

# ZELINDA LEBOUTILLIER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



## I. SUMMARY SHEET

(One page only. This page will be shared with Grant Committee Members.)

Note: If the Philanthropy Network's Common Grant Application is used, this Summary Sheet MUST accompany application. Please visit our website at [www.chescocf.org](http://www.chescocf.org) to obtain an electronic version of this application.

Date: 2/7/24

### Contact Information:

Organization Name: Camp Dreamcatcher  
Address: 148 West State Street STE 104  
Kennett Square, PA 19348  
Phone: 610-925-2998  
Web Address: <https://campdreamcatcher.org/>

Contact Name: Patty Hillkirk  
Contact Title: Executive Director  
Contact E-mail: [phillkirk@kennett.net](mailto:phillkirk@kennett.net)  
Fax: 610-925-0403  
Year Incorporated: 1996

Has your nonprofit previously applied to the Community Foundation: Yes  No

### Field/s of Interest:

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

### Organizational Information:

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

All of Chester County and counties in PA, DE, NJ, NY and MD.

**Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served:**

120 HIV/AIDS impacted youth, between the ages of 5-35. 25% of the youth are HIV/AIDS infected and 75% have an HIV/AIDS infected family member or have lost a family member to AIDS. 98% of the youth served come from low-income families, 50% have lost one or both parents, 70% have experienced trauma, and 30% have been diagnosed with a mental health condition. 98% of the youth served are BIPOC.

### Mission Statement:

The mission of Camp Dreamcatcher is to provide free therapeutic and educational programs to HIV/AIDS impacted youth and their families. Our vision is to foster an environment of tolerance, compassion, respect, and understanding of those whose lives have been touched by HIV/AIDS.

### Organization Description:

Camp Dreamcatcher has been providing free services to HIV/AIDS impacted youth for more than 28 years. A grant will support our FREE programs for HIV/AIDS impacted youth, including a therapeutic camp session, weekend retreats, progressive leadership programs, holiday adopt-a-family program and HIV/AIDS education, training and community outreach.

Annual Budget \$ <u>480,473</u>	<u>1</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>83</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>8</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>9</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>220</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>8</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>13,000</u> # of Volunteer Hours
<u>100</u> % total	

Top 3-5 funding sources:

Julian and Lois B. Brodsky Foundation: \$30,000

PayPal Community Impact Fund: \$20,000

The Philadelphia Foundation: \$25,000

Justamere Foundation: \$15,000

### Proposal Information:

Grant Amount Requested: \$ 2,000

Summary Description of Grant Purpose: Therapeutic and Educational Camp Session for HIV/AIDS Impacted Youth.

ZELINDA LEBOUTILLIER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

II. LOI (LETTER OF INTENT)

*NOT TO EXCEED 2 PAGES*

**1. Organization's history, goals, key achievements and distinctiveness**

Camp Dreamcatcher offers the only therapeutic camp program for children impacted by HIV/AIDS on the East Coast. For most of our campers, we are their only source of free or affordable therapeutic services. Above all, we are a safe, understanding and supportive community of love that children return to, year after year. Since our start 28 years ago, we have achieved the following:

- **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.
- 1,300 children received gifts through our holiday Adopt-a-Family Program.
- 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 315,000!**

**2. Funding request:**

- A. Specific Chester County or other County needs and issues addressed**
- B. Organizational impact (for general operating) or project impact**
- C. Overall strategies to implement the organization's mission (or project)**
- D. Why it is important to fund this grant now**

About a quarter of campers attending summer camp hail from Chester County. Despite the general good health and prosperity enjoyed by many residents of this County, our campers face numerous barriers to good health and success, in addition to the HIV/AIDS that they or a loved one has or has had. Our campers are predominantly people of color, and nearly all live in poverty. 70% of the youth who attend Camp Dreamcatcher have experienced some form of abuse, trauma, or other Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE). Camp Dreamcatcher is a touchstone in the lives of these vulnerable young people, and most campers look forward all year to returning to camp to see their friends and our counselors and volunteers.

