

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 9/12/2023

Contact Information

Organization Name: Good Works, Inc.

Address: PO Box 1441

Phone: (610) 383-6311

Website: www.goodworksinc.org

Year Incorporated: 1988

FEIN: 23-2513834

ED/CEO Name: Bob Beggs

ED/CEO E-mail: bob@goodworksinc.org

Board Chair Name: Betty Traver

Board Chair Approval (check here): ☒

Primary Contact Name: Larry Lukacs

Primary Contact E-mail: larry@goodworksinc.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

☐ Arts, Culture & Humanities

☐ Environment/Animal Welfare

☐ Education

☐ Health

☒ Human Services

☒ Religion

Mission: Transforming lives by repairing homes for low-income families and sharing the hope found in Jesus Christ.

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

We serve all 49 of the 73 municipalities that make up Central and Northern Chester County.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: We assist low-income families and individuals who are below 200% of the federal poverty level. In 2022, we assisted 162 families (344 individuals) and completed repairs on 39 homes. 31% were parents with dependent children, 52% were seniors, 48% had at least one person with a disability, and the average household income was \$24,516.

Annual Budget \$1,454,131	<u>8</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>82.5</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>12</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>9.2</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>1,197</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>8.3</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>33,291</u> # of Volunteer Hours

100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: Chester County Dept. of Community Development – \$105,000, Commonwealth of PA – \$50,000, an Anonymous Individual – \$50,000, W.W. Smith Charitable Trust – \$35,000

Is this grant proposal for: Capacity Building ☐ or General Operating ☒ **Yes** ?

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: For 35 years, Good Works has been repairing homes and transforming the lives of low-income Chester County families. By making homes warm, safe and dry we enable families to remain in their home, address their basic need for safe and healthy shelter, and improve the quality-of-life issues for those at risk of falling further behind socially and economically. Without Good Works intervention, many of these families could lose their home, which would endanger their already tenuous existence. Our services are offered to homeowners at no cost and volunteers do most of the repairs.

GOOD WORKS GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

I. Nonprofit's history, goals, key achievements, and distinctiveness

Good Works, Inc is a faith-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 1988 to unite volunteers from the community, businesses and churches to repair homes for local low-income families. Everyone benefits when people from different races, cultures, and backgrounds come together to help a family in need. Our goal is to help families remain in their home, a home that is now a safe and healthy environment. Over the past 35 years, we have seen how improving a home's physical condition enables the family to stay in the home, improves the quality of life for its inhabitants and replaces despair with hope. We have always helped some of the most vulnerable members of the community. Most of the homeowners we assist are seniors on a fixed income, single parents, or individuals with disabilities. Our services are offered at no cost and every dollar goes a long way because volunteers do most of the repairs.

In 1989, a handful of volunteers donated 870 hours to repair homes for families in Coatesville. We now serve all 49 of the 73 municipalities that make up Central and Northern Chester County through volunteer staging sites in Coatesville, Exton, Phoenixville, and St. Peters. In 2022, 1,197 volunteers donated 33,291 hours, we assisted 162 families, and completed 39 homes. A profile of the 162 families we assisted last year looks like this:

- 52% were seniors
- 48% had at least one family member with a disability
- 24% were single parent households with dependent children
- 7% were two parent households with dependent children

Volunteering has still not returned to pre-pandemic levels, therefore we did not meet our 2022 targets. But we were encouraged by the number of families we assisted, and continue to be encouraged because we see volunteer numbers improving. Since 1988, volunteers have donated over 800,000 hours to help families in our community, and we have completed over 1,100 homes! Our goals for 2023 are for: 1,350 volunteers, 35,000 volunteer hours, 158 families assisted and 36 homes completed.

Unlike most home repair organizations, that only repair one or two issues, our Repair Supervisor does a complete physical assessment of the home to identify all the health and safety issues. We then do all the repairs needed to make the home warm, safe, and dry – no matter how extensive. The work we provide includes roof repair and replacement, plumbing installation and repairs, electrical rewiring and code compliance, heating system and hot water heater installation and repair, insulation and drywall replacement, window and door replacement, repairing floors and stairs, making homes handicap accessible and mold remediation.

II. Funding Request

Description of key initiatives

Using volunteers, we address the basic need for safe and healthy shelter for low-income families. Here in Chester County, there are many low-income families living with serious health and safety issues because they cannot afford the repairs they need. Try to imagine the despair you would feel if you had a leaking roof, no heat, serious plumbing or electrical issues, and no possibility to afford the expensive repairs you need. Without Good Works intervention, many of these families could lose their home, the conditions they are living with are that serious and dangerous. Our Neighbors Helping Neighbors program provides the hope that tomorrow can be better, that they can have what most of us take for granted – a home that's warm, safe and dry. We help those at risk of losing their main asset, their home, and falling further behind socially and economically.

A CDC report from January 2011 stated that: *“Healthy homes are essential to a healthy community and population. They contribute to meeting physical needs and the occupants’ psychological and social health.”* We concur! During the 10 to 14 months it can take for our volunteers to complete repairs, families learn they are not alone, that there are caring people in their community willing to help. When repairs are complete, we also give homeowners two “Hope” certificates they can redeem for future repairs. Through our program, families learn they have a safety net to keep them from losing their home and possibly winding up in a shelter, or worse yet on the street.

