

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 09/01/2023

Contact Information

Organization Name: Bournelyf Special Camp
Address: 1070 S. New Street, West Chester, PA 19382
Phone: 610-692-9027
Website: www.bscwc.org
Year Incorporated: 1989
FEIN: 23-2583691

ED/CEO Name: Courtney Zimmerman
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Board Chair Name: Lowe Parrish
Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: Rick Curth
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Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: The mission of Bournelyf Special Camp (BSC) is to develop participants' abilities by helping them build confidence, improve social and communication skills, and become more physically fit through challenging, but achievable physical activities and by interaction with others.

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

Bournelyf Special Camp serves all of Chester County and the surrounding region.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: Programming is provided for individuals with mild to moderate intellectual and related disabilities. Each year approximately 200 individuals including children (ages 8-17), young adults (ages 18-25), and alumni campers (ages 26 and up) are engaged in services and ongoing support.

Annual Budget \$ 346,685 _____ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff 2 _____
65 _____ % of budget for program expenses 21 _____ # of Board Volunteers
23 _____ % of budget for administrative expenses 100 _____ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
12 _____ % of budget for fundraising expenses 5,000 _____ # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: **McLean Contributionship, Robert & Jennifer McNeil, Greg Bentley, Meridian Bank, Emergency Aid of PA 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: BSC seeks general operating funds to offset the cost of transportation for campers to off-site field trips and excursions in 2024.

Chester County Community Foundation – General Operating
Grant Narrative Bournelyf Special Camp

Nonprofit’s history, goals, key achievements & distinctiveness: Bournelyf Special Camp (BSC) was established in 1980 as a project at the Church of the Loving Shepherd and in 1989 became an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The mission of the camp is to develop participants’ abilities by helping them build confidence, improve social and communication skills, and become more physically fit through challenging, but achievable physical activities and interaction with others. Since its founding, BSC has served thousands of campers, many of whom still participate as members of the Camp family through the alumni programs and other social activities throughout the year.

We provide programming for individuals with mild to moderate intellectual and related disabilities. Each year we serve approximately 200 total individuals including children (ages 8-17), young adults (ages 18-25), and alumni campers (ages 26 and up). We provide activities such as therapeutic horseback riding and canoeing, that challenge campers physically, as well as activities like riding public transportation, that promote the development of life skills. We offer new program components each summer to excite, engage, and challenge our campers.

Bournelyf is currently the only summer camp serving the special-needs community in Chester County that welcomes all participants ages 8 and up.

The Bournelyf site is located just outside of downtown West Chester, PA, and consists of 6.5 acres, which includes a pool that is handicapped-accessible, natural features such as fields, wooded areas, and a pond, that provides exciting landscapes for exploration, a space for outdoor games, and opportunities for environmental education. There are also ample indoor facilities where campers participate in a variety of activities from yoga to rainy-day projects. Additionally, we have access to natural lands trust property that adjoins our property.

Description of key initiatives: Bournelyf offers a unique summer camp experience as well as year-round programming and alumni vacations.

SUMMER PROGRAMS: Bournelyf annually offers a variety of programs to serve individuals with diverse needs and abilities. Over the course of 7 weeks from early July to mid-August we provide 4 different day camp programs. *Trailblazers*, our flagship program, serves youth ages 8 to 17. Participants engage in a variety of activities including fitness, orienteering, canoeing/water safety, hiking, horseback riding, service projects, nature scavenger hunts, and outdoor games. *Expedition Camp*, a program designed to help campers transition to adult activities, serves young adults ages 18-25. It features summer camp activities as well as life skills programming, opportunities for community service, and other experiences that promote physical activity, goal setting and achievement, and increased self-confidence and self-esteem. *Alumni Day Camp* was added in 2013 to provide campers with a continued sense of community after they age out of our traditional camp programs. We offer a day camp where adults ages 26 and older can reconnect with friends and continue to experience the physical, social, and emotional benefits of camp. *Swim Camp* provides an opportunity for competitive swimming, water games/water aerobics, and water safety.

YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMS: Beyond the summer, current and alumni campers can also participate in our year-round program offerings. The twice-monthly events include pizza and bingo nights, dances, day trips, and seasonal parties and celebrations. These events enable campers to maintain friendships established during the summer and to be part of a caring supportive community of peers which is a need that is often overlooked in programming for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

ALUMNI VACATIONS: In addition to our summer day camp programs, we also offer two trips through our Alumni Vacation program. Through this program adult campers (ages 26 and older) participate in a 5-7 day trip to places such as the Poconos, Disney World, or the Jersey Shore. In the summer of 2019, we also added a second, shorter alumni vacation trip to a nearby location in order to accommodate campers unable to travel long distances and

we plan to continue offering multiple trips in upcoming summers as well. The trips provide opportunities for guided, structured experiences that help campers practice higher levels of responsibility and independence.

Specific needs & issues to be addressed: Research has consistently demonstrated that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities engage in fewer physical fitness activities than their typically developing peers.¹ “People with disabilities, including intellectual disabilities, are at substantially higher risk for obesity and other chronic conditions and may be experiencing them at younger ages. As in the general population, the occurrence of multiple chronic conditions compounds the impact on health status.”² Additionally, like all people, individuals with intellectual disabilities have the desire to socialize, develop friendships, and be a part of their community. To achieve this, appropriate, targeted support is often required. Programming at BSC is specifically designed to address both of these needs through activities that promote physical fitness, encourage a lifelong commitment to wellness, and provide opportunities for social engagement for individuals with special needs in Chester County and surrounding areas.

