

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 9/11/2023

Contact Information

Organization Name: Camp Dreamcatcher, Inc.
Address: 148 W. State Street, STE 104, Kennett Square PA
Phone: 610-925-2998
Website: <https://campdreamcatcher.org/>
Year Incorporated: 1999
FEIN: 23-2980323

ED/CEO Name: Patty Hillkirk
ED/CEO E-mail: phillkirk@kennett.net
Board Chair Name: Raynetta Adams
Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: Patty Hillkirk
Primary Contact E-mail: phillkirk@kennett.net

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: To provide free therapeutic and educational programs to HIV/AIDS impacted youth. To foster an atmosphere of tolerance, compassion, respect, and understanding through volunteer opportunities, services, and expanded community outreach.

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

Chester County areas served include Kennett Square, Avon Grove, Oxford, Coatesville, West Chester, Spring City, Lincoln University, Chadds Ford and Exton. Four other counties in PA, and also New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, and New York.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: Children attending our programs are HIV/AIDS infected themselves, have an HIV/AIDS infected family member, or have lost a family member to AIDS. Camp Dreamcatcher serves 120 youth throughout the year.

Annual Budget \$ 463,440 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff 1
86% % of budget for program expenses 8 # of Board Volunteers
11 % of budget for administrative expenses 220 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
3 % of budget for fundraising expenses 12,500 # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: Julian A. & Lois G Brodsky Foundation, Philadelphia Foundation, PayPal Community Impact Grant, Rite Aid Healthy Futures.

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: \$ 10,000

Proposal Summary: A grant will support Camp Dreamcatcher's FREE therapeutic and educational programs for HIV/AIDS impacted youth.

Camp Dreamcatcher 2023-2024 Application

1. Camp Dreamcatcher's history, goals, key achievements, and distinctiveness:

Camp Dreamcatcher has been providing free services to HIV/AIDS impacted youth for twenty-seven years. We offer the only therapeutic camp program for children coping with the HIV/AIDS on the East Coast. All of our programs are free and children attending our programs come from Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Maryland. 74% of the children served are from Philadelphia and the surrounding counties. We are currently providing services throughout the year to 120 HIV/AIDS impacted youth and their families.

The mission of Camp Dreamcatcher:

- To provide safe, therapeutic and educational services to HIV/AIDS impacted youth and their families.
- To foster an atmosphere of tolerance, compassion, respect and understanding through volunteer opportunities, services and expanded community involvement.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS:

- **Total Number of unduplicated HIV/AIDS Impacted Youth served: 6,000 children**
- Camp Dreamcatcher has provided 28 camp sessions and 28 retreats to children and families coping with HIV/AIDS.
- We provided 35 Reunion Events for HIV/AIDS impacted children and their families.
- 1,200 children received gifts through our holiday Adopt-a-Family Program.
- 1,200 counselors have attended our HIV/AIDS & Diversity Training.
- 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 314,500**

2. Funding Request:

Camp Dreamcatcher requests a \$10,000 grant from the Chester County Community Foundation to support our free therapeutic and educational programs for HIV/AIDS impacted youth.

Specific needs to be addressed:

98% of the youth served by our programs are from low-income households, and only 13% have access to free or affordable therapeutic support in their communities. Children attending our programs are HIV/AIDS infected themselves, have an HIV/AIDS infected family member, or have lost a family member to an AIDS-related complication.

Organizational impact:

Camp Dreamcatcher offers the only free therapeutic and educational program serving children impacted by HIV/AIDS in Chester County. The children attending our programs are facing issues beyond HIV/AIDS. 70% have experienced trauma, 50% have lost one or both family members and 25% have been diagnosed with a mental health condition. Our programs offer a safe place to talk about the concerns and feelings associated with HIV/AIDS in a therapeutic and confidential environment. We provide factual information about HIV/AIDS, and dispel the myths and stigma associated with the disease. We provide a variety of therapeutic, educational and recreational programs throughout the year to improve the physical and emotional health of children, adolescents and young adults coping with HIV/AIDS.

Description of Key Initiatives:

- **Therapeutic and Educational Camp Session:** The in-person, residential camp session was held August 20-26 at Camp Saginaw. A total of 105 campers, ages 5-17, attended the camp session. Twenty-five of the children attending the session were New Campers this year. 217 counselors, medical personnel, professionals and community members volunteered during the camp session, and provided 12,000 hours of service! Our wonderful volunteers donated \$65,000 of professional services during the camp session and over \$40,000 of in-kind camp supplies were donated for the week of camp.

The following Program Goals were achieved during the camp session:

- We provided **120 therapeutic programs** (psychotherapy, mindfulness, wilderness-based therapy, yoga, massage and sessions with therapeutic dogs) during the camp session. In addition, over 100 restorative practice circles were held during the camp session with campers and counselors.

