



## REQUEST FOR GRANT PROPOSALS ZELINDA LEBOUTILLIER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The Chester County Community Foundation accepts applications from selected nonprofit charitable causes for the **Zelinda LeBoutillier Charitable Foundation**, a fund of the Chester County Community Foundation.

**Proposals are due by Tuesday, April 11th.** Upon review of the initial proposals, a site visit may be conducted of the finalists. Grants will be awarded in the fall.

Please use the attached Grant Proposal Format to apply for a grant.

Grant applications should be submitted electronically by April 11th to [grants@chescofc.org](mailto:grants@chescofc.org).

The e-mail heading should read: Grant Proposal Submission- Zelinda LeBoutillier Charitable Foundation

Please note that all grant applications will be available electronically on the Chester County Community Foundation's website for additional consideration for grant funding by the Community Foundation's Donor Advised Fund Advisors.

Questions? Please contact:  
Stephenie Stevens, Grants Director & Outreach Officer  
Chester County Community Foundation  
28 West Market Street  
West Chester, PA 19382  
[www.chesdcocf.org](http://www.chesdcocf.org)  
[Steph@chescofc.org](mailto:Steph@chescofc.org)  
(610) 696-8211



# ZELINDA LEBOUTILLIER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



## I. SUMMARY SHEET

### Contact Information:

Organization Name: Bridge Academy and Community Center  
Address: 578 Olive Street  
Coatesville, PA 19320  
Phone: 610-466-9505  
Web Address: [www.thebridgeacademy.org](http://www.thebridgeacademy.org)

Date: 4/3/2023

Contact Name: Jordan Crans  
Contact Title: Executive Director  
Contact E-mail: [jordan@thebridgeacademy.org](mailto:jordan@thebridgeacademy.org)  
Fax: N/A  
Year Incorporated: 2003

**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: Coatesville, PA

Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served: 370 students, 65 women. The Bridge works with undeserved youth in grades K-12<sup>th</sup> and families in the community of Coatesville. The majority of students reside in the Coatesville city blocks immediately surrounding our building and are minority youth with 91% African American. Most families attend the Coatesville Area School District.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Bridge is to equip youth and families with the tools necessary for academic achievement, life skills, creative expression, spiritual growth and leadership.

Organization Description:

Annual Budget \$ 798,747      5 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff  
77 % of budget for program expenses      7 # of Board Volunteers  
15 % of budget for administrative expenses      60 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers  
8 % of budget for fundraising expenses      3000 # of Volunteer Hours  
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: Foundations/ Grants: \$220,000. Night of Hope Fundraiser: \$130,000. Individual contributions: \$130,000.

### Proposal Information:

Grant Amount Requested: \$ 1,000

Summary Description of Grant Purpose: The Bridge respectfully requests funding to support summer and school year after school and evening programs. Programs serve 370 K-12<sup>th</sup> grade students and over 60 women through Mom's Club. Funding allows The Bridge to provide program supplies, nutritious food and appropriate staffing. Thank you for providing The Bridge the opportunity to apply for support through the Zelinda LeBoutillier Charitable Foundation.

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## II. GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

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

**History:** A local Christian couple felt a calling to serve the needs of struggling students and families within the Coatesville community in 2001. Official incorporation happened by early 2003. Since 2003, The Bridge has matured into a thriving organization that is making a tremendous impact on the City of Coatesville. The Bridge's Executive Director, Jordan Crans, has been involved with The Bridge since 2003, and played several roles before transitioning into her position as Executive Director in 2008.

**Goals:** The Bridge desires to be a safe and loving environment that demonstrates God's love in a relational way. The Bridge serves to strengthen families by providing holistic support and connections, academic assistance and encouragement, providing youth development activities, and offering assistance with basic needs. The Bridge desires that every student is prepared to maximize his/her education such that they will be able to develop resiliency and responsibility to grow up as independent contributing citizens in supportive families and communities. The Bridge ultimately seeks to promote higher on time graduation rates, better economic outcomes, better mental health for students in their 20s and fewer teen pregnancies.

**Key Achievements:** 1) Receiving the Chick Fil A True Inspirations Award in the Education Category. 2) Continuing to build upon and engage in strategic partnerships like The Coatesville Leadership Council, the Coatesville Area School District, and The Coatesville Back to School Event. 3) Implementing a scholarship program, providing six eligible students with financial aid for their collegiate studies. Financial support comes along with accountability and mentorship from the scholarship committee.

