

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](http://www.chescocf.org)

**Date 9/4/24**

**Contact Information**

Organization Name: Camp Dreamcatcher, Inc.

Address: 148 W. State Street, STE 104, Kennett Square PA

Phone: 610-925-2998

Website: <https://campdreamcatcher.org/>

Year Incorporated: 1999

FEIN: 23-2980323

[phillkirk@campdreamcatcher.org](mailto:phillkirk@campdreamcatcher.org)

ED/CEO Name: Patty Hillkirk

ED/CEO E-mail: [phillkirk@campdreamcatcher.org](mailto:phillkirk@campdreamcatcher.org)

Board Chairs: Raynetta Adams/Letitia Cheatham

Board Chair Approval (check here): ☒

Primary Contact Name: Patty Hillkirk

Primary Contact E-mail:

**Organization Information:**

Field/s of Interest:

☐ Arts, Culture & Humanities

☐ Environment/Animal Welfare

☐ Education

☐ Health

☒ Human Services

☐ Religion

**Mission:** To provide free therapeutic and educational programs to HIV/AIDS impacted youth. To foster an atmosphere of tolerance, compassion, respect, and understanding through volunteer opportunities, services, and expanded community outreach.

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

Chester County areas served include Kennett Square, Avon Grove, Oxford, Coatesville, West Chester, Spring City, Lincoln University, Chadds Ford and Exton. Four other counties in PA, and also New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, and New York.

**Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:** Children attending our programs are HIV/AIDS infected themselves, have an HIV/AIDS infected family member, or have lost a family member to AIDS. Camp Dreamcatcher serves 120 youth throughout the year.

Annual Budget \$ 456,424 1 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

88% % of budget for program expenses 8 # of Board Volunteers

9 % of budget for administrative expenses 220 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

3 % of budget for fundraising expenses 12,500 # of Volunteer Hours

100 % total

**Top 3-5 funding sources:** Julian A. & Lois G Brodsky Foundation, Philadelphia Foundation, PayPal Community Impact Grant, Rite Aid Healthy Futures.

**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:** \$ 10,000

**Proposal Summary:** A grant will support Camp Dreamcatcher's FREE therapeutic and educational programs for HIV/AIDS impacted youth.

## **Camp Dreamcatcher 2024-2025 Application**

### **1. Camp Dreamcatcher's history, goals, key achievements, and distinctiveness:**

Camp Dreamcatcher has been providing free services to HIV/AIDS impacted youth for twenty-eight years. We offer the only therapeutic camp program for children coping with HIV/AIDS on the East Coast. All of our programs are free and children attending our programs come from Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Maryland. 85% of the children served are from Philadelphia and the surrounding counties. We are currently providing services throughout the year to 120 HIV/AIDS impacted youth and their families.

The mission of Camp Dreamcatcher:

- To provide safe, therapeutic and educational services to HIV/AIDS impacted youth and their families.
- To foster an atmosphere of tolerance, compassion, respect and understanding through volunteer opportunities, services and expanded community involvement.

### **SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS:**

- **Total Number of unduplicated HIV/AIDS Impacted Youth served: 6,300 children**
- Camp Dreamcatcher has provided 29 camp sessions and 29 retreats to children and families coping with HIV/AIDS.
- We provided 36 Reunion Events for HIV/AIDS impacted children and their families.
- 1,375 children received gifts through our holiday Adopt-a-Family Program.
- 1,230 counselors have attended our HIV/AIDS & Diversity Training.
- HIV/AIDS education and outreach has been provided to over 500 schools and community groups, reaching over 20,000 people.
- **THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS SINCE INCEPTION IS 326,500**

### **2. Funding Request:**

Camp Dreamcatcher requests a \$10,000 grant from the Chester County Community Foundation to support our free therapeutic and educational programs for HIV/AIDS impacted youth.

### **Specific needs to be addressed:**

98% of the youth served by our programs are from low-income households, and only 13% have access to free or affordable therapeutic support in their communities. Children attending our programs are HIV/AIDS infected themselves, have an HIV/AIDS infected family member, or have lost a family member to an AIDS-related complication.

### **Organizational impact:**

Camp Dreamcatcher offers the only free therapeutic and educational program serving children impacted by HIV/AIDS in Chester County. The children attending our programs are facing issues beyond HIV/AIDS. 95% have experienced trauma, 50% have lost one or both family members and 30% have been diagnosed with a mental health condition. Our programs offer a safe place to talk about the concerns and feelings associated with HIV/AIDS in a therapeutic and confidential environment. We provide factual information about HIV/AIDS, and dispel the myths and stigma associated with the disease. We provide a variety of therapeutic, educational and recreational programs throughout the year to improve the physical and emotional health of children, adolescents and young adults coping with HIV/AIDS.

