

I. **CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET**

One page only. This page will be shared electronically with Grant Committee Members & Fund Advisors.
Note: If Philanthropy Network Greater Philadelphia's Common Grant Application is used, the CCCF's Summary Sheet MUST accompany application. To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit www.chescocf.org

Date: 9/13/2022

Contact Information:

Organization Name: Camp Dreamcatcher
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Contact Name: Patty Hillkirk
Contact Title: Executive Director
Fax: 610-925-0403
Year Incorporated: 1999

Has your nonprofit ever applied to the Community Foundation? Yes X No__ Not Sure__
Has your nonprofit ever received funding from the Community Foundation? Yes X No__ Not Sure__
X Donor Advised Fund(s) __ Fund for Chester County ___ Don't know/Not sure

Field/s of Interest:

__ Arts, Culture & Humanities __ Environment/Animal Welfare __ Education
__ Health X Human Services __ Religion

Organization Information:

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

All of Chester County and other parts of PA, DE, NJ, NY, MD and VA

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:

120 HIV/AIDS impacted youth, between the ages of 5-35. 25% of the youth are HIV/AIDS infected and 75% have an HIV/AIDS infected family member or have lost a family member to AIDS. 98% of the youth served come from low-income families and 50% have lost one or both parents.

Mission:

To provide safe, therapeutic and educational services to HIV/AIDS impacted youth and their families.
To foster an atmosphere of tolerance, compassion, respect and understanding through volunteer opportunities, services and expanded community involvement.

Proposal Summary:

A grant will support our FREE programs for HIV/AIDS impacted youth, including a therapeutic camp session, weekend retreats, progressive leadership programs, holiday adopt-a-family program and HIV/AIDS education, training and community outreach.

If Capacity Building Proposal:

__ Mission, Vision & Strategy __ Governance & Leadership __ Strategic Relationships
__ Fundraising & Development __ Operations __ Other: _____

Annual Budget \$ 419,225

88 % of budget for program expenses
8 % of budget for administrative expenses
4 % of budget for fundraising expenses

1 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
7 # of Board Volunteers
200 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
10,000/yr # of Volunteer Hours

100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: Julian A. & Lois G. Brodsky Foundation, Philadelphia Foundation, PayPal Community Impact Grant, Rite Aid Foundation.

Grant Amount Requested from CCCF: \$ 5,000

Camp Dreamcatcher 2022-2023 Application

1. Camp Dreamcatcher's history, goals, key achievements, and distinctiveness:

Camp Dreamcatcher has been providing free services to HIV/AIDS impacted youth for twenty-six years. We offer the only therapeutic camp program for children coping with the HIV/AIDS on the East Coast. All of our programs are free and 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. We are currently providing services throughout the year to 120 HIV/AIDS impacted youth and their families.

The mission of Camp Dreamcatcher:

- To provide safe, therapeutic and educational services to HIV/AIDS impacted youth and their families.
- To foster an atmosphere of tolerance, compassion, respect and understanding through volunteer opportunities, services and expanded community involvement.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST TWENTY-SIX YEARS:

- **Total Number of unduplicated HIV/AIDS Impacted Youth served: 5,900 children**
- Camp Dreamcatcher has provided 27 camp sessions and 27 retreats to children and families coping with HIV/AIDS.
- We provided 35 Reunion Events for HIV/AIDS impacted children and their families.
- 1,100 children received gifts through our holiday Adopt-a-Family Program.
- 1,150 counselors have attended our HIV/AIDS & Diversity Training.
- 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 300,000!**

2. Funding Request:

Camp Dreamcatcher requests a \$5,000 grant from the Chester County Community Foundation to support our free programs for HIV/AIDS impacted youth.

Specific needs to be addressed:

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 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.

Organizational impact:

The children attending our programs are facing issues beyond HIV/AIDS. 70% have experienced trauma, 50% have lost one or both family members and 25% have been diagnosed with a mental health condition. Our programs offer a safe place to talk about the concerns and feelings associated with HIV/AIDS in a therapeutic and confidential environment. We provide factual information about HIV/AIDS, and dispel the myths and stigma associated with the disease. We provide a variety of therapeutic, educational and recreational programs throughout the year to improve the physical and emotional health of children, adolescents and young adults coping with HIV/AIDS.

