

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

Contact Information

Organization Name: Gateway HorseWorks
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Phone: 484-433-9911
Website: www.gatewayhorseworks.org
Year Incorporated: 2015
FEIN: 47-5474101
Kristen@gatewayhorseworks.org

ED/CEO Name: Kristen de Marco
ED/CEO E-mail: Kristen@gatewayhorseworks.org
Board Chair Name: Basil Joy
Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: Kristen de Marco
Primary Contact E-mail:

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: Gateway HorseWorks incorporates horses for the mental health treatment of people.

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

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: Gateway HorseWorks serves community members throughout Chester County and beyond who are historically most underserved and marginalized. We make meaningful mental healthcare accessible through partnerships to Veterans, human trafficking survivors, adults and youth impacted by the justice system, people in recovery, COVID-19 essential workers, youth in residential treatment, people experiencing homelessness and bereaved children and families. Over the past 5 years Gateway HorseWorks has experienced exponential growth annually serving over 2000 clients in over 6000 sessions. In 2021 Gateway HorseWorks was able to provide services through a total of 252 sessions and 257 unique clients. Our current treatment team is projected to provide an equivalent amount of services in 2022.

Annual Budget \$470,333 projected 2023 _____ 4_ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
_____ 71 % of budget for program expenses _____ 6_ # of Board Volunteers
_____ 17 % of budget for administrative expenses _____ 22_ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
_____ 12 % of budget for fundraising expenses _____ 600_ # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

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

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

Mission, Vision & Strategy Governance & Leadership Partnerships & Collaborations
 Fundraising, Development & Marketing Technology Other: _____

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$4,882.50

Proposal Summary: In August 2022, Gateway HorseWorks became credentialed to accept Medicaid. Increasing the number of insurance providers for which GHW is credentialed to accept is a critical step toward making the incorporation of horses for the mental health treatment of people accessible to all. The Chester County Community Foundation's Capacity Building support will allow GHW to become credentialed for an additional provider(s) and increase access to community members most historically barriered from accessing innovative mental health treatments.

Our Story

Gateway HorseWorks (GHW) is a women-led organization founded in response to the need for more equitable, trauma-informed services in our community.

In 2012, Executive Director Kristen de Marco started a for-profit company, spearheading Eagala Model equine-assisted psychotherapy (EAP) and equine-assisted learning (EAL) in Chester County. The volume of inquiries she received made it abundantly clear that innovative mental health services were needed in the community, yet, so many who reached out could not afford them. While no one was turned away, it was not until a Chester County probation officer approached her to develop a program for [justice-involved women](#) that she felt compelled to adopt a new mission: lead the effort in making this ground-breaking mental health treatment accessible to all who need it. In 2015, she started the nonprofit, Gateway HorseWorks (GHW).

Our Mission

Gateway HorseWorks incorporates horses for the mental health treatment of people.

Gateway HorseWorks is a leader in making innovative mental healthcare through equine-assisted psychotherapy accessible to all in our community. In order to meet the mental health crisis head-on, we partner with community-based organizations, agencies and institutions to provide EAP to individuals who are most often pushed to the margins and barred from access to effective and diverse mental health solutions. We commit to accessible, inclusive, and trauma-informed EAP services through free and sliding scale sessions and programs, contributions to evidence-based research, and community partnerships advancing access to mental health treatment throughout our community.

The Power of Horses to Heal

Our herd of mostly rescue horses receive life-long, high quality care while providing the ground-breaking treatment of equine-assisted psychotherapy at GHW.

From our aged-out embryo transfer mares rescued from euthanasia at University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center, to a rescued Standardbred ex-racehorse, our herd proves that horses have so much more to offer beyond breeding, racing, and riding. EAP offers horses a purpose extending beyond these traditional roles.

Humans have relied on horses for thousands of years, using them for transportation, farming, and on the battlefield. More recently, we have realized the power of horses as partners in psychotherapeutic work to help people achieve wellness and recovery from trauma, mental health conditions, and addiction. Because of horses' size, evolutionary role as prey animals and social creatures, as well as their individual and unique personalities, interactions with the herd can provide meaningful insight into our own lives and behavior. Approaching horses helps us consider how we approach our own relationships and face other big things in our lives. The horses at GHW, along with the licensed mental health practitioners and certified equine specialists, offer closeness and connection to help people rediscover the best parts of themselves and create the pathways to healing.

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Our Approach

Gateway HorseWorks commits to centering access to innovative mental health treatments for all in Chester County through a community-driven organizational model.