We provide **Trauma Informed Programming** which ensures the following:

- A physically and emotionally safe environment.
- Predictable schedule & Camp Traditions that increase security and a feeling of BELONGING at camp.
- Clear & healthy emotional and physical boundaries.
- Caring adults & the opportunity to form positive relationships
- Opportunities that develop a sense of agency and control over their lives.

### **Description of Key Initiatives:**

- **Therapeutic and Educational Camp Session:** Our Trauma-Informed Camp Session was held August 18-24 at Camp Saginaw. A total of 110 campers, ages 5-17, and 24 CTC's (counselors who were campers) attended the camp session. Seventeen of the children attending the session were New Campers this year. Over 200 counselors, medical personnel, professionals and community members volunteered during the camp session, and provided



12,000 hours of service! Our wonderful volunteers donated \$65,000 of professional services during the camp session and over \$40,000 of in-kind camp supplies were donated for the week of camp.

**The following Program Goals were achieved during the camp session:**

- **We provided 145 therapeutic programs** (psychotherapy, mindfulness, wilderness-based therapy, yoga, massage, and sessions with therapeutic dogs) during the camp session. New programs included group and individual sessions with Cierra Walker, a Chester County therapist specializing in SUD and Mental Health.
- **We provided 65 educational programs.** These included sessions with Bluejay, the Chief of Culture and Storytelling with the Lenape Nation of PA. We offered sessions on puberty education, karate and self-defense, dance, drumming, robotics, woodworking, teambuilding, and leadership programming. Lincoln University's volleyball coach brought her team out to camp to facilitate games with the teens, and the Avon Grove Soccer Team held games with the younger campers throughout the week.
- **We had FUN!!! We provided 150 recreational programs** during the camp session. These included arts/crafts, laser tag, go-kart racing, volleyball, soccer, lawn games, nature hikes, story-time, fishing, pickleball, canoeing, GAGA tournaments, a Camp Carnival, archery, an adventure course, basketball, movie nights, and our annual dance, talent show and John Flynn concert!
- **Restorative Justice/Conflict Mediation Programs:** Ten members of our Camp Dreamcatcher Leadership Team completed training with the Center for Relational Practices to become Certified Restorative Practices Trainers prior to the camp session. They facilitated trainings with the counselors, therapeutic team, and health center volunteers to ensure that we were all using these practices during the camp session to promote connectedness in the cabin, address conflicts, repair harm, and restore justice within the community. Over 200 Cabin Circles and 200 Restorative Circles were held during the camp session in 2024.
- **Progressive Leadership Program (PLP):** This program was developed to continue to engage young people who attended camp as children and are ready for new age-appropriate challenges. The PLP starts when campers are aged 15, with our Wilderness-Based Therapy Program. Camper Quest is a safe overnight experience where counselors and staff facilitate group team-building challenges, teach basic camping skills such as outdoor cooking, hygiene and safety practices, fire building and adventure challenges.

**Other Programs:**

- **New Mentoring Program:** HIV/AIDS impacted, low-income, BIPOC youth face barriers to obtaining equitable physical and mental healthcare, educational, and career support. We actively decrease these barriers by assisting youth and families with direct assistance in completing FAFSA and scholarship applications for college or technical schools & for mental health support. This program serves youth, ages 15-17, and it was launched at the Mentoring Retreat on April 27-28, 2024. Each mentee was matched with a mentor (Camp Dreamcatcher volunteer) after the retreat. The program bridges the gap between our current LIT program, which is held during the camp session, and expands it to year-round support through mentorship at the leadership retreat, the camp session, and ongoing virtual sessions. The key focus areas of the program include Mental and Physical Health, Education/Training, Career Development, and Financial Literacy. Each mentee completed a needs assessment as part of their application process. ZOOM sessions took place in May, June, and July, and in-person mentoring sessions were held during the therapeutic camp session in August. Sessions at camp were co-facilitated by PayPal, Inc. employees and the Camp Dreamcatcher leadership team.
- **Adopt-a-Family Program:** This annual program is held in November and December each year. In 2023, we distributed gifts to 175 children.
- **The Phoenix College Scholarship:** Our college scholarship was renamed in honor of Gennifer Robinson, a beloved counselor who passed away in 2022. The Phoenix Scholarship awards two \$1,000 scholarships per year to college-bound campers.
- **HIV/AIDS Education, Restorative Practice Training, & Community Outreach:** Camp Dreamcatcher provides services throughout the year to schools, community groups, and organizations. In May of 2024, Camp Dreamcatcher provided an eight-hour training to Jan Michener and her team at AHHAH in the use of Restorative Practices with youth, and we will be providing a training to KACS in Kennett Square in early 2025.
- **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Projects:** In 2020, the Board of Directors and Staff made a commitment to expand the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion of our programming by identifying specific DEI goals for 2021. Our DEI goals included an equity & culture audit of the organization, which was conducted by **S'more Melanin**, a company founded by two women of color who grew up at camps, with the mission of assisting organizations to



