

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Date: 07/08/2024

Contact Information

Organization Name: Parkesburg POINT
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Year Incorporated: 2003
FEIN: 03-0399261

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Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: The Parkesburg POINT Youth Center's (THE POINT) mission is to empower youth and families to live victoriously by offering a safe, engaging and Spirit-filled environment.

Geographic Area Served: The Greater Parkesburg and Coatesville Communities (Western Chester County).

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: THE POINT serves over 650 youth from grades 2nd – 12th annually. POINT students primarily come from the Octorara School District; however, 25% of students travel from the neighboring Coatesville Area School District. Most POINT students come from single-parent households, 90% of whom fall below the poverty level and many of whom have experienced homelessness, transient housing conditions, abuse, hunger, are struggling or failing academically and have parents addicted to drugs/alcohol.

Annual Budget \$ <u>1,905,641</u>	<u>10FT/8PT</u> # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>70.9 %</u> of budget for program expenses	<u>13</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>11.4 %</u> of budget for administrative expenses	<u>364</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>17.7 %</u> of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>5,212</u> # of Volunteer Hours
<small>100 % total</small>	

Top 3-5 funding sources: Grace S. and W. Linton Nelson Foundation, Justamere Foundation, Bill and Janet Lasko Foundation, ARPA Chesco, and The Connelly Foundation.

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: \$5,000

Proposal Summary: THE POINT respectfully requests \$5,000 of general operating support. Operating support allows us to remain flexible during this pivotal season of growth and to direct money to wherever it is needed most.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

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

THE POINT was collaboratively founded in 2003 by local businesses, churches, and community leaders in the Borough of Parkesburg. Since its founding, THE POINT has developed innovative strategies to address the physical, academic, emotional, social, and spiritual needs for an ever-increasing number of youths.

After 10 years of renting a small warehouse, THE POINT launched a capital campaign in 2011-2013 which resulted in the purchase of a 4.25-acre property in Parkesburg. The property now hosts a 22,000 sq./ft. community center with a full gymnasium, cafeteria, e-gaming center, ninja warrior obstacle course, art room, commercial kitchen, student chapel, boxing gym, trade- skills workshop, academic classrooms, and our community's local food cupboard. Most recently, THE POINT completed the addition of an outdoor skatepark and basketball court.

Today, THE POINT is open free of charge 5-7 afternoon/evenings a week and reaches over 3,000 youth through community outreach (bookbag drive, meals, sports tournaments, motivational speaking, etc.) and directly serves over 650 youth through our core after school and evening programs. With the help of over 300 volunteers and 20+ local churches, our program holistically addresses the physical, academic, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of our community's most vulnerable youth. Each of our programs are designed around the following goals:

- 1) Provide access to a safe and supportive environment.
- 2) Empower students to develop leadership skills, confidence, and a positive identity.
- 3) Encourage students to stay in school & set goals for post-secondary education/employment.
- 4) Create access to activities, education and resources that promote a healthy lifestyle.
- 5) Foster student's spiritual exploration and development.

We are pleased to report that in our most recent survey of core students, 86% said they feel more motivated academically, 63% improved literacy skills and 64% plan to enroll in college or a tech school post-high school. Additionally, 92% feel more confident, 93% improved self-esteem, and 90% made new friends. And finally, 76% of students are getting in trouble less, 90% said THE POINT helps them avoid alcohol and drugs, 90% avoid skipping/dropping out of school and 91% said they are more interested in helping and/or serving others.

2. Funding request

• Description of key initiatives

THE POINT's After School Program is available to students Monday – Thursday from 3:30 -7PM during the school year in addition to several Friday night and weekend activities. Students in grades 6th- 12th can attend M/W and students in grades 2nd – 5th can attend T/Th. Programs and activities continue Monday-Thursday in a modified format during the summer. In the summer, THE POINT serves 2nd – 5th graders from 1-3:30PM (providing lunch daily) and 6th-12th graders 4:30 – 6:30PM (providing dinner daily). The following are our key initiatives:

Academic Enrichment: THE POINT connects students to the support and resources needed to stay in school, improve grades, graduate on time, and set goals for post-secondary education. Concentrated literacy support is provided for grades 2nd-5th and tutoring, computers and WIFI are available daily.

