetables from our gardens.
- Children who have difficulty interacting with others are better able to socialize thanks to repeated eye contact with animals and practicing basic introduction skills.
- Children demonstrate socially appropriate behaviors such as waiting, turn taking, and sharing.
- Children will ask permission and wait for a response prior to moving to a location.
- Children demonstrate improved communication skills, including participating in back-and-forth conversation that volleys at least three times

Impact of Capacity Building Initiative, Timeline and Costs

All of our programs take place in and around a specially constructed, wheelchair accessible bank barn. Like other barns built to house animals, the majority of the interior space is not climate controlled and is open to the outdoors, subjecting it to extreme humidity in the warmer months and making it an inviting space for mice, insects and other creatures to seek shelter, reproduce, eat and excrete. These conditions regularly destroy our program supplies which are stored in heavy-duty plastic bins in our barn's loft. Mice chew through the plastic and ruin whatever is inside: art/craft supplies; fabric; toys; manipulatives; etc.

The purchase of four heavy duty, lockable storage cabinets on dollies will alleviate this problem and save considerable time and money better spent on providing services to the children we serve. The process of transferring the materials to the storage cabinets will begin immediately after they are obtained. The total cost of the cabinets and dollies per information provided by Uline Products is \$4,680.

We deeply appreciate the opportunity to apply to the Chester County Community Foundation for this capacity grant. Thank you for your consideration.

CURRENT STORAGE



PROPOSED STORAGE

Total: \$4,680