In addition to addressing these needs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, BSC also fills a community need by providing high-quality programming during the summer months when school is not in session. The summer season is a time when many families report that they struggle to find consistent programming that provides continuity of growth for their children and young adults. For the school-age population, BSC programs allow participants to build on the physical, social, life, and leadership skills established during the school year. For older participants, the young adult, alumni, and monthly year-round activities are typically the only programming available outside of specific work programs.

How impact & results will be demonstrated: BSC’s overarching goal is to promote the development of each camper’s potential through participation in a variety of challenging and fun outdoor activities. In our 44 years of service to the special needs community, BSC has developed a high-quality summer camp program for individuals with special needs. Our objectives include:

- To treat each child as a special individual, with unique talents and abilities;
- To emphasize physical activity, helping campers to build strength, agility, physical skills, endurance, and balance;
- To offer events throughout the year to reinforce and maintain gains achieved during the summer and to help campers build and enjoy a social network;
- To consistently review the feedback, we receive from parents and staff in order to continuously improve our programs.

Outcomes from participation in BSC’s programs range from improved physical fitness and social skills to enhanced quality of life. In order to measure the impact of BSC programming, we collect data on the following: camper growth related to social skills, camper growth related to physical skills, and camper growth related to program goals. Progress is measured by camp staff through the use of a camper feedback form.

At the beginning of each 2-week session, camp staff assesses each camper’s social skills (interacting appropriately with others, positive participation in camp activities), physical skills (completing activities in a safe manner, improvement during physical activities), and progress related to program goals (attempting a variety of skills, appropriately using resources to achieve goals). Over the course of the camp session staff work with each camper to address targeted areas for progress. Camp staff completes a second camper feedback form at the end of each 2-week period to inform campers and their families of the improvements achieved during the camp session as well as additional areas for improvement.

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. 2010. Healthy People 2020. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. Available at <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/default.aspx>

² <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4475843/>

Additionally, beginning in 2016, Parent Evaluations were also given to Camp families at the conclusion of the Camp season which allowed parents to reflect on their child's improvements with regard to their skills and behavior beyond the camp period.

The data collected through progress reports and surveys are evaluated annually by the Programs Committee, a standing committee established by the Board of Directors that is tasked with overseeing program effectiveness and making recommendations to improve evaluation techniques. This regular review ensures that we are asking the right questions and collecting the right information for the Board and staff to make decisions about programs going forward.

Based on the survey responses and progress reports, we adapt and improve our program offerings from year to year. An example that demonstrates this practice is a trend in recent parent surveys in which families expressed the need for additional camp sessions into the month of August when no other programming is available. In 2023 this feedback was implemented and we ran 5 weeks of day camp from July 5—August 5, 3 sessions of swim camp from August 8—19, and two alumni vacation trips.

Funding Request: Bournelyf Special Camp seeks general operating funds that will be used to cover the cost of transportation for campers to experience off-site field trips and life skills activities during the 2024 summer camp season. Beyond the activities that take place on-site at Camp, the multitude of partnerships we have cultivated with local nonprofits and businesses throughout the greater Chester County community provide opportunities for off-site experiences that are an integral part of BSC's programming. We currently facilitate off-site experiences for campers at the following partner organizations throughout Chester County:

- Thorncroft Equestrian Center (190 Line Rd West Chester, PA 19355)- Campers learn about horseback riding including how to mount and dismount a horse, proper steering, and grooming techniques. They also receive therapeutic horseback riding services tailored to their individual needs.
- Whole Body Wellness / Yoga (985 Thornbury Rd, West Chester, PA 19382) Campers participate in fitness & yoga classes adapted specifically for their needs and abilities.
- Northbrook Canoe (1810 Beagle Rd, West Chester, PA 19382) After practicing water safety & simulated canoe capsizing in the camp pool, campers head out for a day on the Brandywine Creek with their fellow campmates and staff.
- Lancaster Science Factory, (Lancaster, PA) At Lancaster Science Factory campers enjoy tailored hands-on, interactive science programs that are fun and engaging for all our campers. The STEM educational programs are well received.
- SEPTA regional bus & rail. Our alumni campers learn valuable life skills by taking a bus from downtown West Chester to the Paoli train station. From there they take a Septa train into downtown Philadelphia making their way to the central market for shopping & lunch.

Campers also participate in additional off-site excursions including a life-skills-based scavenger hunt in downtown West Chester, hiking and canoeing at local and state parks, and practicing real-world skills such as grocery shopping at local West Chester supermarkets. Each of these experiences is extremely valuable to the campers as they provide opportunities to interact with each other as well as the larger community in real-world settings – not just within the comfortable confines of our campus. These experiences help to reinforce social and life skills in authentic contexts and promote a lifetime focus on wellness that helps build the campers' self-esteem. Camp's influence is not limited only to the campers who take part in the programs but also includes the individuals and groups in the community who experience the immense value our campers can bring to a multitude of situations both vocationally and socially.

Providing transportation for campers to these and other experiences is a critical expense and funding would contribute greatly to the overall success of Bournelyf's programs. Thank you for your consideration.