Health & Nutrition: THE POINT provides dinner daily at 6PM and both lunch and dinner during the summer. Every month 21 local churches "adopt-a-night" and cook and serve dinner 1-2x a month for students. THE POINT also provides food via outreach activities and food donations and gift cards for families in need.

Sports & Recreation: Students participate in 30-60 minutes of recreation daily. THE POINT also has 2 competing basketball and eSports teams and hosts clinics and weekend tournaments throughout the year for basketball, eSports, wrestling and volleyball.

Boys and Girls Nights: Monthly Boys & Girls Nights are held on Saturdays to provide students with inspirational teachings, mentoring, and structured activities designed to instill values of faith, hard work, integrity, service, and leadership.

Art Program: THE POINT utilizes art to provide safe and comfortable outlets for youth to explore, process and communicate their emotions.

Spiritual Development: THE POINT provides voluntary Bible studies for students, year-round. Students also have opportunities to participate in community service projects where they are empowered to serve and give back to others. Most recently, THE POINT took varsity athletes to serve on an Indian Reservation in Montana.

Hands-On-Training & STEM: Hands-On-Training & STEM teaches students how to do basic home plumbing, electrical work, fix drywall, bike repair, car maintenance, robotics, and other important skills. This exposure empowers students and helps to develop competencies, increase confidence, and cultivate career opportunities for students. Students also have opportunities to apply for paid internships at THE POINT to gain real life experience, help build their resume and increase employability.

YoungMoms: THE POINT provides a weekly group for young moms to build relationships and receive the support and resources needed to become self-sufficient and provide a healthy and stable future for their children.

Pointman Leadership: THE POINT facilitates Pointman Leadership training at CASD in partnership with The Bridge Academy and Providence Church Coatesville. CASD has asked our organizations to increase their presence on campus and help facilitate this program with The Coatesville Athletic Leadership Council (CALC). Pointman instruction helps individuals develop into more dynamic personal leaders and focuses on 8 characteristics of a servant leader: Humility, Diligence, Conviction, Optimism, Integrity, Courage, Discipline, and Loyalty.

School-Based Programs: In 2023, THE POINT was invited by both CASD and OSD to provide staff presence on school campuses during the school day. The schools recognize THE POINT's strong capacity for impact and existing rapport with students and the community. On campus, THE POINT is able to serve our students in a more intentional and impactful way – supporting them during the hours many feel increased threats of bullying, anxiety, or depression. With this partnership, our academic and relational support extends into the hallways, study halls, lunchbreaks etc. and provides students with access to a network of caring adults who can support them through difficult times.

Crisis & Compassion: THE POINT maintains a fund to financially support our students and their families in times of crisis. Financial support may include assistance with utilities, clothing, bedding, rental assistance, funeral expenses, counseling fees and drug/alcohol rehab admission fees. The foundation of our support is to reduce repetitive traumas and maintain as much stability and security as we can for our students.

Timeline

THE POINT's Programs are ongoing throughout the year.

• Specific needs & issues to be addressed

POINT students predominantly come from single-parent households and 90% fall below the poverty level. Approximately 30% of students are African American, 30% Mixed Race, 10% Latino and 30% Caucasian. Additionally, most POINT students have experienced homelessness, transient housing conditions, abuse, hunger, parents addicted to drugs/alcohol and are struggling or failing academically. Consequently, students who come to THE POINT are at risk for school drop-out, teen pregnancy, physical and mental health challenges, juvenile delinquency and experimentation with drugs or alcohol. THE POINT helps bridge the gap for these students, making high school graduation and post-secondary education obtainable.

