

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](http://www.chescocf.org)

Date

Contact Information

Organization Name: Pals For Life Association  
Address: 35 Grove Ave. Devon, PA 19333  
Phone: 610-687-1101  
Website: www.palsforlife.org  
Year Incorporated: 1984  
FEIN: 22-2540440

ED/CEO Name: Peggy Schmidt  
ED/CEO E-mail: peggy@palsforlife.org  
Board Chair Name: Paula Kielich  
Board Chair Approval (check here): X  
Primary Contact Name: Peggy Schmidt  
Contact E-mail: peggy@palsforlife.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: To bring pets to those that need them in order for individuals to live happier, healthier and more fulfilled lives.

Geographic Area Served: Chester County plus Philadelphia and Delaware County

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

Annual Budget \$ \_\_\_202,000\_\_\_ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff \_\_\_2\_\_\_  
\_\_\_78\_\_\_ % of budget for program expenses      \_\_\_11\_\_\_ # of Board Volunteers  
\_\_\_15\_\_\_ % of budget for administrative expenses      \_\_\_181\_\_\_ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers  
\_\_\_7%\_\_\_ % of budget for fundraising expenses      \_\_\_300\_\_\_ # of Volunteer Hours  
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: Programing - \$72,000 (therapy visits to hospitals, the VA, universities, schools and camps), Individual Donations - \$54,000, Fundraising Events - \$50,000

Is this grant proposal for: Capacity Building \_X\_ or General Operating \_\_\_?

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

\_\_\_ Mission, Vision & Strategy      \_\_\_ Governance & Leadership      \_\_\_ Partnerships & Collaborations  
\_\_\_ Fundraising, Development & Marketing      \_\_\_X Technology      Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$ \_\_\_3,000\_

Proposal Summary: Pals For Life, an assisted pet therapy organization would utilize the funding to upgrade its 9 year old computers to laptops in order to improve efficiency, assist in scheduling and reporting, provide a new avenue for credit card acceptance during fundraising events and help with distribution of real time information for the organization's social media channels.

Pals For Life (PFL) founded in 1985, provides innovative animal assisted therapy programs to local community institutions and organizations throughout the Delaware Valley. Our therapy programs provide specially trained teams of human/animal companion volunteers, participating in group programs, to promote happier, healthier and more fulfilling lives to members of our community. We are unique from other animal-assisted therapy programs in that our teams (a human volunteer with his/her pet) attend facilities as a group, under the direction of a Program Director. Visits are always at a prearranged time and with a stated purpose and/or specifically designed programs.

Our pet visitation programs, besides offering the opportunity to pet, play and interact with our animals, provide numerous health benefits to age groups of all levels. These benefits include an increase in oxytocin levels; blood pressure reduction; improved memory recall and mobility and social interaction motivation. In our literacy program, young children thrive with the non-judgmental audience that enjoys the reading as well as the belly rubs. Our animals provide uncomplicated social relationships to adolescents with mental and behavioral health issues. Overall, our pet therapy program assists individuals of all ages to become happier, healthier, more sociable, more oriented, more mobile, more self-aware and more optimistic.

The animals that participate in our programs have been carefully evaluated to be sure that they will be able to service and provide unconditional love to a large audience. They are tested to be around walkers, wheelchairs, vacuum cleaners, shouting, running in addition to basic obedience commands.

Our program statistics for 2022 featured 201 visits to 52 facilities with 90 human volunteers participating as well as 50 dogs, 1 cat, and 2 rabbits. This is despite the fact there were no visits during January and February because of the Omicron lock downs to numerous facilities. The numbers for 2023 have rebounded substantially with visits surpassing the 2022 numbers in June.

To facilitate the operation of the organization, PFL would like to upgrade all three of their nine-year-old desktop computers into laptops and hire an IT firm to install and transfer the necessary data. The age of the computers and the numerous changes in technology over the past nine years is the reason that PFL would like to make the switch now. Laptops would provide flexibility to both the Program Director and the Executive Director in their workload. The Program Director would be able to input data from the day's visit anywhere, schedule appointments in real time and immediately answer requests for visits that come through the website or email. Facilities would be able to pay for a visit at the time of completion, enabling them to immediately take care of an invoice. That would also help with the PFL bottom line. In addition, the Program Director would improve our volunteer management by being able to quickly identify which volunteer might be able to participate in a certain visit. Volunteers could quickly contact the Program Director to register for a visit or to cancel.

For the Executive Director, a laptop would allow her to communicate much more efficiently and frequently with volunteers and donors. Communication vehicles would include updates to

volunteers about events, educational pieces, newsletters and quick access to all the PFL social media accounts.

At present if a laptop is needed, the staff needs to borrow the Executive Director's personal computer or a volunteer's. This is very unprofessional for the organization and impacts on its reputation.

Computer day-to-day tasks would be completed quickly and with less frustration that comes with working with nine-year-old computers. Having less time spent on the computer and more time on visits would increase PFL revenues and opportunities for outreach.

Another benefit of the laptops would be a more integrated part of PFL's fundraising. One of PFL's major fundraising events, the annual auction, is held online. The laptop would enable us to update items immediately instead of waiting to do it on our desktops. Credit card payments would be easier to take, again increasing the revenues of the organization.

The impact of new computers would be measured by the amount of time saved on each task, the number of visits that could be made due to the additional hours saved, the numbers of additional communication vehicles distributed and increase in credit card revenue due to the laptop being able to process at a variety of sites.

The timeline for purchase and installation would begin immediately. PFL has researched the best laptops available for its use. While we anticipate the three laptops would cost \$2,550 plus tax, we hope that we would be able to shop competitive sales for the best price. PFL has already discussed the switch over from the PC firm currently monitoring our desk top computers. PCS Consulting estimates it would take 5 hours at their hourly wage of \$164 to complete the task. The total request for funding is \$3,000.