

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 9/1/2024

Contact Information

Organization Name: Care Center Foundation

Address: 127 S. Matlack Street, West Chester, PA 19382

Phone: 610-436-6226

Website: www.carecenterfoundation.org

Year Incorporated: 1982

FEIN: 23-2198117

ED/CEO Name: Dr. Wendy Wallace (acting)

ED/CEO E-mail: wendyjanevw@comcast.net

Board Chair Name: Dr. Wendy Wallace

Board Chair Approval (check here):

Primary Contact Name: Dr. Wendy Wallace

Primary Contact E-mail: wendyjanevw@comast.net

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture & Humanities

Environment/Animal Welfare

Education

Health

Human Services

Religion

Mission: The mission of the Care Center Foundation (CCF) is to promote community partnerships by providing a ministry of presence and spiritual support in the West Chester, PA community that it serves. The CCF empowers those who give and those who receive through creative educational, recreational, and social service activities.

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

CCF serves children and families throughout Chester County with an emphasis on the borough of West Chester.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: CCF provides subsidized daycare, afterschool care, and supportive services to low-income families in Chester County. Children and youth served range in age from 6 weeks through middle school. We estimate serving 250+ people annually.

Annual Budget \$ 270,708 _____ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff _____ 8 _____

_____ 80 _____ % of budget for program expenses _____ 6 _____ # of Board Volunteers

_____ 19 _____ % of budget for administrative expenses _____ 20 _____ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

_____ 01 _____ % of budget for fundraising expenses _____ 100 _____ # of Volunteer Hours

100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: Hoxie Harrison Smith Foundation, Dr. Wendy Wallace, FANN 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: \$ 2,600 _____

Proposal Summary: A grant of \$2,600 will offset the cost of a Board Development Retreat in Spring 2025. Focus Shift Nonprofit Consulting will facilitate the day-long in-person retreat and provide follow-up support.

Chester County Community Foundation Care Center Foundation Grant Proposal Narrative 2024



Nonprofit's history, goals, key achievements & distinctiveness

The mission of the Care Center Foundation (CCF) is to promote community partnerships by providing a ministry of presence and spiritual support in the West Chester, PA community that it serves. The CCF empowers those who give and those who receive through creative educational, recreational, and social service activities.

The CCF was founded in 1982 by Rev. Carl Guthrie and Dr. Gary Cashon. On a downtown West Chester corner where drugs and violence were commonly encountered, they created an organization where families could find opportunities, community, and hope for a better future.

The building on the corner of Matlack and Barnard St, formerly known as the Side Track Bar, was purchased in 1987. It was transformed into a place of safety and security for neighborhood families and children. Since then, the CCF has been serving families at this location. Responding to the most pressing community needs at the time, childcare and early education, the CCF began offering high-quality educational and recreational assistance for children. From there, programs were added to support the parents in a variety of ways, all based on compassion, presence, and community care.

100% of the families served at the CCF are low-income households struggling to make ends meet. CCF creates meaningful change in the community by providing high-quality education and recreational programs to children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old, while also providing supportive social services to the parents and families.

The CCF has a long history of supporting families with children in a conveniently located area of West Chester where there is need, but also a robust desire for positive growth. The organization is efficient and unique in that it clusters programs for the families that need them in one location and provides wrap-around support that helps tackle many of the challenges that present in the lives of lower socioeconomic households. The organization is committed to promoting positivity, resilience, and an attitude of success. Staff meet neighbors at the door and say, yes. This attitude helps provide a pathway forward and the community of care that our neighbors need now more than ever.

HIGH-QUALITY EARLY EDUCATION: Early Head Start (ages 6 weeks to 3 years) is available for a parent who is working or going to school at least 20 hours per week with extended childcare. The PreK Counts program is for children 3 – 5 years of age with extended childcare. These programs can serve 34 children and provide them with vital resources necessary for development and school readiness. Additionally, it provides subsidized childcare for working parents to earn a living, attend school, and work toward a brighter future. Studies have shown the importance of early childhood education and the CCF is committed to providing the highest quality education along with enrichment activities and family social events for quality time.

