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Chester County

I. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

Contact Information

Organization Name: **Ann's Heart**
Address: **35 Hall Street, STE 301, Phoenixville, PA 19460**
Phone: **484-393-2462**
Website: **https://www.annsheart.org/**
Year Incorporated: **2015**
FEIN: **46-5257454**

Date: August 2024

ED/CEO Name: **Kristen McGee**
ED/CEO E-mail: **Kristen@AnnsHeart.org**
Board Chair Name: **Laura Winters**
Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: **Peter Urscheler**
Primary Contact E-mail: **Peter@AnnsHeart.org**

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: To provide a place of welcome and human services to all Phoenixville area people

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): Phoenixville Borough and immediately surrounding townships in Northeastern Chester County (Typically the PASD school district footprint, Spring City, East Coventry and North Coventry and areas within a 10 mile radius.)

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: All of our guests are in the low to moderate income category with the majority experiencing housing insecurity. Our food programs predominantly provide culturally diverse meals to Seniors and Students on free or reduced lunch.

Annual Budget <u>\$920,326</u>	<u>5</u>	# of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>80.2</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>13</u>	# of Board Volunteers
<u>10.6</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>275</u>	# of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>9.2</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>5,138</u>	# of Volunteer Hours
<small>100 % total</small>		

Top 3-5 funding sources: Phoenixville Community Health Foundation, Chester County Department of Community Development

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:

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

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

History: Ann's Heart was established in 2014 with a mission to provide a place of welcome and essential human services to the residents of the Phoenixville area. The organization was formed by a group of dedicated community members who recognized the need for a centralized resource to address gaps in local services, particularly for vulnerable populations. One of the first critical needs they addressed was the establishment of a Code Blue Emergency Overnight Warming Center, providing shelter and safety for individuals experiencing homelessness during the harsh winter months. By repurposing existing spaces, such as the former Sacred Heart School Campus, Ann's Heart has created a hub for social services, educational programs, and community support.

Goals: Ann's Heart aims to create a welcoming environment where individuals and families can access the essential services they need to move toward stability and independence. The organization is committed to addressing homelessness, food insecurity, and educational gaps while fostering a strong sense of community and collaboration among service providers in the region.

Key Achievements:

1. **Center for Emergency Resources at Ann's Heart (CERAH):** Launched in 2022, CERAH builds on the success of the Code Blue Emergency Warming Center, providing weather dependent emergency shelter, cooling center, supportive services, and professional resources to individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
2. **HEART Campus Acquisition:** In 2024, Ann's Heart successfully acquired the entire former Sacred Heart Campus, securing a permanent home for multiple nonprofits and community services in historic downtown Phoenixville.
3. **HEART Kitchen:** The HEART Kitchen has been pivotal in combating food insecurity, distributing tens of thousands of meals annually through various programs, including the Summer Meal Program in partnership with the Phoenixville Area School District.

Distinctiveness: Ann's Heart is distinctive in its holistic approach to human services. By providing low-barrier access to a wide range of resources—such as emergency shelter, housing case management, and educational opportunities—Ann's Heart ensures that its services are inclusive and accessible to all, regardless of background or circumstance. The organization's deep integration within the community, combined with its partnerships with other local nonprofits, allows it to address the multifaceted needs of the populations it serves, making Ann's Heart a vital resource in the Phoenixville area.

2. Funding request

Description of key initiatives: Ann's Heart focuses on two major program areas: The Center for Emergency Resources at Ann's Heart (CERAH) and The Home of Education, Arts, Resources, and Technology (HEART). These initiatives are designed to meet the needs of Phoenixville's most vulnerable populations by providing essential services and fostering community engagement.

The Center for Emergency Resources at Ann's Heart (CERAH): CERAH is based on the successful Code Blue Emergency Overnight Warming Center, which began in 2016. This center provides low-barrier, walk-in access to emergency shelter for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. CERAH services include the Code Blue Overnight Emergency Warming Center, the Code Red Emergency Cooling Center, showers, laundry, meals, snacks, and personal supplies. The center also offers on-site housing case management and mental/behavioral health services through partnerships with local organizations. CERAH's goal is to provide immediate relief while supporting long-term stability for those in need.