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provide a safe and inclusive camp culture that honors diversity and welcomes and embraces BIPOC in the camp world. S'more Melanin recently awarded Camp Dreamcatcher their Seal of Approval. The Seal of Approval is given to those camps that are taking concerted steps towards creating more inclusive and equitable spaces. Camp Dreamcatcher met the rigorous Standards by auditing a variety of practices and policies for evidence of equity.

#### **Why is it important to fund this now?**

Camp Dreamcatcher provides services throughout the year to children impacted by HIV/AIDS. Funding will enable us to expand and adapt our programs to meet the changing needs of the children and families served by our programs.

#### **How impact and results will be demonstrated:**

Camp Dreamcatcher has conducted program impact research in partnership variously with Hershey Medical Center, La Salle University, Drexel College of Medicine and the University of Pennsylvania. A study conducted by a physician from Hershey Medical Center found that 78% of campers have an easier time taking their HIV medications while at camp. Another study found that 63% of campers' parents/guardians reported a positive difference in their child's willingness to take his/her medications at home after camp. This is one important difference we seek to achieve for our campers, to ensure their best possible future health outcomes.

A study of our campers conducted by a public health student from the University of Pennsylvania identified specific barriers to taking HIV medications, including the "taste" of the medication, the lack of memory aids, feelings associated with HIV/AIDS, and the lack of a social support system. This research informed the education we conduct at camp around medication compliance, making it more relevant and effective for our campers.

We have also partnered with La Salle University to explore mental health needs for our campers. Using the Pediatric Quality of Life scale (PedsQL), the La Salle team surveyed campers on their physical and mental health, their emotional and social functioning, and their school experiences. Children are determined to be at risk of impaired quality of life if their scores on this scale are below a certain level; this impaired quality of life has real-life implications such as difficulties with mental health and academic performance. The research found that children who were themselves HIV-infected were at risk at a much higher rate (50%) than children who were impacted (24%) by the HIV/AIDS infection or loss of a family member. Again, this research was used to inform our approach to providing campers with the mental health support they need to thrive during and long after camp. We survey campers and volunteers on their satisfaction with the camp experience, as one of our goals is for the youth and volunteers to experience a sense of BELONGING at camp

#### **Campers and volunteer's complete evaluations at the end of each program. This is a summary of the 2024 Camper Evaluations:**

- 70.6% of campers reported the highest feelings of confidence post-camp, compared to 58% of campers reporting the highest confidence pre-camp.
- 80% of compares report having learned new coping skills during camp
- 92% of the campers reported that participating in a restorative circle helped them resolve conflicts at camp
- 95% of campers felt that they had someone to talk to at camp
- 96% of the campers felt safe or very safe at camp
- 97% of the campers made new friends at camp
- 98% of the campers felt they could ask for help at camp
- 98% of the campers felt supported by staff and volunteers at camp
- 99% of the campers felt accepted at camp
- 99% of the campers would recommend camp to a friend
- 100% of the campers feel Camp Dreamcatcher is important

Youth reported leaving camp with a higher perceived self-esteem. Most campers reported having access to a mentor to discuss further education, and this was not just for youth who are already in the mentoring program. All mentorship program participants left camp with an updated resume and participated in skill-building experiences at camp that are included in their resumes.

A summary of Camp Dreamcatcher's Strategic Plans from 2019-2023 is included with this application.

