



GRANT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

- The Chester County Community Foundation **connects people who care with the causes that matter**, so their philanthropy makes a difference **now & forever**.
- We are **a collection of Field of Interest & Donor Advised Funds** with **\$5M + granted annually** to nonprofits in Chester County & beyond.
- **99%** of our grants are made by our generous Fund Advisors, who make grant decisions all year.

Proposals submitted by nonprofits are considered for 2 types of grants:

Field of Interest & Donor Advised Funds
(No Deadline)

- ◇ Grants **focus on Chester County** causes & issues, but are not limited to Chester County.
- ◇ Charitable nonprofits working **in all fields of interest** are considered for grant awards. (I.e. arts, culture, & humanities; education; community improvement; environment; religion; health; & human services)
- ◇ **General operating** grants are encouraged. Nonprofits should be specific about their mission, goals, & measurable outcomes.
- ◇ Proposals can be submitted **anytime all year**.
- ◇ Grant decisions are made **intermittently** all year, as Fund Advisors desire.
- ◇ Grant **awards** typically range from **\$500-\$7,500**.

Fund for Chester County Capacity Building Grants
(Due 9/13)

- ◇ For eligibility in this grant program, nonprofits must be **located in & serve Chester County**.
- ◇ Nonprofits **budgets** must be **\$500,000 or less**.
- ◇ The goal of capacity building grants is to **strengthen the effectiveness of NPO's serving the region**, see page 4 for more details on the areas including:
 - Mission, Vision & Strategy
 - Governance & Leadership
 - Partnerships & Collaborations
 - Operations & Technology
 - Fundraising, Development & Marketing
- ◇ Proposals submitted between **July 1 - Sept. 13** are eligible for consideration.
- ◇ Grant **awards** typically range from **\$500-\$5,000**, with monies distributed by **February**.

- Use this form @ www.chescocf.org to apply online for grants from all Community Foundation Funds.
- **Email proposals to grants@chescocf.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)-698-8211** or grants@chescocf.org with any questions.

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

Contact Information

Organization Name: Angel's Retreat
Address: 361 Corinne Rd, West Chester, PA 19382
Phone: 302-598-9023
Website: www.angelsretreat.org
Year Incorporated: 2018
FEIN: 83-2810698

ED/CEO Name: Melissa Heisey
ED/CEO E-mail: melissa@angelsretreat.org
Board Chair Name: Emily Morgan
Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: Melissa Heisey
Primary Contact E-mail:
melissa@angelsretreat.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: Our mission is to promote responsible ownership of companion animals, act as a resource for homeless animals and our rescue partners, encourage adoption and provide hospice care for senior and special needs dogs.

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

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: In 2023, Angel's Retreat rescued 626 dogs from shelters, puppy mills and other abusive or unhealthy circumstances. 228 of those saved were breeding moms pulled from puppy mills.

<u>Annual Budget</u> \$ <u>\$436,307</u>	<u>2</u>	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>75</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>3</u>	# of Board Volunteers
<u>19</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>31</u>	# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>6</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>4,857</u>	# of Volunteer Hours
<i>100 % total</i>		

Top 3-5 funding sources: adoption fees 80%, private donations 18%, corporate giving 2%

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:

Angel's Retreat is a dog rescue serving Chester County and the greater mid-atlantic region. We take pride in helping hospice dogs and those with major medical needs. Most of our dogs come from puppy mills, high risk shelters and owner surrenders. We are experienced with shy and shut down dogs with behavioral challenges. Our organization finds itself in need of help purchasing a larger property in order to continue our mission and growth. Our current space cannot keep up with the demand that is being placed upon us. New state laws have also impaired our ability to save lives. These laws include new quarantine rules and the inability to save pregnant moms and puppies. A larger facility would enable us to meet new licensing requirements to save these precious innocent lives.

Our volunteers have experience with timid and anxious dogs, as well as dogs with mobility and other medical challenges. We love what we do, and now we find ourselves in need of acquiring a larger property. It is essential for both sustaining our mission and facilitating growth for two reasons. First, our current facility is unable to meet the increasing demand we are facing. Second, new state laws have impaired our ability to save laws because they impose new quarantine rules and disallow the intake of pregnant moms and puppies. A larger facility would enable us to meet new licensing requirements to save these precious innocent lives.

