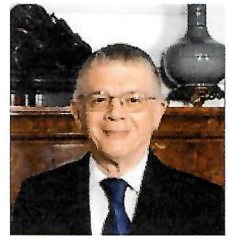


**JONAS C., MARIAN D., & ROBERT H. ERB CHARITABLE FUND
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**



I. SUMMARY SHEET

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

Date: 2/26/24

Contact Information:

Organization Name: *The Quaker School at Horsham*
Address: *250 Meetinghouse Rd
Horsham, PA 19044*
Phone: *215-674-2875*
Web Address: *quakerschool.org*

Contact Name: *Kristen Stevens*
Contact Title: *Assistant Head for External Relations*
Contact E-mail: *kstevens@quakerschool.org*
Fax: *215-674-9913*
Year Incorporated: *1982*

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: *Lancaster, Chester, Bucks, Delaware, Bucks & Montgomery Counties in PA & the Lehigh Valley, and some eastern counties in New Jersey*

Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served:
88 students (special ed) with complex challenges

Mission Statement:
We use research-based programs provided by compassionate professionals to enable each student with complex challenges to blossom and achieve meaningful personal, social, and academic success.

Organization Description: *A SOLE 3 special education institution.*

Annual Budget \$ <u>6.5M</u>	<u>62</u>	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>82</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>15</u>	# of Board Volunteers
<u>12</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>10</u>	# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>6</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>529</u>	# of Volunteer Hours
<u>100</u> % total		

Top 3-5 funding sources: *The Friends Collaborative, an Anonymous Donor for OSTC, Neil and Renee Hall, Ann and Nerval Reece, John and Donna Park*

Proposal Information:

Grant Amount Requested: \$ 50,000

Summary Description of Grant Purpose:

Grant Proposal Narrative

The Quaker School at Horsham was founded in 1982 by George Rowe who wanted to create a school where students who learned differently were understood and appreciated. The school originally described as the “Pipe Dreams Friends School” opened with three students and two teachers in the basement of the Horsham Monthly Meeting House. After a few years, the school began to evolve to better meet the needs of our families, focusing on embracing and celebrating children with complex challenges. The students at TQS have struggled in traditional schools and come with a pressing need for a safe learning environment where they can confidently face the challenges of learning. These students have a mix of disabilities: ADHS, learning disabilities, autism, expressive and receptive language disorders, and anxiety disorders. Today, we are an expansive, innovative community that truly changes the lives of K-12 and 18-22 year-old students and their families. This growth stems from a constant drive to provide the absolute best research-based education and support to our TQS community, while staying true to our mission and our Quaker values. Through program expansion, a stronger curriculum, research and leadership, and capacity building, we were able to grow into a school offering business literacy and real-world work experiences, and additional support services such as Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, ABA Therapy and 1:1 Psychological Services.

Our goals for the next three years are as follows:

1. **Bold Leadership:** Through board development, governance, and leadership, we will maintain and grow outstanding programs, broaden our reach, increase diversity, and assure our ongoing sustainability.
2. **Authentic Engagement:** We will enhance community engagement with clear communications, increased fundraising programs, and more opportunities for families to participate in their student’s learning.
3. **Emboldened People:** Our faculty and staff are what differentiate and define TQS, and we are committed to attracting and retaining the best with best-in-class support and professional development.
4. **Unparalleled Programs:** To develop a nationally recognized, research-based program for children with complex challenges that spans from kindergarten through post-graduate years, we will continually enhance our programs through growth and design thinking.

We have worked diligently to accomplish several key achievements that also serve as key differentiators. Seven faculty have secured their Orton-Gillingham Classroom Educator Certification. To be eligible to apply to the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners, a faculty member must first undergo 36 hours of live instruction and an additional 4 hours of asynchronous instruction. They are also required to design and execute at least 50 O-G lessons, with each lesson being either 45 minutes long delivered twice a week or 30 minutes long delivered four times a week. During this eight month period, they are observed five times. This school year, six additional faculty members are participating in the training. We implemented the use of Naviance, a comprehensive K-12 college and career readiness platform, to enable our middle and high school students to create portfolios of their work to be used when applying for jobs or for a select number of our students, applying to a trade school or special education post-graduate program. We also instituted a school-wide Executive Functioning curriculum through partnership with Dr. Cheryl Chase. The training included in-person sessions and cohort meetings for our faculty and families. Lastly, we developed a formal teacher mentor program that allows us to provide training and support for teachers new to the profession or to the learning difference specialty. The first cohort of faculty mentors began their two-year-long training program in September 2023.

TQS leases the land the school sits on for \$1/year for perpetuity from the Horsham Friends Meetinghouse. Monthly we walk a few steps to the Meetinghouse to participate in Meeting for Worship and use the Meetinghouse for other activities as needed. The renovation of the first floor of the Horsham Friends Meetinghouse is crucial due to the pressing need for expanded facilities to accommodate our growing student body and meet the increasing demand for our diverse range of educational programs. Currently, our existing space constraints have reached a critical point where we are unable to enroll new students, despite continued high interest in our four distinct programs: Sassafra, K8, Upper School, and Real-World Ready.

The renovation project will primarily benefit our students, who are the central focus of our educational mission. Both current and future students will experience enhanced learning environments and expanded opportunities as a result of the renovated facilities. By providing them with modernized and well-equipped spaces, we aim to optimize their educational experience and support their holistic growth and development. Additionally, our teachers will benefit significantly from the renovation project. With improved facilities, they will have access to adequate and conducive spaces in which to teach, collaborate, and innovate. This will empower them to deliver high-quality instruction more effectively and create engaging learning experiences for our students.

The primary objective of our project is to sustain and enhance the delivery of research-based educational programs tailored to children facing complex challenges. Through the completion of the proposed renovations, we aim to address the current need by expanding our capacity to admit more deserving students who require specialized support and tailored educational opportunities. These renovations will enable us to accommodate the growing demand for our programs and ensure that we can effectively meet the diverse needs of our student population.

- Bid procurement, November 2023 - January 2024
- Selection and approval of vendors from board of trustees, January 2024
- Cleaning out and preparing the space to begin the renovation, February - March 2024
- Renovate the space, April - June 2024
- Furnish the space, July 2024
- Move into the space, August 2024

We will define success by envisioning a transformed educational environment for generations to come.

1. Improved Facilities and Infrastructure: Long-term success will be demonstrated through the maintenance of renovated facilities and infrastructure to ensure their functionality, safety, and aesthetic appeal over time.
2. Community Integration: The success of our project will be measured by its positive impact on the surrounding community. We aim to create spaces that not only benefit our students and faculty but also serve as resources for the broader community through partnerships, outreach programs, and shared facilities.
3. Financial Sustainability: We will consider the project successful if it is financially sustainable in the long-term. This includes not only covering the initial costs of renovation but also ensuring ongoing funding for maintenance, upgrades, and future expansions through effective budgeting, fundraising efforts, and revenue generation.