As a trauma-informed organization, GHW works at the intersections of the healing power of horses, mental health, and community-centered solutions. Equine-assisted psychotherapy's (EAP) experiential nature provides clients the opportunity to incorporate body-based, non-verbal communication into mental health treatment as an opportunity to connect to themselves and those around them in new and profound ways. This is especially important for trauma survivors for whom talk-therapies are often not efficacious. Where survivors may be challenged to verbally process sensations, the chance to safely engage with large prey animals, who share the experience of hypervigilance, becomes a pathway to re-embodiment and re-engagement.

This model enables us to serve people who are most often barriered from access to meaningful or innovative mental health care solutions. GHW serves children, youth, families, and individual clients in community programs designed for those impacted by the justice system, survivors of human trafficking, people in recovery, veterans and individuals who are experiencing homelessness, adolescents in residential treatment, clinical and nonclinical healthcare workers, and bereaved children and families. In collaboration with an amazing group of like-minded donors, organizations, and government agencies, we have developed unique community programming to best meet the needs of each of our partners and client groups. These partnerships have yielded positive results in specialized areas of measurement. As each program partner is unique, we work together to develop the critical outcomes that can meet specific needs of our clients. Together with our partners, we have been able to measure significant, real-time impact driven by our clients' commitment to treatment. For example:

- **Stable Pathways:** Since October 2019, *Stable Pathways* moved to offer client sessions on Chester County Prison Complex grounds. The horses are transported to the prison for weekly sessions at the pre-release center. This groundbreaking, permanent pasture enables us to provide meaningful opportunities for mental health care to people experiencing incarceration. Early results indicate a 3% recidivism rate for program graduates 5 years post release, compared to a county-wide average of 18% by the first year. The Chester County Prison was selected as the winner for the 21st Century Best Practices Awards in the Large Jail category by CCAP in part due to the impact of the *Stable Pathways'* program. Chief Murphy is quoted in the nomination, naming Chester County Prison's partnership with GHW *Stable Pathways* program their "greatest success" in programming available to support people during their incarceration. Janine Quigley, Chair of the Committee on County Criminal Justice Systems for the 21st Century states, "The results have been incredible. It is clear that the program is having a positive effect on recidivism, and it can be shared and replicated in other counties so that our communities as a whole benefit."

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- **Breaking Free:** In 2018, 21% of Recovery Center of America patients participated in the Breaking Free Program. These patients stayed in treatment 49% longer and completed a full course of treatment at three times the rate of those who did not participate in equine-assisted psychotherapy.
- **Beyond the Barn:** In partnership with the Chester County JPO and CYF, in fiscal 2019-2020, 74% of all youth enrolled completed a full course of treatment, 81% were not rearrested within six months of discharge from the program, and 78% were not placed out of home within two months of discharge from the program.
- **Galloping Home:** As one of thirty Eegala Military Designated Service Providers in the nation, GHW is partnering with Eegala and the National VA to track treatment outcomes in addition to providing free programming to Veterans and their families.

Our Community's Mental Health Needs

Access to varied-approaches for trauma-informed, transformative mental health care is an ever-rising need in our communities.

In America, one in five adults experiences mental illness and nearly one in six youth. Mental health care is historically underfunded and inaccessible to many of our most systematically disenfranchised neighbors. The mental health needs facing our community, greatly impacted by COVID-19, are projected only to increase. As we look ahead, how we respond to the needs of our community is critical. The ability to adapt to changing needs is a central component to being part of the solution in increasing access to meaningful mental health care. Concurrent with the ever-rising need, meaningful access to mental health care is further limited for many who are most systematically disenfranchised. Mental health care is a historically under-resourced, undervalued, underfunded, and often inaccessible service. GHW has committed its new facility in Malvern, PA to serve as a launch pad and blueprint for how to make access innovative mental health care for all of our community members a priority.

Expanding Our Impact: Accepting Insurance

In August 2022, GHW became credentialed to accept Medicaid in order to advance our mission and vision of increasing access to the incorporation of horses for the mental health treatment of people. This is a monumental step for our organization in ensuring that those who are most often barriered from accessing innovative mental health treatments are centered and prioritized. In addition to the free, no-cost, and sliding-scale services that we provide, becoming credentialed through additional insurance providers will add another prong to a multi-faceted approach toward removing barriers to access in mental healthcare.

The support of Chester County Community Foundation will allow the organization to better meet the needs of our community members by increasing the number of insurance providers under which GHW is credentialed as in-network providers. We will be able to measure the impact of this support by the number of clients served for whom we are able to bill insurance. At present, we are set up with a billing professional who is serving as a consultant to GHW and is poised to process additional insurance providers upon credentialing.

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