

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 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

Contact Information

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|---|--|
| Organization Name: The Barn at Spring Brook Farm | ED/CEO Name: Nan Latona |
| Address: 360 Locust Grove Rd. | ED/CEO E-mail: nan.latona@springbrook-farm.org |
| West Chester, PA 19382 | Board Chair Name: Sharon Cichocki |
| Phone: 610-793-1037 | Board Chair Approval (check here): X |
| Website: www.springbrook-farm.org | Primary Contact Name: Nan Latona |
| Year Incorporated: 2005 | Contact E-mail: nan.latona@springbrook-farm.org |
| FEIN: 20-3417567 | |

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

| | | |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts, Culture & Humanities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environment/Animal Welfare | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Services | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 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. In 2021 489 disabled children received our services.

| | |
|---|---|
| Annual Budget \$ <u>\$420,912.00</u> | <u>3</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff |
| <u>80</u> % of budget for program expenses | <u>12</u> # of Board Volunteers |
| <u>11</u> % of budget for administrative expenses | <u>138</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers |
| <u>9</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses | <u>5000</u> # of Volunteer Hours |
| <u>100</u> % total | |

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: \$6000

Is this grant proposal for: General Operating

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: The Barn will be grateful for Donor Advised support in any amount. We welcome visits from the CCCF donors and advisory staff. Thank you for the opportunity to update our information and for your willingness to share it with your donors.

Proposal Summary: We are seeking funding to support our unique core programs that focus on the developmental progress and emotional support that smaller animals and a peaceful farm setting can provide for children with disabilities ages 2 – 12. 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 \$17,000 is allocated for need-based tuition assistance for children whose families might be faced with financial hardship

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE



Grant Proposal Narrative Chester County Community Foundation - 2023

Organization Overview

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

Staff, dedicated volunteers, and health profession students/interns achieve our mission through our signature programs offered annually March through November: our summer day camp, Camp Geronimo, afterschool Individual Programs/Life Skills Development, seasonal Socialization Events and Educational Field Trips. Through our Professional Clinical Affiliation Program, we serve as an experiential learning facility for occupational, recreational and physical therapy, nursing, psychology, special education and social work 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. 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.

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. 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. The Barn itself is a wheelchair-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 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 treats to feed our animals and a labyrinth. 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 key element that sets our program apart from others in the region.

The children we serve, ages 2 to 12 years old, are primarily from Chester County. Some of the common diagnoses of the children we see include 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 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.** In 2021, the CDC reported that approximately 1 in 44 children in the U.S. is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), according to 2018 data. ASD is more common among boys (1 in 27) than among girls (1 in 114) and affects all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups.

Key Initiatives

- **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 **Animal-Assisted and Nature-Based Individual Program** offered to children ages 2 to 12 for four six-week sessions annually, provides 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.
- In addition, each year 12 **Educational Field Trips** are provided 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 counselors and aides and sets goals in conjunction with the Barn's staff. Children, parents and staff participating in these field trips are often amazed at the extent of the hands-on interaction involved.

In addition to serving the needs of children, The Barn's **Professional Clinical Association Program** (PCAP) continues to serve as an experiential learning facility for occupational, recreational and physical therapy, kinesiology, special education, psychology and social work students from many colleges and universities throughout Greater Philadelphia, including Temple University, Thomas Jefferson University, University of Pennsylvania, Salus University, West Chester University, University of the Sciences, and Immaculata University. PCAP advances the health and wellbeing of our children and their families, while furthering the education of future specialized healthcare and human services professionals.

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. By opening our doors to all who wish to participate, not just to those who can afford it, we are able to engender greater diversity and inclusion within our participant population and also extend the reach of our programs as a whole.

Impact and Evaluation

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 unique experiences The Barn provides. Each child's progress is measured by a variety of goals and objectives related to their 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.
- 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

The Importance of Your Funding

The Barn at Spring Brook Farm is at an exciting juncture in its history as we plan for a program expansion that will require a second property and the partnership and support of many individuals and organizations. We regularly receive interest in our programs from families of older children (13+), and sadly have to turn them away because at this time, we only service children up to age 12. And, because we are at capacity in our current location, we will require a second location to carry out any additional programming. Ideally, we'd like to acquire or share a small farm property with a barn.

It is our hope that donors investing their philanthropic funds at **Chester County Community Foundation** will consider learning more about The Barn at Spring Brook Farm. We invite you to schedule a visit so you may witness firsthand the small triumphs that lead to longer lasting progress for participating children and their families. As a small organization, charitable gifts of all sizes can make an impact on a child's life. The Barn is an amazing place where the simple act of walking a miniature horse or feeding a goat can change a child's day and more importantly their future. Thank you for your time and consideration.



While we at The Barn witness smiles and improvements in the children every day, the best examples of success come from statements of the parents of children we serve:

- ◆ “(My child) loves The Barn, and looks forward to each (Individual Program) session. It’s a chance for him to be in an environment where he can be himself and just have fun...He’s gaining (the) valuable social and emotional skills he needs to help him navigate the world in his own way.”
- ◆ “Our son absolutely loves helping take care of the animals and enjoying all the (Individual Program) has to offer. We noticed improvements in communication skills, attention and ability to follow directions. “
- ◆ “Her confidence around animals and her communication have improved tremendously. She continues to develop social-emotional skills through interactions with the animals.”