**Distinctiveness:** The Bridge is distinct in that it is a locally inspired initiative that is acutely attuned to the needs of its city and local neighborhood. The originators were from the community, many of its staff and most of its many volunteers live near the agency. Finally, the design of activities are inspired by the voices of program participants. The program involves a high number of long-term volunteers and many participants who later return to serve as volunteers or staff.

**2. Funding request** \$1000 towards General Operating Expenses which fund our Summer Programs, School Year programs, and Year Long initiatives. Specific program details are outlined in the Strategy portion of this grant.

**Specific Chester County needs and issues addressed.** The Bridge works with underserved youth ages K-12 and families in the Coatesville Area School District. The Bridge serves to support low-income families who are struggling to maintain a reasonable quality of life in the light of strained economic resources, a challenging urban environment and less than ideal school support. Students and families face threats of violence in and out of school and are surrounded by many with substance abuse issues. In a community with high free lunch eligibility, many families and youth struggle with basic needs of food, safety, security, and connection. According to the most recent Coatesville PA Youth Survey, a significant number of students demonstrate a lack of commitment to school and are more likely to cease viewing themselves as a positive role model. As many as 57.6% did not view the things they were learning in school as important for later in life. As many as 37.4% did not possess a feeling of safety in school. As many as 22.5% did not feel that they had opportunities to talk to a teacher one-to-one. As many as 52.9% said that teachers did not praise them when they worked hard in school. One fifth of students reported experiencing bullying in school (based on "the way I look", (clothing, hairstyle), my size (height or weight) or other reasons. Finally, one fifth of students had a diagnosable mental disorder and as many as one third demonstrated signs of depression. Students are in need of motivational activities to help them to develop healthy mindsets about themselves as leaders and students.

**Organizational impact (for general operating proposals)** See Logic Model as attachment.

**Overall strategies to implement the organization's mission** The Bridge meets its mission by providing various student and family supports at no charge. Trusted Staff and volunteers are crucial to maintaining genuine and transparent relationships with families, as most families remain committed to the Bridge for years. The following programs run throughout the year: Summer Programs. The Bridge's Summer Program serves youth ages K-12 in the Coatesville Area School District. The program runs for 7 weeks and provides breakfast items and lunch daily, academic support and a variety of enrichment, leadership and recreational activities, lessons, mentorship opportunities, outings, etc. to help keep students safe and positively engaged throughout the summer. This includes various opportunities from a missions trip to Mexico, local camp partnerships with Locust Lane Riding Center, The Camp at Old Mill, Young Life Camp, Coatesville Block Party/Bookbag Drive and more. School Year Programs: Academic Program: The Bridge provides after school tutoring to provide one-to-one and small group academic support for K-12th grade students. The Bridge separates ages to ensure quality instructional time for students. This structure also empowers older students to then serve as tutors to younger peers. The Bridge also hosts weeknight gatherings Monday-Wednesday from 6:00-7:30 for Elementary and Middle school students. These nights include food, games, inspirational teaching, and art/crafts. Specialized Programs: The Bridge provides small group settings where students can learn unique skills, foster creativity and develop leadership skills. Specialized programs include Ways of Gentlemen, Ways of Women, cooking classes, art programs, wood burning, t-shirt making, STEM, and programs at the Camp at Old Mill and other partner organizations. Mom's Club: Mom's Club is offered at The Bridge every Wednesday during the school year from 12:30- 2:00 PM. The majority of women served are low-income, single mothers. Mom's Club provides a relaxed atmosphere where women can fellowship with one another over a meal, learn new life skills, and be inspired in their faith. Free childcare is provided to ensure mothers with young children can attend. Year Long Services: Bi-monthly Family Distributions: The Bridge provides boxes of food, household items, diapers, wipes, and other items to families that come on a first come, first serve basis. This provides an opportunity to check in with families, hear more about how they are doing, continue to connect them in Bridge programs, or point to other resources that may be beneficial. Family Resources: The Bridge connects with individuals and families holistically. Depending on the situation, families may need help with utilities or other bills, food, housing, counseling services, or employment support and connections. Some need support navigating the correctional system, government supports, the school system, etc. During holidays, The Bridge Christmas gifts, meals, Thanksgiving food, Easter outfits and baskets, summer camp bags.

**Why it is important to fund this now** As needs from our participants increase and as challenges for our families continue to grow, we are committed to continue to support the mission of our founders and dedicated board members by being responsible and relevant to the needs of our local community. We offer these supports free of charge to participants and graciously rely on the generosity of those who share our passion and desire to work together to address issues that confront us all.