Our request comes at a heightened time of need as we have experienced rapid growth since the pandemic - requiring significant budget increases to support staff, program, and supply expansions. THE POINT's enrollment continues to increase with 689 youth served via our core programs in 2023 and 604 already YTD. The expansion of our Boys' & Girls' Nights, Recreational activities, Hands-On-Training and Art Programs have been significant draws for students to break free from isolation, reduce anxiety and re-engage socially. However, as numbers increase, so does our budget and the complexity of student needs.

Students are coming to THE POINT with increased behavioral, social, and mental health challenges. Students are also traveling further distances to be at THE POINT, primarily from the City of Coatesville. In our recent survey of POINT students, 37% of students said that over the past year they had experienced bullying at school, 22% felt unsafe at school, 21% felt sad, hopeless, and depressed, 4% contemplated suicide and 8% attempted suicide. These are staggering statistics that cannot be ignored. Our students are carrying too much emotional and mental weight.

THE POINT 's formal partnership with both OSD and CASD allows POINT staff to have a daily presence in school hallways. This partnership positions THE POINT to move from being a source of crisis intervention, to crisis prevention – in hopes of improving student's mental health, behavior, academic motivation and ultimately creating campus's more conducive to learning. **The schools recognize THE POINT's strong capacity for impact and existing rapport with students and agrees that it isn't THE POINT's "building", but THE POINT's "people" that transform the lives of youth.**

"I think THE POINT is a positive impact on the school as it provides familiar and positive role models in the building that students connect with. Seeing a familiar face in the hallway that you know you trust is key to keeping a positive environment. Students who struggle behaviorally and emotionally always respond better to a familiar face than someone unknown, so having THE POINT present to work with kids who need extra support has been helpful. I think it also frees up time for other teachers/administrators to focus on the academic side of things rather than being called out for behaviors on a regular basis." – OSD Teacher

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

Since coming out of the pandemic, we have experienced substantial enrollment and program growth. This growth contributed to our 2024 budget increase to \$1,905,641. With increased enrollment comes increased expenses for staff, program supplies and activities. **The invitation to have a presence on school campuses is an opportunity we do not want to miss - It opens the door for THE POINT to serve students in a more intentional and impactful way – extending our support to the hours many feel increased threats of bullying, anxiety, or depression.** However, to facilitate school partnerships while sustaining our growth onsite at THE POINT, it is critical that we increase funding to hire more staff and college interns.

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

THE POINT administers post program surveys and works with the schools to track student's academic performance and graduation rates. Information collected is used to measure the program's success and to continuously refine and improve our services. Students served by THE POINT will demonstrate the following outcomes:

- Students will report feeling safe and supported at THE POINT.
- Students will indicate resistance to risky behaviors including sex, drugs, and alcohol.
- Students will not skip or drop out of school.
- Students will set goals for post-secondary education and/or employment.
- Students will improve literacy.
- Students will increase grades and/or maintain positive grades.
- Students will report an increase in self-esteem and confidence.
- Students will strengthen leadership skills.
- Students will develop an increased interest in serving others.

THE POINT impacts students like Kennedy. Kennedy is a bright and dependable high school student who has been a familiar face at THE POINT for years. Residing in a low-income trailer park served by our transportation program, Kennedy lives with her single mother and older sister. While her older sister has many behavioral challenges at school and at THE POINT, Kennedy remains on track, committed to our program and the resources available to her.

Despite her quiet nature, Kennedy thrives at social events like Girls' Night, where she enjoys spending time with friends and crafting. This year, however, we witnessed a remarkable transformation. Kennedy's confidence blossomed as she stepped outside her comfort zone. From presenting at the Girls' Advocacy Summit to speaking at THE POINT's Spring Fundraiser, she embraced every opportunity. She even excelled in one-on-one tutoring and completed our Youth Entrepreneurship Program.

Kennedy's story is a testament to resilience. In a challenging home environment, she leaned on the support and resources at THE POINT, leading to her academic and social success. We are incredibly proud of Kennedy and her unwavering commitment to her future!

III. ATTACHMENTS

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. Current strategic plan. If your nonprofit does not have a current strategic plan, explain why.