Page Two

- We provided **50 educational programs**. These included dance classes with Emanuel “Manny” Chacon (dancer/choreographer from Wilmington, DE), karate and self-defense, robotics, woodworking, sessions on substance abuse, puberty education, drumming, guest speakers, teambuilding and leadership programming. The 15-17-year-olds participated in **Career & College Readiness and Financial Literacy Programs** facilitated by PayPal Employees during the camp session. New programs this year included a Robotics Program facilitated by students from the Westtown School, woodworking, and Native American art/crafts, games, education and dance sessions facilitated by Barbara “Bluejay” Michalski – a Storyteller and Public Speaker of Lenape Culture at Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania.
- **We had FUN!** We provided **150 recreational programs** during the camp session. These included arts/crafts, laser tag, go-kart racing, horseback riding, lawn games, nature hikes, story-time, fishing, pickleball, canoeing, GAGA tournaments, a Camp Carnival, archery, an adventure course, basketball, movie nights, and our annual dance, talent show and John Flynn concert!
- **Restorative Justice/Conflict Mediation Program:** Ten members of our Camp Dreamcatcher Leadership Team completed training with the Center for Relational Practices to become Certified Restorative Practices Trainers prior to the camp session. They facilitated trainings with the counselors, therapeutic team and health center volunteers to ensure that we were all using these practices during the camp session to promote connectedness in the cabin, 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. Our leadership is powerfully committed to realizing equity and justice for those we serve and for our community as a whole. We hope to offer Restorative Justice workshops and trainings to organizations across the region who want to learn more about how restorative justice can help heal and strengthen their own constituencies. In addition to spreading awareness and healing via restorative justice practices through these workshops, we do intend to charge a modest fee for them, thereby adding an earned income stream to our revenue in the future.

We provide **Trauma Informed Programming** which ensures 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.
2. **Counselor Trainings:** Counselor training includes sessions on Trauma-Informed Camp Programming, Restorative Practices, HIV/AIDS & Diversity, and Gender Inclusion at Camp.
 3. **The Phoenix College Scholarship:** Our college scholarship was renamed in honor of Gennifer Robinson, a beloved counselor who passed away in June, 2022. The Phoenix Scholarship awards two \$1,000 scholarships per year to college bound campers.
 4. **HIV/AIDS Education and Community Outreach:** Camp Dreamcatcher staff, volunteers and members of the “Teen Speaker’s Bureau” provide HIV/AIDS education, training and community outreach.
 5. **Adopt-a-Family Program:** This annual program is held in November and December each year. In 2022, over 1,200 gifts were distributed to 120 children.
 6. **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Projects:** In 2020, the Board of Directors and Staff made a commitment to expand the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion of our programming by identifying specific DEI goals for 2021. Our DEI goals included an equity & culture audit of the organization which was conducted by **S'more Melanin**, a company founded by two women of color who grew up at camps, with the mission of assisting organizations to provide a safe and inclusive camp culture that honors diversity and welcomes and embraces BIPOC in the camp world. S'more Melanin recently awarded Camp Dreamcatcher their Seal of Approval. The Seal of Approval is given to those camps that are taking concerted steps towards creating more inclusive and equitable spaces. Camp Dreamcatcher met the rigorous Standards by auditing a variety of practices and policies for evidence of equity.

Page Three

The Camp Dreamcatcher Board of Directors and Staff continues to update policies and procedures to promote equity and inclusion for all. Camp Dreamcatcher believes that all youth should be able to access a safe and welcoming camp experience, and this is deeply rooted in our values of safety, respect, acceptance, inclusivity, friendship and love.

Why is it important to fund this now?

Camp Dreamcatcher provides services throughout the year to children impacted by HIV/AIDS. Funding will enable us to expand and adapt our programs to meet the changing needs of the children and families served by our programs.

How impact and results will be demonstrated:

Camp Dreamcatcher has conducted program impact research in partnership variously with Hershey Medical Center, La Salle University, Drexel College of Medicine and the University of Pennsylvania. A study conducted by a physician from Hershey Medical Center found that 78% of campers have an easier time taking their HIV medications while at camp. Another study found that 63% of campers' parents/guardians reported a positive difference in their child's willingness to take his/her medications at home after camp. This is one important difference we seek to achieve for our campers, to ensure their best possible future health outcomes.

A study of our campers conducted by a public health student from the University of Pennsylvania identified specific barriers to taking HIV medications, including the "taste" of the medication, the lack of memory aids, feelings associated with HIV/AIDS, and the lack of a social support system. This research informed the education we conduct at camp around medication compliance, making it more relevant and effective for our campers.

We have also partnered with La Salle University to explore mental health needs for our campers. Using the Pediatric Quality of Life scale (PedsQL), the La Salle team surveyed campers on their physical and mental health, their emotional and social functioning, and their school experiences. Children are determined to be at risk of impaired quality of life if their scores on this scale are below a certain level; this impaired quality of life has real-life implications such as difficulties with mental health and academic performance. The research found that children who were themselves HIV-infected were at risk at a much higher rate (50%) than children who were impacted (24%) by the HIV/AIDS infection or loss of a family member. Again, this research was used to inform our approach to providing campers with the mental health support they need to thrive during and long after camp. We survey campers and volunteers on their satisfaction with the camp experience, as one of our goals is for the youth and volunteers to experience a sense of BELONGING at camp

In 2021, a DEIB Assessment Survey was completed by Camp Dreamcatcher staff, board members, volunteers and Emerging Leaders.

100% of those surveyed "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."

2023 Camper Evaluation Quotes:

What makes Camp Dreamcatcher special to you?

"Camp is a big HAPPY Family."

"The Counselors and Staff believe in you and know you can do it."

"Camp helps me be free and open."

"You can talk about anything. There is so much love and you're always accepted."

A summary of Camp Dreamcatcher's Strategic Plans from 2019-2022 is included with this application.