

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Date: 09/20/22

Contact Information

Organization Name: Parkesburg POINT
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Year Incorporated: 2003
FEIN: 03-0399261

ED/CEO Name: Dwayne Walton
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Board Chair Name: Larry Beaver
Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: Sarah Daniels
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Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: The Parkesburg POINT's (The POINT) mission is to empower youth and families to live victoriously by offering a safe, engaging and Spirit-filled environment.

Geographic Area Served: The Greater Parkesburg and Coatesville Communities (Western Chester County).

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: The POINT serves over 600 youth from grades 2nd – 12th annually. POINT students primarily come from the Octorara School District; however, 20% of students travel from the neighboring Coatesville Area School District. Most POINT students come from single-parent households, 90% of which fall below the poverty level and many of whom have experienced homelessness, transient housing conditions, abuse, hunger, are struggling or failing academically and have parents addicted to drugs/alcohol.

Annual Budget \$ <u>1,326,645</u>	<u>7FT/8PT</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>72 %</u> of budget for program expenses	<u>13</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>11 %</u> of budget for administrative expenses	<u>204</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>17 %</u> of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>4,500</u> # of Volunteer Hours
<small>100 % total</small>	

Top 3-5 funding sources: Baby Essentials LLC, Connelly Foundation, Nelson Foundation, Applestone Foundation, & Springbank Foundation.

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: \$5,000

Proposal Summary: The POINT respectfully requests \$5,000 of general operating support. Operating support allows us to remain flexible and to direct money to wherever it is needed most.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

1. Nonprofit's history, goals, key achievements & distinctiveness

The POINT was collaboratively founded in 2003 by local businesses, churches, and community leaders in the Borough of Parkesburg. Since its founding, The POINT has developed innovative strategies to address spiritual, physical, emotional and academic needs for an ever-increasing number of youth.

After 10 years of renting a small warehouse, The POINT launched a capital campaign in 2011-2013 which resulted in the purchase of a 4.25-acre property in Parkesburg. The property now hosts a 22,000 sq./ft. community center with a full gymnasium, cafeteria, e-gaming center, ninja warrior obstacle course, art room, commercial kitchen, student chapel, boxing gym, trade- skills workshop, academic classrooms and our community's local food cupboard. Most recently, The POINT completed the addition of an outdoor skatepark and basketball court .

Today, The POINT is open free of charge 5-7 afternoon/evenings a week and reaches over 2,000 youth through community outreach (bookbag drive, meals, motivational speaking) and directly serves over 600 youth through our core after school and evening programs. With the help of over 200 volunteers and 25+ local churches, our program holistically addresses the physical, academic, emotional and spiritual needs of our community's most vulnerable youth. Each of our programs are designed around the following goals:

- 1) Provide access to a safe and supportive environment.
- 2) Empower students to develop leadership skills, confidence and a positive identity.
- 3) Encourage students to stay in school & set goals for post-secondary education/employment.
- 4) Create access to activities, education and resources that promote a healthy lifestyle.
- 5) Foster student's spiritual exploration and development.

We are pleased to report that in our most recent survey of core students, 78% said they feel more motivated academically, 60% improved literacy skills and 60% plan to enroll in college or a tech school post-high school. Additionally, 85% feel more confident, 80% improved self-esteem, and 92% made new friends. And finally, 74% of students are getting in trouble less, 92% said The POINT helps them avoid alcohol, 86% avoid drugs and 86% avoid skipping/dropping out of school.

2. Funding request

• Description of key initiatives

The POINT's After School Program is available to students Monday – Thursday from 3:30 -7PM during the school year in addition to several Friday night and weekend activities. Students in grades 6th- 12th can attend M/W and students in grades 2nd – 5th can attend T/Th. Programs and activities continue Monday-Thursday in a modified format during the summer. In the summer, The POINT serves 2nd – 5th graders from 1-3:30PM (providing lunch daily) and 6th-12th graders 4:30 – 6:30PM (providing dinner daily). The following are our key initiatives:

Academic Enrichment: The POINT connects students to the support and resources needed to stay in school, improve grades, graduate on time and set goals for post-secondary education. Tutoring and access to computers and WIFI are available daily.

Health & Nutrition: The POINT provides dinner daily at 6PM and both lunch and dinner during the summer. Every month 21 local churches “adopt-a-night” and cook and serve dinner 1-2x a month for students. The POINT also provides food donations and grocery gift cards for families in need.

Sports & Recreation: Sports and Recreation are very popular with our students, so we use it as an incentive through both formal and informal activities to keep students motivated and engaged academically. Every student receives at least 30-60 minutes of recreation daily and special skills-training sessions are provided on a rotating bases for boxing, skating, etc.

Boys and Girls Nights: Monthly Boys & Girls Nights are held on Saturdays to provide students with inspirational teachings, mentoring, and structured activities designed to instill values of faith, hard work, integrity, service and leadership.

Art Program: Through both formal and informal activities, The POINT utilizes art to provide safe and comfortable outlets for youth to explore, process and communicate their emotions.

Spiritual Development: The POINT provides voluntary Bible studies for students, year round. During the summer months, students also have opportunities to participate in community service projects where they are empowered to serve and give back to others.

Counseling: The POINT partners with local service providers to provide free counseling for students and their families onsite at The POINT.

Hands-On-Training & STEM: Hands-On-Training & STEM teaches students how to do basic home plumbing, electrical work, fix drywall, bike repair, car maintenance, robotics and other important skills. This exposure empowers students and helps to develop competencies, increase confidence, and cultivate career opportunities for students.

