

# 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 9/18/23**

## Contact Information

Organization Name: Dawn's Place  
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Phone: 215-438-2414  
Website: [www.ahomefordawn.org](http://www.ahomefordawn.org)  
Year Incorporated: 2007  
FEIN:26-0196507

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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 Dawn's Place is to proactively support women affected by Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) or sex trafficking and its abuse by providing services to women, raising awareness through education, and generating prevention, public policy reform, and community collaboration.

**Geographic Area Served:** We have no geographic limitations. We are located in Philadelphia County, and most of our clients are from the Greater Philadelphia Region.

**Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:** We serve adult women who are survivors of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) and sex trafficking. We serve 10 women annually.

<b>Annual Budget</b> <u>\$606,950</u>	<u>6</u>	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>        </u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>13</u>	# of Board Volunteers
<u>        </u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>10</u>	# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>        </u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>60</u>	# of Volunteer Hours
<i>100 % total</i>		

**Top 3-5 funding sources:** Grants, individual donors, events. Our largest funders are Mission and Ministry Impact, Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Connelly Foundation, Genuardi 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:** \$7,500

**Proposal Summary:** This grant will be used to cover general operating expenses at Dawn's Place. Funds will help us to provide safe housing and rehabilitative services to up to 10 women who have survived sex trafficking so they may heal from trauma and develop skills that will enable them to live independently.

## II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

*Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.*

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

Founded in 2007, Dawn's Place evolved out of awareness and concern for women affected by sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) by a group of Catholic religious sisters and lay people who were members of the Philadelphia Anti-Trafficking Coalition, the Catholic Coalition for Peace and Justice, and lawyers from the Philadelphia Defenders Association. They recognized that although effort was being put into raising awareness to identify trafficked women in Philadelphia, the criminal justice system did not offer women the resources and support they needed to heal and exit the life of prostitution. There was no residence in the area where women could receive long-term rehabilitative services for the experience of being commercially sexually exploited. To fill this gap in services, Dawn's Place opened the doors to its residential program in 2009 and expanded to include an After-Care component in 2015.

The overall goals of Dawn's Place are to provide a safe haven to survivors of CSE, to help them heal and develop essential skills that allow them to maintain sobriety and live independently. We also advocate for change in policy and public thinking around victims of commercial sexual exploitation. The goal of our advocacy is to help shift the definition of the issue in the community and society at large as well as shift institutional and legislative policies.

Dawn's Place has served over 200 women, to date and we believe that the success stories of our residents are our greatest achievements. Most recently, in 2022, 5 clients graduated from our year-long program. All secured income and housing and had a support network. One woman was enrolled in college and 3 women secured employment. We also have successfully created a survivor-driven program. Our programs and policies have evolved with the input and guidance of survivor leaders and two of our senior program staff, one night staff member, and two of our board members are survivors of CSE. Our survivor staff members have a deep, personal understanding of the experience of being commercially sexually exploited and offer residents peer mentorship as well as models of recovery for our residents.

There are shelters and drop-in clinics in Philadelphia that provide crisis support services that victims of CSE can utilize, however Dawn's Place is unique in that it is currently one of only two residential programs in Philadelphia County providing long-term care specifically designed for survivors of CSE. Full recovery for survivors of CSE requires access to a wide variety of services, and a safe home to live in where they can distance themselves from those who would pull them back into "the life." The other local program, run by the Salvation Army, is geared towards girls and young women, serving only women ages 18-24 whereas Dawn's Place serves all women over 18. Our services are transformative, focusing on restoring and reintegrating these women back to their families, communities, and other available supports. Dawn's Place is also distinct from other programs in Philadelphia and its surrounding counties in that we support our residents in the spiritual practice of their choosing and we are not affiliated with a particular religion. The other programs in the region are Christian based, requiring that residents practice Christianity.

## **2. Funding request**

### **• Description of key initiatives**

The residential program at Dawn's Place offers safe housing and comprehensive services to adult women who have survived sex trafficking, accommodating up to 8 women at a time. Those who complete the year-long program have access to our After-Care program. Each resident at Dawn's Place has a private bedroom, and her needs for food, shelter, personal items, and medical care are met. Residents work with staff to develop a plan for recovery, moving through the program in phases that are designed to help women build a stable foundation on which to create a new life. Reaching self-determined goals provides a sense of accomplishment and increases self-esteem.

The residential program centers around weekly individual trauma-informed therapy to address women's sexual trauma. All residents are provided with case management, therapeutic groups, peer support, access to health care, education, legal assistance, life and social skills support, career training, help finding affordable housing, nutrition and fitness activities, mindfulness instruction, and expressive therapies. We connect residents dealing with substance use disorders or chronic mental health diagnoses with off-site intensive outpatient programs with partnering organizations that offer services to meet the unique needs of each client. Upon completion of the residential program, women are eligible to receive continued services through our After-Care Program, including the option of up to 6 months of transitional housing as they work towards securing stable income and long-term housing.