<b>Organization:</b>	<b>Camp Dreamcatcher, Inc.</b>
<b>Budget Information:</b>	<b>148 West State Street, Suite 104, Kennett Square, PA 19348</b>
<b>Fiscal Year Dates:</b>	<b>Fiscal Year: January 1st - December 31st</b>

	<b>Income Account</b>	<b>Income USD</b>	<b>Expense Account</b>	<b>Expense USD</b>	<b>Net Income / Loss</b>
<b>2023 Budget Year</b>	Individual Contributions	\$23,000.00	Salaries	\$85,973.00	
	Foundation Grants	\$158,970.00	Benefits & Taxes	\$28,877.00	
	Special events	\$44,040.00	Workman's Compensation	\$5,425.00	
	Groups/Business	\$27,523.00	Professional Fees	\$19,266.00	
	United Way Agencies	\$463.00	Other Program Expense	\$8,000.00	
	In-Kind Donations	\$70,000.00	Camp Program Personnel	\$19,000.00	
	Donated Services	\$75,000.00	Occupancy	\$113,000.00	
	Government	\$15,000.00	Telephone	\$4,801.00	
			Postage/Shipping	\$1,329.00	
			Copying/Printing	\$3,545.00	
			Office Supplies	\$4,619.00	
			Program Supplies	\$76,131.00	
			Travel	\$279.00	
			Liability Insurance	\$6,500.00	
			Donated Services	\$75,000.00	
		<b>\$413,996.00</b>		<b>\$451,745.00</b>	<b>(\$37,749.00)</b>

<b>2024 Budget Year</b>	Individual Contributions	\$23,000.00	Salaries	\$87,000.00	
	Foundation Grants	\$170,000.00	Benefits & Taxes	\$28,300.00	
	Special Events	\$65,000.00	Workman's Compensation	\$5,500.00	
	Groups/Business	\$32,000.00	Professional Fees	\$18,000.00	
	United Way Agencies	\$600.00	Other Program Expense	\$8,000.00	
	Government	\$30,000.00	Camp Program Personnel	\$25,000.00	
	Donated Services	\$75,000.00	Occupancy	\$115,000.00	
	In-kind Contributions	\$70,000.00	Telephone	\$4,300.00	
			Postage/Shipping	\$1,329.00	
			Copying/Printing	\$3,545.00	
			Office Supplies	\$2,600.00	
			Program Supplies	\$76,000.00	
			Travel	\$350.00	
			Liability Insurance	\$6,500.00	
			Donated Services	\$75,000.00	
		<b>\$465,600.00</b>		<b>\$456,424.00</b>	<b>\$9,176.00</b>



**Camp Dreamcatcher Board of Directors 2024**

**Officers:**

**Co-Presidents:** Raynetta Adams  
2601 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Unit 421  
Philadelphia, PA 19130  
267-253-0135

**Letitia Cheatham**  
71 North Mills Street  
Hopkinton, MA 01748  
302-233-4145

**Secretary:** KC Wolfe  
500 Woodland Ave.  
Haddonfield, NJ 08033  
609-780-4049

**Treasurer:** Liz Bishop, CPA  
1605 Colleen Ct.  
Norristown, PA 19401

**Board Members:**

**Kelly Daniels**  
3102 Compass Way  
Newark, DE 19711  
610-659-5367

**Youth Advisory Board Member**

**Quadir Bowman**  
Philadelphia, PA

**Mark Stewart, MSPH**  
Delaware Valley Community Health, Inc.  
1412 Fairmount Ave  
Philadelphia PA 19130  
(856)723-3854

**Jack Welsh, RN**  
2231 Windsor Circle  
Broomall, PA 19008  
(610)613-6535

**Susan Higginbotham, M.Ed.**  
516 Catharine Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19147  
610-864-0570

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 2508  
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **MAR 19 2004**

CAMP DREAMCATCHER  
110 E STATE ST  
KENNETT SQUARE, PA 19348-0000

Employer Identification Number:  
23-2980323

DLN:  
17053052787094

Contact Person:

KATHY L BURNS

ID# 31117

Contact Telephone Number:

(877) 829-5500

Public Charity Status:

170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

Dear Applicant:

Our letter dated November 1999, stated you would be exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and you would be treated as a public charity during an advance ruling period.

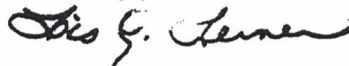
Based on our records and on the information you submitted, we are pleased to confirm that you are exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code, and you are classified as a public charity under the Code section listed in the heading of this letter.

Publication 557, Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization, provides detailed information about your rights and responsibilities as an exempt organization. You may request a copy by calling the toll-free number for forms, (800) 829-3676. Information is also available on our Internet Web Site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

If you have general questions about exempt organizations, please call our toll-free number shown in the heading between 8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Eastern time.

Please keep this letter in your permanent records.

Sincerely yours,



Lois G. Lerner  
Director, Exempt Organizations  
Rulings and Agreements

Letter 1050 (DO/CG)