A property has been identified and would be ideal for expansion as it was previously used by a family to breed dogs. It has a small home on the property in which our kennel manager would live. Our dogs would continue to never be alone. Our founder's home would become the quarantine space as well as housing for major medical, hospice dogs and any other special cases.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

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

History

Angel's Retreat was founded in 2018 by Melissa Heisey after she spent many years volunteering in shelters and seeing many dogs never make it out. The idea behind Angel's Retreat is to get dogs out of shelters and into a home environment where they are safe and secure. Angel's Retreat functions as a hybrid model between a shelter and a foster home. Our founder and her husband live with the animals and are on-site day and night.

Angel's Retreat started with a dog named Angel. Melissa adopted her from a local SPCA in 2004. Angel was suffering from extreme fear aggression, and this led to a world of training and rehab for them both. Angel will always be in our hearts. We hope that we can help many "Angels" find their perfect humans and many humans find that amazing love that only a dog can give.

Goals, Key Achievements

Angel's Retreat started with a simple goal, to provide special needs and hospice dogs an alternative to living their lives out in a shelter. In just five years, we increased adoptions 53% on average per year. Our goals still include caring for special needs and hospice dogs, which will always be at the core of our hearts. We have expanded our goal to pulling dogs out of kill shelters, taking in puppy mill dogs and owner surrenders. Distinctiveness and growth are important to any organization, but smart growth is imperative to success. While we always want to save more lives, we want to make sure we are doing so in a manner that serves our mission and the wider dog population. In order to ensure this, our organization strives to ensure the following three groups always make up 10% of our population: seniors, hard-to-place breeds and special needs dogs. Angel's Retreat strives to increase adoptions at least 10% every year. In FY23 adoptions grew 42% over FY22.

2. Funding request

Description of Key Initiatives

Our organization has identified five pillars of initiatives we wish to address in 2024 and continue to focus on in future years.

- 1) Dog Care and Enrichment, our core function, requires a process of information cards and task lists to ensure each dog receives the care and attention it needs daily. Each dog has information regarding its medical and behavioral health for volunteer use. A primary concern in rescue is always the control of disease spread and safety for our animals. We ensure our volunteers are always educated in the latest research and aware of any sick animals in our care. At Angel's Retreat, we never want a dog to feel warehoused in a kennel. Our dogs rotate throughout different areas of our home during the day, play in the yard and are challenged with different enrichment activities and toys. This is what we mean when we call ourselves a hybrid between a foster and a shelter. We can house around 60 animals at any given time between our founder's home and fosters, and they get to experience the lifestyle of living in a home. Outside of caring for our own dogs, we have started offering low-cost vet services to the public. These vet clinics are offered once a month in Oxford in partnership with Cypress Vet and Oxford Feed & Lumber and serve around 200 dogs and cats a year. We offer free basic exams, and \$10 vaccines and microchips, as well as information for low cost spay/neuter. All our services are offered in both English and Spanish and ability to pay never gets in the way of an animal getting care.
- 2) The use of technology is valued as our leadership team is made up of those with engineering, finance, and legal backgrounds. We continue to evolve and improve our website and communications to share who we are and what we are doing in the community to aid in animal welfare. One goal we have in 2024 is to add text ability to further

communication with our supporters. We are also partnering with a team at Morgan Stanley to add AI capabilities to increase efficiencies around application processing for adoptions and volunteers as well as donor solicitations.

