

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 9/13/2022

Contact Information

Organization Name: Thistle Hills, Inc.

Address: 323 E. Lincoln Highway, Coatesville, PA 19320

Phone: 610-384-4771

Website: www.thistlehills.org

Year Incorporated: 2020

FEIN: 85-1655793

ED: Tiffany Starkes, Program Manager

ED E-mail: tstarkes@thistlehills.org

Board Chair Name: The Rev. Sherry Deets

Board Chair Approval (check here):

Primary Contact Name: Sherry Deets

Primary Contact E-mail: revsherrydeets@aol.com

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture & Humanities

Environment/Animal Welfare

Education

Health

Human Services

Religion

Mission: Our mission at Thistle Hills is to serve women who are survivors of trafficking, prostitution and addiction that deserve a second chance at life. Thistle Hills is a community-based program and provides a two-year residential program at no cost, to transform the lives of women who have been trafficked and suffer from addiction.

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

Focus on Chester County and Coatesville

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: Thistle Hills serves women over 18 years old who are survivors of trafficking, prostitution, and addiction who are ready for a second chance at life. We focus on women from the Chester County and Coatesville areas who can pass a drug screen. The selection of women for the program will be based on an individual's qualifications as they meet agency guidelines without regard to race, ethnicity, color, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, religion or affiliation(s).

The residence is limited to women over the age of 18 who are:

- Psychologically stable enough to live with a group of women
- In stable physical condition
- Drug free (in the event of drug addiction the individual must complete a detoxification program before admission)
- Have a desire to leave prostitution (either from the streets or any commercially based operation)

Referrals: Participants are referred to Thistle Hills from a variety of sources including alcohol and treatment centers, mental health facilities, other penal systems, various social service programs and individuals. Engagement with Thistle Hills begins with the referral, completion of an online application, eligibility screening, and inclusion on the waiting list. Program staff schedule weekly check-ins to remain on the list and when a bed becomes available, a phone interview is conducted and a date is set for program entry. Thistle Hills' house has a capacity of 4 residents at one time.

Annual Budget \$ 115,190 _____ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff 1 _____

70 _____ % of budget for program expenses 11 _____ # of Board Volunteers

29 _____ % of budget for administrative expenses 4 _____ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

1 _____ % of budget for fundraising expenses 780 _____ # of Volunteer Hours

100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: Bentley Systems, Stewart Huston Charitable Trust, Episcopal Church of the Trinity, Justamere Foundation, Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, St. Francis in the Fields Episcopal Church

Is this grant proposal for: Capacity Building ___ or General Operating ___xx_?

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: \$ 25,000 _____

Proposal Summary:

We invite you to be a financial partner and accompany extraordinary women Survivors in:

Transforming challenging pasts into beautiful futures. Your financial contribution will have a direct impact on the lives of our Thistle Hills residents.

Thistle Hills offers support, love, and resources to women who are survivors of trafficking, prostitution, and addiction. We believe they deserve a second chance at life and provide programs that transform their lives and so they become part of the fabric of our community.

By providing residential housing, therapeutic services, and a lifelong sisterhood of support, our participants can become self-sufficient individuals grounded in active recovery with the skills to live independently. Thistle Hills helps residents live honest and sober lives through peer support and one-on-one sessions on community living, education, recovery, and healthy coping skills.

We empower women by:

- Providing a 24 month, rent-free, home environment based on a community living model for up to five women at a time.
- Peer and staff support to help residents live honest, sober, and self-sufficient lives through peer support and one-on-one sessions on community living, education, recovery, and healthy coping
- Educational and paid vocational opportunities
- Individual goal setting and accountability to foster self-understanding through personal and spiritual growth
- Offering the referral and support needed to recover from childhood abuse and to fully understand the role it plays in trafficking, prostitution and addiction
- Supportive services to mitigate legal challenges
- Medical, dental, and mental health treatment
- Case management
- A matched savings program for income and asset development
- Creating a social enterprise for women to have meaningful job opportunities and work toward economic self-sufficiency at Thistle Hills

The thistle illuminates the adage, "*Don't judge a book by its cover*". A weed with the fortitude to thrive in brutal conditions, the thistle has beautiful, soft purple centers with deep taproots that can shoot through concrete and survive drought. Symbolically, the same is true of our women who've gone through trauma: Beauty and strength underlie their trauma and past baggage. The resilience, vibrancy, and healing qualities of the thistle parallel the survival and flourishing of women survivors.

Vision

To create opportunities for holistic healing and empowerment for women to achieve sober, honest, self-sufficient lives.

Values:

- Show radical hospitality and show love to residents, so they can take control of their lives
- Demonstrate spiritual principles by celebrating the diversity and commonality of humanity
- Use love as a healing gift and the most powerful force for change in the world
- Acknowledge that everyone's journey matters and with unconditional support residents will find their path
- Build a life-long sisterhood of compassionate, disciplined support where everyone can flourish and grow

Goals and Evaluation

Thistle Hills measures the progress of each participant as she matriculates through the four-phases of the program model. The long-term impact of the program model to prevent a reoccurrence of addiction is evaluated at 3, 6 and 12-month intervals after the successful graduation from the program.

Thistle Hills program staff will maintain detailed case notes, manage a robust participant tracking system, and maintain regular communication with community-based service providers to assess individual progress and goal achievement. Weekly case management meetings will be held to ensure the integrity of data quality, consistency in file documentation, and records reflect an accurate account of our work with the participants.