Workforce Development: Provides leadership development and skills-training in areas such as resume writing, interviewing strategies, conflict resolution, dressing for an interview, etc. Students also have opportunities to apply for paid internships at The POINT to gain real life experience, help build their resume and increase employability.

Crisis & Compassion: The POINT maintains a fund to financially support our students and their families in times of crisis. Financial support has included assistance with utilities, clothing, bedding, rental assistance, funeral expenses, counseling fees and drug/alcohol rehab admission fees. The foundation of our support is to reduce repetitive traumas and maintain as much stability and security as we can for our students.

Timeline

The POINT's Programs are ongoing throughout the year.

• Specific needs & issues to be addressed

Chester County is not immune to the debilitating, overwhelming effects of poverty. Most POINT students come from single-parent households, 90% of which fall below the poverty level and many of whom have experienced homelessness, transient housing conditions, abuse, hunger, and are struggling or failing academically. The POINT primarily serves minority youth; 30% of our students are African American, 30% Mixed Race, 10% Latino and 30% Caucasian. The POINT provides our programs free of charge between 3:30-7PM because, "the hours between 3PM and 6PM are the peak hours for juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and sex...(and)...teens who do not participate in afterschool programs are nearly three times more likely to skip classes than teens who do participate" (After School Alliance).

The CDC recently shared that, "more than a third (37%) of high school students reported they experienced poor mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic, and 44% reported they persistently felt sad or hopeless during the past year." Additionally, the CDC states, "Youth with poor mental health may struggle with school and grades, decision making, and their health. Mental health problems in youth are also often associated with other health and behavioral risks such as increased risk of drug use, experiencing violence, and higher risk sexual behaviors (cdc.gov)." We know these are pressing concerns for our community. In our most recent survey, POINT students shared that since the pandemic, 40% are struggling more in school, 51% feel less happy and 52% feel more scared and nervous.

• Why it is important to fund this now

Since coming out of the pandemic, we have experienced substantial growth. While some organizations struggled to get kids back in the door and re-engaged, we were able to create an environment and structure that enabled parents to feel safe sending their kids back and as a result, we had an enrollment high of 497 students in 2021 and so far in 2022, we have already served 609 students!

This growth contributed to our 2022 budget increase of \$1,326,645. With increased enrollment comes increased expenses for staff, program supplies and activities. The successful launch of our Internship Program in 2020 has enabled us to manage enrollment growth, but we do not want to lose momentum during this pivotal season – there is a critical need for The POINT and we have identified new and impactful opportunities to reach more youth in the community. Several of our

programs are rippling into the weekends with regular basketball and e-sports tournaments and we must now split our monthly Girls' and Guys' Nights into 2 age groups to better accommodate the volume of attendees. These programs have become our greatest recruitment tools, often drawing students to The POINT for the first time.

As these programs expand, so does our need for increased staffing and volunteer support. Additionally, as student enrollment increases, so does the volume of complex need we are faced with. The mental health impacts from the pandemic have been overwhelmingly present among our students and their families. We have grieved the loss of students, parents and alumni. In response, The POINT seeks to continue increasing our investment in individual/family counseling, art programming and community outreach.

• **How impact & results will be demonstrated**

The POINT administers post program surveys and works with the schools to track student's academic performance and graduation rates. Information collected is used to measure the program's success and to continuously refine and improve our services. Students served by The POINT will demonstrate the following outcomes:

- Students will report feeling safe and supported at The POINT.
- Students will indicate resistance to risky behaviors including sex, drugs, and alcohol.
- Students will not skip or drop out of school.
- Students will set goals for post-secondary education and/or employment.
- Students will improve literacy.
- Students will increase grades and/or maintain positive grades.
- Students will report an increase in self-esteem and confidence.
- Students will strengthen leadership skills.
- Students will develop an increased interest in serving others.

The POINT impacts youth like "B". B is in 10th grade and has been involved in many of our Hands-On-Training classes, including Woodworking (Pinewood Derby, furniture repair); Construction Carpentry; Bicycle Repair; Construction Electric; and RC Car Building. B came into the program with some minor skills gained from helping his father and uncle around the home. He was a good listener and as a result, learned skills quickly. Due to the pandemic and enrollment capacities, The POINT began separating the nights we worked with elementary and post-secondary students. This opened up opportunities to have older students serve as Junior Leaders. Because of his attention to detail and willingness to listen and do what was asked of him, B was chosen as a Junior Leader. He excelled in this roll and was employed as a High School Intern at The POINT in the summer for more hands-on experience.

As an Intern, he was able to work alongside a few other program participants under the supervision of a contractor to put his hands-on-training skills into action and help build a new Art Room at The POINT. During this hands-on-training project he was involved in demolition of existing skate ramp and storage room wiring, as well as cutting the opening in the wall for the new program front. He was involved in studding out the walls, installing the drywall, spackling the drywall, painting, installing laminate flooring and painting the room. His confidence and pride in his work shows whenever someone asks about the Art Room. He has gained both confidence and employable skills. B will continue in the Hands-On-Training Program throughout high school, trying new tools, developing new skillsets and also helping to mentor and teach his younger peers. We look forward to seeing him continue to grow in confidence and new skillsets as he plans for the future.

III. ATTACHMENTS

1. Copy of 501 (c) (3) federal tax-exempt letter
2. List of Board of Directors, with their affiliations
3. Most recent annual report & financial statement, audited if available
4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year & current fiscal year to date
5. Current strategic plan. If your nonprofit does not have a current strategic plan, explain why.