Description of Key Initiatives:

- **Therapeutic and Educational Camp Session:** The in-person, residential camp session was held August 21-27 at Camp Saginaw. A total of 87 campers, ages 5-17, attended the camp session. Twenty of the children attending the session were New Campers this year. 160 counselors, medical personnel, professionals and community members volunteered during the camp session, and provided 10,000 hours of service! Our wonderful volunteers donated \$65,000 of professional services during the camp session. The volunteers included seven therapists, dancers, karate and yoga instructors, musicians, massage therapists, social workers, educators, nurses, nurse practitioners and physicians. Over \$40,000 of in-kind camp supplies were donated for the camp session.

The following Program Goals were achieved during the camp sessions:

- We provided **130 therapeutic programs** (psychotherapy, mindfulness, wilderness-based therapy, yoga, massage and sessions with therapeutic dogs) during the camp session. An additional 100 hours of individual and/or restorative justice circle hours were provided by members of our Therapeutic Team.
- We provided **50 educational programs**. These included dance classes with Emanuel “Manny” Chacon (dancer/choreographer from Wilmington, DE), karate and self-defense, step dancing classes, cooking, drumming, guest speakers, teambuilding and leadership programming. The 15-17-year-olds participated in **Career & College Readiness and Financial Literacy Programs** during the camp session.

Topics included the following:

- College Readiness: session with Widener University
 - Career Readiness: session with Dr. Christine Martey-Ochola, Founder of Nuele Haircare
 - Financial Literacy: sessions with PayPal, Inc. These sessions included information on the difference between loans/credit, information on how to purchase a car, budgeting/how to open a bank account, how to build your credit, how to get out of debt, and investing.
- **We had FUN!!!** We provided **150 recreational programs** during the camp session. These included arts/crafts, laser tag, go-kart racing, horseback riding, lawn games, nature hikes, story-time, fishing, canoeing, GAGA tournaments, a Camp Carnival, archery, an adventure course, basketball, movie nights, and our annual dance, talent show and John Flynn concert! We partnered with two new organizations this summer: **Mighty Writers** presented sessions to the campers and the **Chester County Food Bank** distributed food bags containing snacks to all of the campers. The extra food bags were distributed to the families at camper pick-up on the last day of camp.
 - **We offered Progressive Leadership Opportunities** starting at age fifteen, when the Senior Campers participate in the Wilderness-based Therapy Program. **Camper Quest** is a journey all 15-year-old Senior Campers participate in during the camp session. The **Leaders in Training Program** is offered during the camp session and provides a two-year track of leadership and life skills programming to 16 & 17-year-old campers.
2. **New Restorative Justice/Conflict Mediation Program:** All of our counselors, staff and health center volunteers completed a Restorative Justice/Conflict Mediation Training prior to the camp session. The restorative practices used at camp included the use of proactive Cabin Circles to promote connectedness in the cabin, and the use of Restorative Circles to address conflicts, repair harm, and restore justice within the community. These practices promote inclusivity by inviting all of the camp community involved in the conflict to have a seat within the circle, express their feelings, and to be actively involved in the decision-making process of how to repair the harm and restore justice within the community. We are grateful to Kerri Berkowitz, the Director of the Center for Relational Practices, for providing the training, and for guiding us through this process.
 3. We provide **Trauma Informed Programming** which ensures the following:
 - A physically and emotionally safe environment.
 - Predictable schedule & Camp Traditions that increase security and a feeling of BELONGING at camp.
 - Clear & healthy emotional and physical boundaries.
 - Caring adults & the opportunity to form positive relationships
 - Opportunities that develop a sense of agency and control over their lives.
 - Provides resources and tools that help campers identify and process their emotions.
 - Opportunities to be vulnerable and to receive compassionate and caring support.
 - Sensitivity to trauma triggers at camp.
 - Therapists who understand the impact of trauma and how to support children at camp.
 - Opportunities to shift from a place of isolation and stigma to empowerment and resiliency.
 4. **Counselor HIV/AIDS & Diversity Training** is held prior to the camp session in August.
 5. **The Phoenix College Scholarship:** Our college scholarship was renamed in honor of Gennifer Robinson, a beloved counselor who passed away in June, 2022. The Phoenix Scholarship awards two \$1,000 scholarships per year to college bound campers.
 6. **HIV/AIDS Education and Community Outreach:** Camp Dreamcatcher staff, volunteers and members of the “Teen Speaker’s Bureau” provide HIV/AIDS education, training and community outreach.