The Home of Education, Arts, Resources, and Technology (HEART): HEART serves as a community education center that offers space for nonprofits and community members. The HEART campus provides office space for multiple nonprofits, meeting and programming space for additional organizations, and a variety of community services. A key feature of HEART is the Adult GED program, which helps adults achieve their educational goals and improve their employment prospects. The HEART Kitchen, a commercially licensed community kitchen, focuses on addressing food insecurity by providing educational programs, emergency meals, and free community meals. The HEART Kitchen also supports the CERAH programs by preparing meals for the shelter guests.

These initiatives not only provide critical services to the community but also foster collaboration among nonprofits and community groups, creating a stronger, more resilient Phoenixville.

Specific needs & issues to be addressed: Ann's Heart is dedicated to addressing several critical needs within the Phoenixville community, particularly for individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless. The organization also focuses on food insecurity, access to essential human services, and educational opportunities.

Homelessness: Phoenixville and the surrounding areas have a growing population of individuals and families facing homelessness. The lack of affordable housing, combined with rising living costs, has made it increasingly difficult for many to secure stable housing. CERAH addresses this need by providing low-barrier access to emergency shelter, meals, showers, laundry services, and case management support, which are vital for those in immediate crisis. This approach not only offers immediate relief but also helps individuals transition to more stable, long-term housing solutions.

Food Insecurity: Food insecurity is a significant issue in the Phoenixville region, particularly among low-income families, seniors, and individuals experiencing homelessness. The HEART Kitchen addresses this need by providing free meals, educational programs on nutrition, and meal kits for families during the summer months. This initiative ensures that vulnerable populations have consistent access to nutritious food, which is essential for maintaining health and well-being.

Educational Barriers: Many adults in the community lack a high school diploma or equivalent, limiting their employment opportunities and financial independence. The HEART campus, through its Adult GED program, addresses this educational gap by offering free classes, study materials, and testing support. By helping adults achieve their GED, Ann's Heart empowers them to pursue better job opportunities, ultimately leading to greater financial stability.

These key initiatives are critical in addressing the most pressing needs of the Phoenixville community, creating a more supportive and resilient environment for all residents.

Why it is important to fund this now: Funding Ann’s Heart at this critical time is essential to sustaining and expanding the vital services we provide to Phoenixville's most vulnerable populations. Having recently secured ownership of the entire campus, we are now faced with the challenge of maintaining and enhancing this hub of human services, which houses multiple non-profits. These organizations collectively address a wide array of needs in our community, from housing and food insecurity to educational support and mental health services.

The urgency is underscored by the current socio-economic landscape. With 33.28% of students in the Phoenixville Area School District qualifying for Free and Reduced Lunch, 28% of households falling into the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) category, and 7% of households below the federal poverty line, the need for accessible resources is higher than ever. Chester County 211 system data reveals a troubling demand for housing support, with over 1,000 requests for assistance in the past year alone, the majority of which pertain to shelter, low-cost housing, and rental assistance.

Furthermore, the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index highlights the heightened risk factors in our community, with parts of our service area scoring medium to high on this scale. This indicates a greater need for targeted support to ensure the well-being of these populations.

Funding now will ensure that Ann’s Heart and our partner organizations can continue to meet these urgent needs, maintaining a crucial lifeline for the community during these challenging times.

How impact & results will be demonstrated: We consistently demonstrate impact and results through a robust combination of quantitative and qualitative methods. We track critical metrics, including the number of individuals and families served, meals distributed, and the percentage of clients who successfully transition to stable housing. These metrics are analyzed regularly to ensure our programs meet their objectives and to identify areas for improvement.

Additionally, we gather and assess feedback from program participants and partner organizations, using it to refine and optimize our services. Our approach ensures that we not only meet but exceed the needs of the Phoenixville community. We maintain transparency and accountability by providing regular reports and evaluations to stakeholders, clearly showcasing the positive outcomes of our initiatives and their significant contribution to the well-being of the community. This methodology is central to our ongoing commitment to creating measurable, lasting change.

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.
- Use this form @ www.chescof.org to apply online for grants from all Community Foundation Funds.
 - **Email proposals to grants@chescof.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) 696-8211 grants@chescof.org with questions.



*Connecting people who care with causes that matter,
so their legacies make a difference.*