

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Date 2/17/2024

Contact Information

Organization Name: Kesem at Temple University
Address: 3145 W Jefferson St 216, Philadelphia, PA 19121
Phone: 267-454-8584
Website: kesem.org
Year Incorporated: 2000
FEIN: 51-0454157

ED/CEO Name: Alicia Kabir
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Board Chair Name: Ava Fulweber
Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: Marissa Ballew
Primary Contact E-mail: temple.development@kesem.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: We support children through and beyond a parent's cancer through year-round peer support and a free week-long summer camp.

Geographic Area Served: Philadelphia County, PA

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: We serve about 50 children every year who are affected by a parent's cancer.

Annual Budget \$ 50,000

70 % of budget for program expenses

20 % of budget for administrative expenses

10 % of budget for fundraising expenses

100 % total

6 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

17 # of Board Volunteers

25 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

128 # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources: individual fundraising, annual fundraising gala, institutional funding, and other fundraisers

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

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$ 4,000

Proposal Summary:

Kesem at Temple University is one of many chapters of Camp Kesem National. We run a free week-long summer camp for children who have been impacted by a parent's cancer in the Philadelphia area. The camp acts as a haven for kids to just be kids. A donation to Kesem would allow us to eliminate our waitlist and have a full camp. It would also allow us to afford a variety of activities for the kids. This camp being free for the children is incredibly important to keep it accessible to all families, especially those paying for expensive treatments.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

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

Kesem was founded in 2000 as the vision of five college students at Stanford University. Innovation, empathy, and leadership are in our DNA. That's why we continue to center our work through the volunteer efforts of empathetic and enterprising college student volunteers.

5 million children are coping with a parent's cancer diagnosis. That's 5 million children at risk of experiencing increased anxiety, emotional isolation, loss of social interest, and/or feelings of hopelessness. And that's why, at Kesem, we are committed to creating a world where every child who has a parent with a cancer diagnosis or has lost a parent to cancer is never alone. We support these children through and beyond their parent's cancer with free, fun-filled creative programs and a lasting community.

Kesem also helps the students who run the camp. Among Kesem college student leaders: 83% felt better prepared for life after college after their Kesem experience, 97% are interested in continuing to do philanthropic work after college, 80% have been impacted by cancer, and 100% undergo extensive training on how to create an environment where children will feel safe, loved, and respected.

Since its founding as one chapter in 2000, Kesem has since grown to a national organization with over 130 chapters. That means 130 camps across the country, serving a total of over 10,000 children.

Kesem stands out due to its commitment to inclusivity. Kesem's mission of supporting children through and beyond a parent's cancer, and our vision of ensuring that every child impacted by a parent's cancer is never alone, can only be realized through an ongoing, steadfast commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in every part of our organization. To fulfill this commitment, we:

- Continually expand the communities we support and work with—our camper families, volunteers, staff, alumni, donors, and boards—with attention to engaging communities we are not currently reaching.
- Strive for equity in delivering a transformative, fun, and empowering community that recognizes and embraces our differences.
- Aspire to create shared spaces that are safe for every member of the Kesem community to feel valued and respected.
- Engage in continued meaningful learning in order to better support our mission, and our growing Kesem community.

2. Funding request

• Description of key initiatives

Our primary goal is for all 50 campers to go to our camp for free. We want to take all campers off our waitlist and reach the widest audience possible.

We also need adequate funding to create a safe environment by hiring a health & wellness team. Our health & wellness team consists of two nurses and two mental health professionals to ensure all levels of health for our campers.

• Specific needs & issues to be addressed

Children's mental wellbeing is at risk when a parent has a cancer diagnosis. Camp Kesem aims to provide a safe space for children impacted by a parent's cancer. We are a haven for kids to just be kids and not worry about the big emotions that come with a parent's cancer diagnosis.

- **Why it is important to fund this now**

Kesem is a nonprofit, so we rely on donations to keep our operation running. We are still recovering from our fundraising setbacks from COVID, so we need donations now more than ever.

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

Camp will run smoothly, and we will have adequate staffing. Additionally, children will give positive feedback, and our counselors will notice positive changes throughout the week. Lastly, our counselors and other leaders will have stronger leadership and interpersonal skills.