7. **Adopt-a-Family Program:** This annual program is held in November and December each year. In 2021, over 1,200 gifts were distributed to 120 children.
8. **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Projects:** In 2020, the Board of Directors and Staff made a commitment to expand the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion of our programming by identifying specific DEI goals for 2021. Our DEI goals included an equity & culture audit of the organization which was conducted by **S'more Melanin**, a company founded by two women of color who grew up at camps, with the mission of assisting organizations to provide a safe and inclusive camp culture that honors diversity and welcomes and embraces BIPOC in the camp world. S'more Melanin recently awarded Camp Dreamcatcher their Seal of Approval. The Seal of Approval is given to those camps that are taking concerted steps towards creating more inclusive and equitable spaces. Camp Dreamcatcher met the rigorous Standards by auditing a variety of practices and policies for evidence of equity.

The Camp Dreamcatcher Board of Directors and Staff continues to update policies and procedures to promote equity and inclusion for all. A new Gender Inclusion Policy was adopted by the Board of Directors in August. Camp Dreamcatcher believes that all youth should be able to access a safe and welcoming camp experience, and this is deeply rooted in our values of safety, respect, acceptance, inclusivity, friendship and love.

Why is it important to fund this now?

Camp Dreamcatcher provides services throughout the year to children impacted by HIV/AIDS. Funding will enable us to expand and adapt our programs to meet the changing needs of the children and families served by our programs.

How impact and results will be demonstrated:

We strictly followed all of the CDC and American Camping Association guidelines for residential camp sessions. All of our volunteers were vaccinated and completed rapid COVID tests prior to camp. The children taking buses from Johns Hopkins and St. Christopher's Hospital for Children had PCR tests 96 hours prior to meeting at the bus departure sites, and then received rapid COVID-19 tests before getting on the buses. The children who were being dropped off by parents/guardians stayed in their cars upon arrival and received rapid and PCR COVID-19 tests. Children were only permitted to move into the main camp area after their negative COVID-19 test was confirmed by our medical volunteers. We discovered two children with positive rapid and PCR tests in the parking lot and they were unable to attend the camp session. Campers, volunteers and family members complete program evaluations on an annual basis. The Camp Dreamcatcher Board of Directors is actively involved in program assessment, strategic planning and updates the organization's policies and procedures on an annual basis.

The DEI Assessment Survey was completed by Camp Dreamcatcher staff, board members, volunteers and Emerging Leaders in April of 2021.

100% of those surveyed "AGREED OR STRONGLY AGREED" to the following statements:

- **"I would recommend Camp Dreamcatcher to friends and colleagues due to the welcoming and inclusion culture."**
- **"I am satisfied that I have opportunities to apply my talent and expertise at Camp Dreamcatcher."**

Quotes from the survey:

"Very diverse group of volunteers, high levels of inclusion for a new first-time volunteer"

"The camp staff were from all walks of life, of various ages, locations, backgrounds, jobs etc. which made me feel accepted immediately as it came across as an all-inclusive environment."

100% of the 2022 Camp Counselors reported that their camp week experience was "excellent" and that the Camp Dreamcatcher Counselor Training prepared them for the camp session. One counselor stated that ***"The restorative circles seemed to benefit the campers because they gave everyone a chance to speak and to be heard."***

Quotes from camper evaluations - **If you could share one part of Camp Dreamcatcher with the world, what would it be?**

"That it is a safe place."

"The love we have here."

"That you can love people with HIV/AIDS."

"That it is a wonderful, lovely and outstanding camp."

The Camp Dreamcatcher Board of Directors, staff, counselors and health center volunteers participated in a weekend retreat in April of 2022. A summary of the retreat is included with this application.