

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

Contact Information

Organization Name: Fred's Footsteps

Address: 940 Haverford Road, LL1, Bryan Mawr, PA 19010

Phone: 484-368-3602

Website: www.fredsfootsteps.org

Year Incorporated: 2005

FEIN: 23-2867497

ED/CEO Name: Christine Lobley

ED/CEO E-mail: christine@fredsfootsteps.org

Board Chair Name: Sylvia DiBona

Board Chair Approval (check here): ☒

Primary Contact Name: Christine Lobley

Primary Contact E-mail: Christine@FredsFootsteps.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

☐ Arts, Culture & Humanities

☐ Environment/Animal Welfare

☐ Education

☒ Health

☒ Human Services

☐ Religion

Mission:

Fred's Footsteps provides a bridge of financial support for working families in the greater Philadelphia region in crisis due to the costs associated with caring for a seriously ill, injured, or disabled child.

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

Fred's Footsteps serves 19 counties in PA, NJ and DE. Chester county is one of our primary counties where we receive many referrals.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

Fred's Footsteps serves families in the greater Philadelphia region who are facing financial hardship due to the costs associated with caring for a seriously ill, injured, or disabled child. Each year, we assist approximately 140 families, most of whom belong to the [ALICE](#) (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) community. These are members of our community working hard to make ends meet. They often earn too much to qualify for government assistance, yet barely enough to get by. Add a sick or medically-complex child to this precarious balancing act, and a financial crisis is inevitable. Fred's Footsteps is the only program in our region that provides substantial support to these ALICE families.

Annual Budget \$1,909,000

81 % of budget for program expenses

7 % of budget for administrative expenses

12 % of budget for fundraising expenses

100 % total

5 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

19 # of Board Volunteers

50 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

varies # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources:

The DiBona Family Foundation

Independence Blue Cross

Frank & Bettina Lomanno

Accenture

Is this grant proposal for: Capacity Building ____ or General Operating X

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: Fred's Footsteps respectfully requests \$10,000 of general operating support from the Chester County Community Foundation. Your grant will support every family that connects with Fred's Footsteps with one purpose and one goal: to provide substantial, real-life, practical relief to struggling families so their child's health can be their only worry. The donation will help fill the gaps where other resources fall short. It will be applied to our three targeted programs to bring relief, stability, and hope during a family's toughest times: The Bridge Fund (Household Essentials Program), Pat's Projects (Accessible Home Initiative), and Keys to Mobility (Adapted Vehicle Fund).

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

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

History: Fred's Footsteps was created in memory of G. Fred DiBona, Jr., who died in 2005 after a courageous battle with cancer. Fred was a well-respected leader in Philadelphia's business community and known for his compassion and willingness to help those in need, especially children.

Goals and distinctiveness: Fred's Footsteps is guided by the distinctive principles of *family, compassion, connections, integrity, and legacy*, aiming to provide financial relief to working families facing the medical crisis of a child.

- Family: Fred's Footsteps always prioritizes the well-being of families, striving to make a deep, meaningful, and personalized impact on each family they serve.
- Compassion: The organization serves families with kindness, dignity, and respect, recognizing the challenging times they face.
- Connections: We build personal relationships with partners, supporters, and the families we serve to achieve a meaningful impact together.
- Integrity: We are committed to honesty and transparency in our work and management of resources.
- Legacy: Fred's Footsteps carries forward the legacy of G. Fred DiBona, Jr., as a person of compassion, generosity, and principle, inspiring these qualities in others.

Key Achievements:

- In 2024, Fred's Footsteps served an organizational record of 145 families and invested an all-time high of \$975,000 in family aid.
- In 2025, Fred's Footsteps is celebrating its 20th Anniversary of supporting families experiencing financial hardship due to the costs associated with caring for a child who is critically ill, injured, or disabled.

- In honor of our 20th anniversary, we have increased our grant limits for families and pledged to invest \$5M in the community over the next 5 next years.
- Fred's Footsteps has been recognized as a 2025 honoree for the Philadelphia Business Journal's "Partners in Philanthropy" award.

2. Funding request

- **Description of key initiatives**

Fred's Footsteps supports families through three programs:

- The Bridge Fund: Covers household expenses; ensures families have access to essential needs like housing, utilities, and food
- Pat's Projects: Covers expenses associated with renovations and equipment that improve safety and accessibility; gives children with complex medical needs the independence and comfort they and their caregivers deserve in their homes
- Keys to Mobility: the adaptive vehicle fund that helps families purchase accessible vehicles or modify existing vehicles; helps children receive necessary medical care without interruption

- **Specific needs & issues to be addressed**

Fred's Footsteps addresses the financial crisis faced by working families in the Philadelphia region due to a child's illness or traumatic injury. We provide direct financial assistance for non-medical expenses like household bills and one-time extraordinary expenses for accessible home renovations and adapted vehicles. Our support helps families cope with the financial burden that arises when a child's illness or injury disrupts the family's income and stability. Recently, many unprecedented challenges have created more instability for our families, making our work more important than ever:

- More than 54% of families with a medically-complex child reported that a family member stopped working as a result of their child's health, according to a study by The Journal of Pediatrics
- Households who have sacrificed work to care for a seriously ill child were found to lose an estimated \$18,000 in earnings annually, according to the Journal of Pediatrics
- Only 1 in 4 private sector workers have access to paid family leave, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Among the lowest 10 percent of earners, only about 1 in 20 (5 percent) have access to paid family leave, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics
- The Philadelphia metro area was recently ranked one of the least affordable for renters in the country, according to the latest Redfin report
- Over 50% of in-home nursing shifts for medically-complex children are unable to be covered due to the ongoing home care nursing shortage
- Half of U.S. adults don't have the cash to cover an unexpected \$500 health care bill, according to a nationwide poll conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation

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

In addition to the above-mentioned needs and challenges, inflation and rising housing costs have made everyday living nearly unmanageable for many families. At Fred's Footsteps, we are committed to supporting families with medically complex children by providing essential financial assistance during their times of need. Our goal is to lessen

the financial burden that often accompanies caring for a sick or injured child, enabling families to concentrate on the health and well-being of their family.

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

- Fred’s Footsteps regularly analyzes data from a variety of sources to ensure that we are serving as many families as effectively as possible. We track the makeup and specific needs of our families to better target and develop our programs such as race, diagnosis, household structure, and age. We also track which initiatives — The Bridge Fund, Pat’s Projects, and Keys to Mobility — our families utilize most for planning our needs and outreach.
- We also work with Social Workers who advise on the programmatic impact on our families.

- *For capacity building grant proposals:*

- *How will this capacity building initiative impact your nonprofit?*
- *How will this impact be measured?*
- *Include a description of the expected activities; timeline & costs to implement the initiative. If external consulting services are required, include the anticipated costs & expertise of the consultants to be hired. Include external consultant proposals if applicable.*

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.chescocf.org to apply online for grants from all Community Foundation Funds.
- **Email proposals to grants@chescocf.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@chescocf.org with questions.