Camp Dreamcatcher seeks to create an impact on participating campers in the following ways:

- To improve the physical and emotional health of the campers.
- To offer educational sessions that explore issues, problems, and concerns common amongst HIV/AIDS infected and/or affected youth, including age-appropriate sexual health education.
- To improve the camper's perceptions of, and adherence to, HIV medication regimes.
- To increase knowledge about HIV/AIDS, explore attitudes around HIV/AIDS, and support the mental health of children struggling with the stigma related to HIV/AIDS.
- To give the children and adolescents attending our programs the chance to feel free and have fun – just like any other kids!

Camp Dreamcatcher employs the following strategies to achieve the above goals:

- **Therapeutic and Educational Summer Camp:** For a week in August, we host about 120 children at Camp Saginaw in Oxford for a memorable time during which children can shed the stigma of HIV/AIDS, enjoy a week of fun activities, and also participate in education and activities to improve their health and well-being in the long term.
- **Adopt-a-Family Program:** This annual program is held in November and December each year. In 2023, gifts were delivered to 175 children.
- **Progressive Leadership Program (PLP):** The PLP starts when campers are aged 15, with our Wilderness-Based Therapy Program. Camper Quest is a safe overnight experience where

## Page Two

counselors and staff facilitate group team-building challenges, teach basic camping skills such as outdoor cooking, hygiene and safety practices, fire building and adventure challenges.

- **New Expanded Leaders in Training (LIT) Program:** The program will build on the financial literacy, leadership, and career & college readiness programming offered during our camp session in August. A needs assessment related to current career, employment, mental health issues, and resources will determine the individual goals for each LIT. The program will be launched at the **Leadership Retreat** on April 27-28 at Camp NorthBay where each LIT will be matched with a Mentor who will work with them throughout the year.
- **New Restorative Justice/Conflict Mediation Program:** All of our counselors, staff and health center volunteers completed a Restorative Justice/Conflict Mediation Training prior to the camp session. The restorative practices used at camp included the use of proactive Cabin Circles to promote connectedness in the cabin, and the use of Restorative Circles to 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.

### 3. Timetable, with anticipated outcomes and their relevance to the nonprofit's mission

The Therapeutic & Educational Camp Session will be held August 18-24, 2024 and we are currently registering children and volunteers for the camp session. All of our programs are trauma-informed through a racial equity lens. Our Trauma-Informed Programming achieves 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.
- Provides resources and tools that help campers identify and process their emotions.
- Opportunities to be vulnerable and to receive compassionate and caring support.
- Sensitivity to trauma triggers at camp.
- Therapists who understand the impact of trauma and how to support children at camp.
- Opportunities to shift from a place of isolation and stigma to empowerment and resiliency.

### 4. How the impact and results will be demonstrated

The Camp Dreamcatcher Board of Directors are actively involved in program assessment, strategic planning and updates the organization's policies and procedures on an annual basis. The children and volunteers complete evaluation forms after each program.

#### 2023 CAMPER EVALUATION RESULTS:

- Did you feel accepted at camp? Yes 100%
- Did you have fun at camp? Yes 100%
- Did you feel safe at camp? Yes 98%
- Did you feel supported by the staff and volunteers at camp? Yes 98%
- Did you feel there was someone to talk to at camp? Yes 98%
- Is it important to have a place like Camp Dreamcatcher? Yes 97%
- Would you recommend Camp Dreamcatcher to a friend? Yes 97%
- Did you feel like you could ask for help at camp? Yes 97%
- Did you make new friends at camp? Yes 95%
- Did you feel accepted at camp? Yes 95%
- Did you feel comfortable expressing your feelings at camp? Yes 92%
- Did the restorative circles help you resolve conflict and/or repair harm at camp? Yes 92%
- Could you relate to the feelings and concerns of the other campers? Yes 91%
- Were you able to talk openly about HIV/AIDS at camp? Yes 91%