

ZELINDA LEBOUTILLIER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



I. SUMMARY SHEET

(One page only. This page will be shared with Grant Committee Members.)

Note: If the Philanthropy Network's Common Grant Application is used, this Summary Sheet MUST accompany application. Please visit our website at www.chescocf.org to obtain an electronic version of this application.

Date: 2/6/23

Contact Information:

Organization Name: Camp Dreamcatcher
Address: 148 West State Street STE 104
Kennett Square, PA 19348
Phone: 610-925-2998
Web Address: <https://campdreamcatcher.org/>

Contact Name: Patty Hillkirk
Contact Title: Executive Director
Contact E-mail: phillkirk@kennett.net
Fax: 610-925-0403
Year Incorporated: 1996

Has your nonprofit previously applied to the Community Foundation: Yes No

Field/s of Interest:

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

Organizational Information:

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

All of Chester County and counties in PA, DE, NJ, NY and MD.

Annual # of Clients & Description of Population 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, 50% have lost one or both parents, 70% have experienced trauma, and 25% have been diagnosed with a mental health condition. 98% of the youth served are BIPOC.

Mission Statement:

The mission of Camp Dreamcatcher is to provide free therapeutic and educational programs to HIV/AIDS impacted youth and their families. Our vision is to foster an environment of tolerance, compassion, respect, and understanding of those whose lives have been touched by HIV/AIDS.

Organization Description:

Camp Dreamcatcher has been providing free services to HIV/AIDS impacted youth for more than 27 years. 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.

Annual Budget \$ <u>463,440</u>	<u>1</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>88</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>7</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>8</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>200</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>4</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>13,000</u> # of Volunteer Hours
<u>100</u> % total	

Top 3-5 funding sources:

Julian and Lois B. Brodsky Foundation: \$30,000
PayPal Community Impact Fund: \$20,000
The Philadelphia Foundation: \$20,000
Philly AIDS Thrift: \$10,000

Proposal Information:

Grant Amount Requested: \$ 2,000

Summary Description of Grant Purpose: Therapeutic and Educational Camp Session for HIV/AIDS Impacted Youth.

ZELINDA LEBOUTILLIER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

II. LOI (LETTER OF INTENT)

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1. Organization's history, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness

Camp Dreamcatcher offers the only therapeutic camp program for children impacted by HIV/AIDS on the East Coast. For most of our campers, we are their only source of free or affordable therapeutic services. Above all, we are a safe, understanding and supportive community of love that children return to, year after year. Since our start 27 years ago, we have achieved the following:

- **Total Number of unduplicated HIV/AIDS Impacted Youth served: 6,000 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.
- 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:

- A. Specific Chester County or other County needs and issues addressed**
- B. Organizational impact (for general operating) or project impact**
- C. Overall strategies to implement the organization's mission (or project)**
- D. Why it is important to fund this grant now**

About a quarter of campers attending summer camp hail from Chester County. Despite the general good health and prosperity enjoyed by many residents of this County, our campers face numerous barriers to good health and success, in addition to the HIV/AIDS that they or a loved one has or has had. Our campers are predominantly people of color, and nearly all live in poverty. 70% of the youth who attend Camp Dreamcatcher have experienced some form of abuse, trauma, or other Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE). Camp Dreamcatcher is a touchstone in the lives of these vulnerable young people, and most campers look forward all year to returning to camp to see their friends and our counselors and volunteers.

Camp Dreamcatcher seeks to create an impact on participating campers in the following ways:

- To improve the physical and emotional health of the campers.
- To offer educational sessions that explore issues, problems, and concerns common amongst HIV/AIDS infected and/or affected youth, including age-appropriate sexual health education.
- To improve the camper's perceptions of, and adherence to, HIV medication regimes.
- To increase knowledge about HIV/AIDS, explore attitudes around HIV/AIDS, and support the mental health of children struggling with the stigma related to HIV/AIDS.
- To give the children and adolescents attending our programs the chance to feel free and have fun – just like any other kids!

Camp Dreamcatcher employs the following strategies to achieve the above goals:

- **Therapeutic and Educational Summer Camp:** For a week in August, we host about 120 children at Camp Saginaw in Oxford for a memorable time during which children can shed the stigma of HIV/AIDS, enjoy a week of fun activities, and also participate in education and activities to improve their health and well-being in the long term.
- **Adopt-a-Family Program:** This annual program is held in November and December each year. In 2022, gifts were delivered to 120 children.
- **Progressive Leadership Program (PLP):** The PLP starts when campers are aged 15, with our Wilderness-Based Therapy Program. Camper Quest is a safe overnight experience where

counselors and staff facilitate group team-building challenges, teach basic camping skills such as outdoor cooking, hygiene and safety practices, fire building and adventure challenges. The Leaders in Training (LIT) Program is for 16- & 17- year-olds, and provides a variety of therapeutic, educational, team building, leadership building, and life skills programming. The Camper to Counselor (CTC) Program is for counselors ages 18+ and provides additional training and support to this wonderful group of young adults as they transition from the role of camper to counselor at Camp Dreamcatcher.

- **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.

3. Timetable, with anticipated outcomes and their relevance to the nonprofit's mission

The Therapeutic & Educational Camp Session will be held August 20-26, 2023 and we are currently registering children and volunteers for the camp session. All of our programs are trauma-informed through a racial equity lens. Our Trauma-Informed Programming achieves 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. How the impact and results will be demonstrated

The Camp Dreamcatcher Board of Directors are actively involved in program assessment, strategic planning and updates the organization's policies and procedures on an annual basis. The children and volunteers complete evaluation forms after each program. Our goal is to provide safe, supportive, inclusive and diverse programs, where the volunteers and youth feel they BELONG. A diversity, equity and inclusion survey conducted in 2021 found the following:

100% of the volunteers/staff "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."

160 counselors, medical personnel, professionals and community members volunteered during the 2022 camp session. 100% of the 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."*