### **• Specific needs & issues to be addressed**

Multiple studies have shown that survivors of sex trafficking are likely to have experienced conditions that may have made them more vulnerable to being trafficked. It is our observation that most of our clients have experienced trauma and physical and sexual abuse from early childhood. Victims of CSE deal with social and psychological trauma, PTSD, anxiety, depression, insomnia, and addiction. Most lack a support system. After years of exploitation, they are often punished by the legal system and become repeat offenders in a system that does not have adequate resources to address their sexual trauma or the inequitable systemic issues contributing to their situation. Their rehabilitation requires a cohesive plan designed for the experience of being sexually exploited, coupled with a social network that supports them in making life-affirming choices. Dawn's Place addresses these needs.

We serve American and foreign national women over 18 who are victims of CSE or sex trafficking. Recently, most of our residents have been American. All are homeless and live below the poverty line. Most of our residents have chronic mental illness, and 90% have substance abuse disorder. Most have been through the criminal justice system. We have no geographic limitations, however most women we serve live in the Greater Philadelphia region. The average age of our residents is 34. Since 2009, the demographics of women served at Dawn's Place are as follows: 50% Caucasian, 38% African American, 11% Hispanic and 1% Asian.

### **• Why it is important to fund this now**

Although Philadelphia's criminal justice system has updated its laws to acknowledge that women who are prostituted are victims and courts no longer prosecute them, they are still treated as criminals. Police in Philadelphia arrest 4-6 women a night for prostitution. They are offered access to an outpatient drug and alcohol program which women usually refuse, and then they are released back to the streets, continuing the cycle. Our local justice system fails to connect victims of CSE to the support systems that would enable them to exit prostitution. These women have urgent needs that are going unmet, and funding this project would help Dawn's Place to fill the gap in services to a marginalized population in our community.

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

Dawn's Place measures the impact of our programs by reviewing the changes in each resident's life that support healing and recovery. We use quantitative and qualitative tools to assess the effectiveness of our residential and After-Care programs beginning with an initial intake assessment and continuing throughout the year-long residence. Individual progress is measured through tracking personal goals, which are set by clients at the beginning of each phase of the program. Effectiveness is further monitored through scheduled surveys including a Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale, Self-Compassion Scale, and Brief COPE Inventory every two months. Each client participates in an exit interview upon completion of the program. The following are objectives that we will use to measure the impact of our program at the end of the grant period.

Women in the residential program will:

report lower levels of anxiety and depression.

report increased self-worth.

develop healthy coping skills.

maintain sobriety.

establish positive social connections.

meet over 80% of their personal goals.

explore education/job training, establish income, and seek long-term housing (in later phases).

Women in the After-Care program will:

secure long-term housing.

maintain sobriety.

secure income.

establish a supportive social network.

### III. ATTACHMENTS

*E-mail or mail this 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 & financial statement, audited if available
  4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year & current fiscal year to date
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5. If capacity building initiative, itemized budget (including external consultant's proposal, if applicable)
  6. Current strategic plan. If your nonprofit does not have a current strategic plan, explain why.
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- Use this form @ [www.chescof.org](http://www.chescof.org) to apply online for grants from all Community Foundation Funds.
  - **Email proposals to [grants@chescof.org](mailto:grants@chescof.org)**
  - Proposals are considered "complete" when CCCF has **confirmed** receipt of the **Grant Proposal Summary Sheet, Narrative & Attachments**.
  - Proposals are shared electronically and online with Fund Advisors, Donors & Grant Panels.
  - Per IRS Regulations, applicants must be charitable, tax exempt organizations with 501(c)(3) certification & cannot be individuals.

Please contact Grants Administrator Kevin Baffa at  
(610) 696-8211 [grants@chescof.org](mailto:grants@chescof.org) with questions.



## WHAT IS CAPACITY BUILDING?

**Capacity building helps bring a nonprofit to the next level of operational, programmatic, financial, or organizational maturity, in order to more effectively & efficiently fulfill its mission.**

Capacity building may include (but is not limited to) projects which address:

- **MISSION, VISION & STRATEGY**  
Organizational Assessment - Strategic Planning - Financial Planning
- **GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP**  
Board Development - Executive Transition/Succession Planning - Leadership Development - Staff Training & Professional Development
- **PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS**  
Coalition Building – Collaboration - Mergers & Acquisitions - Strategic Restructuring
- **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & MARKETING**  
Major Gift Donor Identification, Cultivation, Development & Stewardship - Development Campaigns (Annual, Capital, Planned Giving) - Earned Income Development - Social Enterprise Feasibility & Development - Marketing, Branding & Communications
- **TECHNOLOGY & OPERATIONS**  
Business Continuity Planning - Financial Management - Human Resources - Volunteer Management - Industry Certification - Risk Management - Technology Improvements