Programming emphasizes a 'Bilingual Brain' and supports children as they develop skills both in their native language and in a second language. Studies have shown the unique benefits that children gain when they are encouraged to learn a second language early on. Bridging the native language with a learned language in the early years has been shown to support a dynamic and resilient brain.

Additionally, CCF provides enrichment activities for the children throughout the school year. These enrichment activities include visits from the Elmwood Park Zoo, Delaware Natural History Museum, singing groups, art classes, music, and sports programs. These activities are scheduled monthly to offer the children exposure to additional educational events and opportunities for development.

FOOD AND NUTRITION: The CCF centers its mission on meeting people where they are and facilitating connections to make a difference in their lives. One long-standing connection is our food and nutrition support for families. The CCF provides families that utilize its services with hot meals and grocery items every month. We know that for families with limited means, every dollar saved is important. Food insecurity affects approximately 1 in 10 households in the county and all of the families served at the CCF have been negatively affected by inflation and the rising cost of food. In addition to what access to food banks/pantries in the region can provide, CCF supports

families with food at times when it is needed most. A hot meal in the evening for a single mom so she can focus on her studies, an extra bag of groceries so that the children have snacks for the week -- every additional support that CCF provides shines a bright light on these families. Providing this outreach at the location where their children go to preschool/daycare is of utmost importance as well. It is convenient and impactful and provides the extra support that families need to get ahead.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND CARE: The CCF knows that our families struggle in ways that financially secure families do not. Often, one small setback is compounded by another, setting into motion a series of events that can negatively influence the whole family for a long time. Our program aims to be a positive influence in the lives of the families we serve and offer support when and where it is needed most. Most importantly, the CCF is present in the community – its doors are open and busy and show the neighborhood what an active and engaging community is all about. The CCF is a constantly moving entity that never rests. Never does a day go by where we are not doing something for our families.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT: During the 2024-2025 academic year, CCF will offer parents who are part of the CCF community, a 6-month pilot parenting program that aims to provide valuable skills that better support their children's mental wellness, their own well-being, and the entire family unit.

Each month CCF will focus on one of the six pillars (SAFETY, STRUCTURE, AFFIRMATION, NUTRITION, ACTIVITY & EXERCISE, and SLEEP) by providing educational materials to parents through various channels including text messages, written materials, and handouts, posters in the building, interactive activities, and email notifications. All communication will be in the participant's native language. Additionally, CCF utilizes the Tadpoles System designed by Teaching Strategies as a communication tool with parents. This system provides them with real-time updates on their children via a web-based app. The tool allows parents to have the confidence that their children are safe, secure, and well cared for. Additionally, it will be used to send updated information and access to educational materials and events.

The program's overall goal is to create support structures for parents that promote healthy parenting strategies, healthy children – both mentally and physically, and healthy families.

Funding request

A grant of \$2,600 will provide funding for a Board Development Retreat in the Spring of 2025.

Specific needs & issues to be addressed: This year, there has been a shift in the leadership in daycare services at the CCF. The organization continues to provide vibrant early education focusing not only on affordable childcare but family support services in a location that the community has come to know and trust, but is now fully in charge of daycare services and staffing. With this shift comes a new level of Board involvement and support than was previously needed. Several new Board Members have joined in 2024 and there is a need for the group to come together to develop a shared vision and strategy for moving forward and empowering the nonprofit in its success.

Attached is a proposal from Focus Shift Nonprofit Consulting to facilitate the Board Development Retreat. Additional costs outlined in the budget include a room rental fee, printing of materials, and food/refreshments. This proposal outlines principal consultant Emily McClure's professional qualifications and fees. The timeline is contingent on the availability of funding with hopes of hosting the retreat in Spring 2025. At this time, CCF is working to create a balanced budget and does not have additional funding available to meet this need.

How impact & results will be demonstrated: With this project, CCF aims to enhance the Board of Directors through educational opportunities and strategic planning opportunities. A full strategic plan is costly and not in the budget at this time, but this retreat will offer an opportunity to develop a short-term operational plan that can be used to lead the organization's governance and fundraising goals for the next 12 months.