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

The following outcomes are relevant to The Bridge's overall mission and each season of programming. Programs are offered within a school year season, and then within a summer season. Outcomes of the programs include: 1) Provide a safe, supervised and supportive environment for at-risk youth during out-of-school time hours. 2) Reduce hunger. 3) Motivate and equip students academically for positive engagement during the school year. 4) Create opportunities for students to be creative, express themselves and learn new skills. 5) Empower youth to become leaders in their community. 6) Foster spiritual exploration and development. 7) Connect students with positive adult role models. 8) Cultivate and sustain strong, genuine and impactful relationships with everyone who comes through our doors.

**How impact and results will be demonstrated** Research tells us that students who are engaged in school and community activities are more likely to achieve academic and social success. They are also less likely to be involved in drug and problem behaviors. We measure attendance rates, numbers of contacts with students and families, numbers of referrals to other supporting agencies, feedback from participant surveys, focus groups, partners and informal feedback. We use the findings to help us determine next steps for overall programming. We also create an annual report which we distribute to constituents and interested community members.

### III. ATTACHMENTS

*Please attach the following support information:*

1. Copy of 501 (c) (3) federal tax-exempt letter
2. List of Board of Directors, with their affiliations
3. Most recent annual report and financial statement, audited if available
4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year and current fiscal year to date
5. Itemized project budget (if applying for project-specific grant)

\*\* The Bridge Fiscal Year just ended at 3/31/23. Reconciled YTD budgets vs. itemized items are currently in process.

*Note: The Philanthropy Network's Grant Application may be submitted with CCCF Summary Sheet. Please visit our website at [www.chescocf.org](http://www.chescocf.org) to obtain an electronic version of this application. E-mail applications are strongly encouraged.*

Please e-mail completed applications to:  
Stephenie Stevens, Grants Director & Outreach Officer  
Chester County Community Foundation  
28 West Market Street  
West Chester, PA 19382  
[grants@chescocf.org](mailto:grants@chescocf.org) [www.chescocf.org](http://www.chescocf.org)  
(610) 696-8211

**THANK YOU!**





## ZELINDA LEBOUTILLIER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

### *Mission...*

The Zelinda LeBoutillier Charitable Foundation makes grants to charities that were near and dear to Linda's heart.

### *About Zelinda...*

Zelinda LeBoutillier, CEO of Waterloo Gardens, was the only daughter of James and Anna Paolini of Devon, who founded Waterloo Gardens in 1942. Zelinda married Robert (Bo) LeBoutillier, former President and CEO of Waterloo Gardens, in 1951. They had shared 49 years of marriage at the time of his passing in October of 2001.

Though Zelinda served on many boards and contributed to the community in many ways, what she was really known for was her generous heart. She was called "Mama Linda" affectionately by many because she was truly a mother to all. At Waterloo Gardens, she founded The Cooking School, which operated from 1980-1985. She also wrote a cookbook,

### *Cooking with Fresh Herbs.*

Zelinda was very involved in the management of Waterloo Gardens including purchasing, hiring, and marketing. She was the first woman chosen to serve on the Retailer Magazine panel. Zelinda traveled the country speaking to Nursery and Garden Center Associations on marketing in the industry. She also served on the Board of the Pennsylvania Nursery Association and was a very active member of the Marketing Committee.

*The Wall Street Journal* quoted Zelinda on the first page with regard to industry market trends.

Zelinda LeBoutillier is listed in the 1990 edition of **Who's Who in American Executives**.

Zelinda was an active philanthropist. She received the Harold Martin Leadership Award from the Exton Chamber of Commerce in 2007. She also received the 2005 Citizen of the Year Award from the Berwyn-Devon Business and Professional Association. Boards Zelinda served on include: ALS Hope Foundation, Cabrini College, Bishop Shanahan High School, and Williamson School. She was the State Chairperson for The American Family Institute: Gift of Time and the West Whiteland Chairperson for the American Heart Foundation.

Community was very important to Zelinda. She was a Girl Scout Leader for 10 years and served on the Board of Freedom Valley Girl Scouts. She was also Treasurer of Daylesford Abbey Woman's Guild and President of Sts. Philip and James Mothers' Club. Zelinda was very active in the Calvary Fellowship Church. She joined the Ventures Group and supported many mission trips and local community events to help children.