We work on approximately 40 homes concurrently and the majority of repairs are accomplished by volunteers on over 200 Saturday and midweek workdays, organized as follows:

General Workdays: Year round Saturday workdays enable individuals and groups to volunteer as their schedules permit. On average, 20 – 40 volunteers with a variety of backgrounds and skill levels are divided into smaller crews and assigned to volunteer Work Crew Leaders and Technical Advisors who answer questions, provide instruction, and make sure all repairs are done properly and safely.

Partner Church Workdays: Our 20 Partner Churches provide their own leaders and volunteers, and more holistic service since the church takes the same home from start to finish.

Retiree Workdays: Good Works is fortunate to have a committed group of skilled retirees who volunteer on Mondays and Thursdays to do emergency repairs and more technical projects.

Corporate Workdays: This weekday opportunity is a vital part of the Good Works volunteer experience, as local businesses encourage employees to participate in mid-week workdays as a team building activity and a way to "give something back" to the communities where they live.

Summer Work Camps: During the summer, we usually hold 2 – 3, week long Work Camps in the Coatesville area for church youth groups, plus an additional week for adults.

Specific needs and issues to be addressed

Chester County, Pennsylvania . . . quaint country inns, beautiful old homes, expansive farms and stone barns paint a picture of peace and tranquility. The median household income is \$104,161, and the many exquisite homes testify to the county's wealth. This is the land of opportunity for careers, recreation and culture for many who reside in Pennsylvania's richest county. Although this portrait of Chester County is picturesque and inspiring, it is not complete. Many low-income families are living in homes with leaking roofs, mold, collapsing floors, inadequate windows and insulation, no heat in the winter months, porches and steps rotting away, and barely working appliances plugged into unsafe outlets. The average income for the families we assisted in 2022 was \$24,516. This is “the other Chester County.”

Near the center of the county is the City of Coatesville, the poorest of the 73 municipalities, and where 60 percent of the families we assist live. Consider the following information about Coatesville:

- 22.7 percent of the residents are living in poverty
- 28 percent of households have a female head with no spouse present
- Median household income is \$52,931 – as compared with \$104,161 for the County as a whole

The families who contact us for assistance live with health and safety hazards because they cannot afford the expensive home repairs they desperately need. Repairing all the health and safety issues allows these families to remain in the home and enhances the quality of life for everyone in the family. In 2022, 40% of the 162 families we helped lived in run down mobile homes. Most families move into mobile homes because that is the only option they can afford, cheaper than renting an apartment. But mobile homes are poorly constructed and not designed for long term living. Our program combats homelessness because we keep families in homes that could be condemned without our assistance.

Through our program:

- We will combat homelessness by enabling people to remain in their home, which will keep them safer and reduce dependence on government and social programs.
- Homeowners and their families will go from unsafe and unhealthy living conditions to a stable environment in a warm, safe, dry home.
- Families will become more financially independent as repairs increase the value of the home and contribute to lower energy costs.
- Eliminating safety and health hazards in the home, like mold, will improve the quality of life for everyone in the family and reduces costly out of pocket medical expenses.
- Homeowners and their families will learn they are not alone, that there are people in the community who care and are willing to help.
- Finally, hearts and lives will be transformed as hope and dignity are restored.

Why it is important to fund this now

Normal circumstances are very challenging for the families we assist, but that is especially true during the current economy. Due to the dramatic increase in the cost of building materials over the last few years, the cost to complete repairs on the average home is now over \$15,000 – as compared to \$10,000 in 2019. Higher building material costs, and the drop in volunteering, has exacerbated the problem. The wait for assistance is more than 24 months in most areas because we do not have sufficient resources to keep up with the tremendous demand.

How impact and results will be demonstrated

We have traditionally reported the impact of our efforts by referencing the number of volunteers, volunteer hours, families assisted, homes completed, and the many qualitative testimonials we receive. The testimonials communicate how homeowners feel about their involvement with Good Works, which is consistently positive, but we also have a quantitative scoring system as part of our exit interviews. In 2022, 16 homeowners returned the survey and responded to the following 4 statements:

1. Good Works helped me remain in my home. Only 15 responded that this statement applied to them. One person chose N/A. The average score for the 15 was 4.80. The scoring options for all 4 statements range from 1 to 5, with 1 being “Strongly Disagree” and 5 being “Strongly Agree.” If a responder circles two numbers for the same statement, like a 4 and a 5, it is scored as a 4.5.
2. My home is now safer. All 16 responded that this statement applied to them, with an average score of 5.00.
3. I learned that I am not alone; there are people who care. All 16 responded that this statement applied to them, with an average score of 4.94.
4. My quality of life improved because of my experience with Good Works. All 16 responded that this statement applied to them, with an average score of 5.00.

Our impact is also seen in the comments from homeowners:

- *I no longer worry about the ceiling caving in, and I can brush my teeth in the sink.*
- *You made my life a lot easier for me, physically and mentally.*
- *I am so thankful. I could never have afforded these repairs.*
- *We greatly enjoy having heat.*
- *The volunteers have been so gracious and kind with me during this process.*
- *The best part is the relationships that were built. Also learning how to do different tasks.*
- *My quality of life has changed. I am now able to keep my home for me and my daughter.*

The above thoughts communicate that Good Works enables people to remain in their home, replaces despair with hope, and improves the quality of life for everyone in the family.