- 3) Volunteers are vital to the success of Angel's Retreat. We have one goal in 2024 and that is to make our volunteer program fun and advance the education of key volunteers. To be blunt, everyone wants to play with puppies, no one wants to clean up messes. We are introducing pack walks, training classes and other educational programs to our volunteers with the hopes that it not only encourages more volunteering, but helps our dogs learn skills which get them adopted more quickly and successfully. We have identified a few key volunteers who will be pursuing their CCPDT (dog training certification) with the purpose of having additional trainers "on staff" and able to work with our dogs as well as lead classes for our volunteers. Our hope is that these changes will help us reach our goal of hitting 5,500 volunteer hours in 2024.
- 4) Facility maintenance is required regularly to keep up with the intake of dogs and ensure they are in a safe environment. 2024 is Angel's Retreat's fifth birthday. As exciting as that is, it means our facility has taken a lot of abuse over the years. Our kennels need to be replaced to keep our animals safe and stay in compliance with PA state laws. As of Jan 2024, kennels with wire openings are no longer allowed and must be replaced with solid walls. Last year, we were able to replace two sections of kennels. This year, we need to replace the last two sections at a cost of approximately \$50,000. We are constantly looking at the latest research for cleaning and sanitation. UV sanitizing devices have been placed throughout our kennels and home. ByoPlanet recently gifted our organization an electrostatic sprayer they developed in partnership with Merck Animal Health (value of \$2500) which kills viruses such as Bordetella, Parvo and Covid. While we are very fortunate to have a wonderful space for our animals, we have outgrown it. We must consider a larger property to continue the growth and success to which we have become accustomed.
- 5) Development and long-term planning is important to our founder and leadership. Angel's Retreat is a family, and we all want our organization to have its own life, independent of its current management team. While the current leadership team is all in the 40-60 age range, we have a wonderful group of 20-30yr olds who want to learn the business and ensure its continuation. This is another reason why our organization needs to look at purchasing a bigger property. We have outgrown simply operating out of our founder's home.

Specific Needs & Issues to be Addressed:

On Jan 21, 2024, Pennsylvania state law changed the way rescues are required to operate in Pennsylvania. These laws have had devastating impacts on our animals. Some of the changes were positive such as increasing costs of dog licenses to help fund dog law enforcement. The following are the areas where we and many others were most impacted.

Any dog coming from out of state must be quarantined in isolation for 14 days. Our country has been working towards a no kill nation by 2025. That goal relies on transport programs to bring dogs out of high-risk areas of the country to areas where they will have a chance for a new beginning. Many small rescues simply don't have the required the space for isolation and can't afford to build it. In addition, veterinarian backed research shows that this will lead to the overcrowding of our shelters and rescues which will then lead to increased risk for the spread of disease. I have attached a letter sent by such professionals in our grant request.

Rescues are no longer permitted to accept pregnant dogs or any dogs under 8 weeks old. If you happen to come into the possession of such dogs, you are required to turn them over to a government run shelter who will most likely then euthanize and/or abort the pregnancy. To whelp or raise puppies under 8 weeks, you must be licensed as a commercial breeder. A commercial breeding license requires you to have outdoor kennels with indoor/outdoor runs with temperature control which can be monitored by the state. Most small rescues operate out of homes. In the case of Angel's Retreat, our whelping moms have always given birth inside our founder's home, usually having a room to herself and her puppies. 38 puppies were born in our founder's home last year.

Why it is important to fund this now?

These new laws are hurting the very lives we are trying to save. They may have started with good intentions, but the consequences are very real.

There is a thirteen-acre farm for sale near our founder's home where we currently operate. This farm belonged to a family who bred Dobermans. There is a small home on the property where our kennel manager would live to continue our mission of always having someone living with our animals on-site. There is an existing kennel and several fenced in dog runs on the property needing only minor repairs. The kennels on this property would allow us to be licensed as a commercial kennel and allow us to preserve the lives of pregnant moms and young puppies. Our plan would be to leverage the space we have built at our founder's home as our isolation space to enable to continue saving dogs from out of state and allow our hospice dogs to live out their lives. We also want to be clear that when we say "out of state" we don't necessarily mean Alabama, but Camden, Wilmington, Baltimore, and other cities that are our neighbors and often need our help.

This property borders other businesses, and the dogs would not be a nuisance to others. The family that owns the property would love to see it continue to serve dogs and our community.

How impact & results will be demonstrated

Angel's Retreat estimates that the current adoption rates combined with the new facility's building and land space would allow us to save and find homes for an additional 723 dogs per year. There would of course be a gradual build up to this number as year one would require improvements and time before the new facility would be fully functional. Even with that transition period, we calculate 25% usability in year one which would lead to 181 incremental lives saved. Year two assumes we are operating at 75% capacity and 542 additional lives are saved. Year three assumes we are operating at full capacity and 723 additional lives are saved each year.

Future plans would include adding a third building to the property. This has already been discussed among current owner and contractor and is feasible given the property layout. The scope and timing of that investment would be planned for a later time.

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
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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