



## 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 the application.**

To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit [www.chescocf.org](http://www.chescocf.org)

**Date 5/20/25**

### **Contact Information**

Organization Name: Connect Thru Cancer

Address: 535 N. Church St. Suite 209 West Chester, PA

Phone: 610-436-5555

Website: [connectthrucancer.org](http://connectthrucancer.org)

Year Incorporated: 2007

FEIN: 205367377

ED/CEO Name: Colleen Bucci

ED/CEO E-mail: [cbucci@connectthrucancer.org](mailto:cbucci@connectthrucancer.org)

Board Chair Name: Scott Gabrielsen

Board Chair Approval (check here): X

Primary Contact Name: Colleen Bucci

Primary Contact E-mail:

[cbucci@connectthrucancer.org](mailto:cbucci@connectthrucancer.org)

### **Organization Information:**

#### **Field/s of Interest:**

☐ Arts, Culture & Humanities

☐ Environment/Animal Welfare

☐ Education

☒ Health

☒ Human Services

☐ Religion

#### **Mission:**

Founded in 2007, Connect Thru Cancer (CTC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in West Chester, PA. Our mission is to enhance the quality of life for individuals and families navigating the challenges of a cancer diagnosis. We offer free, holistic support services that foster connection, promote well-being, and create meaningful moments for patients, caregivers, and children alike.

CTC is committed to addressing the unique needs of those living with cancer by creating opportunities for laughter, connection, and support during some of life's most difficult moments. Our mission is to deliver compassionate, community-based care that brings relief and



joy during life's most challenging seasons. Through innovative programs and family-centered services, we aim to restore a sense of normalcy and connection for all those impacted by cancer.

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

We serve all regions of Chester County and parts of Montgomery and Delaware Counties.

**Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served**

CTC supports individuals of all ages and all types and stages of cancer—regardless of treatment status. Recognizing that a cancer diagnosis affects more than just the patient, we extend our services to caregivers, partners, and children.

In the past year, we provided direct support to **425 families** and **334 individuals** through our no-cost program. We address the emotional, practical, and social aspects of the cancer journey, offering critical services that complement medical treatment and enhance everyday life.

**Annual Budget** \$ 184,913    1 (plus 3 part time and one contractor) # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

<u>72</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>11</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>18</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>75</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>10</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>314</u> # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total	

**Top 3-5 funding sources:**

Fundraising, Individual donations, Grants

**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:**



**Proposal Summary:** Connect Thru Cancer respectfully requests a \$10,000 general operating grant to support strategic outreach efforts aimed at increasing awareness and utilization of our free cancer support programs. This investment will enable us to strengthen our presence in the community, connect with more individuals and families in need, and ensure that those navigating a cancer diagnosis know where to turn for compassionate, accessible support.

With improved outreach tools and professional guidance, we will be better equipped to share information about our services, expand our program reach, and ensure that no one facing cancer does so without the resources and community they need.

**Who We Are:** Connect Thru Cancer is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for cancer patients and their families by providing free cancer support programs. We understand that cancer takes, so we give. Our mission is to alleviate the physical and emotional burdens brought on by a cancer diagnosis by offering programs that foster support, connection, and even moments of joy. Our services fill a crucial gap in cancer care by providing opportunities for individuals and families to connect with others who understand their journey. We offer assistance to individuals diagnosed with any type of cancer, ensuring that no one faces their diagnosis alone. All of our programs are completely free to participants, reinforcing our commitment to accessibility and community support.

**Purpose of the Funding:** The purpose of this funding is to help Connect Thru Cancer reach more individuals and families who could benefit from our free programs. We aim to strengthen our community presence and ensure that our services are visible, understood, and accessible to all who need them. By expanding awareness, we will increase participation in our programs, foster deeper engagement across Chester County, and improve outcomes for families navigating the cancer journey.

## II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

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

#### **Who We Are/History**

Connect Thru Cancer began as *Cuddle My Kids*, founded by cancer survivor Cathy Gabrielsen to support families with young children during treatment. What started as a six-week in-home program soon evolved to address broader gaps in family-centered cancer care.



As we connected with more families, it became clear that a diagnosis affects the whole household—emotionally, mentally, and practically. Our services grew to include patient-centered and peer-support programs, and in 2019, we rebranded as **Connect Thru Cancer** to better reflect our inclusive, community-driven mission.

Despite the setbacks of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have remained steadfast in delivering free, life-enhancing services that meet families where they are—offering comfort, connection, and support when it matters most.

### **Organizational Goals:**

- Expand access to free cancer support services for individuals and families in need
- Strengthen community awareness of available programs and resources
- Enhance the nonprofit's brand visibility to attract more participants, donors, and strategic partnerships
- Improve communication strategies to ensure that all individuals affected by cancer can easily find and access our services

### **Key Achievements & Distinctiveness:**

- Successfully provided free cancer support services to thousands of individuals since our inception
- Developed strong community partnerships with healthcare providers and support networks
- Created innovative peer support programs tailored to the unique emotional and practical needs of cancer patients and their families
- Maintained a dedicated staff and volunteer base, ensuring personalized and compassionate support

## **2. Funding Request**

### **· Description of key initiatives**

Grant funds will be used to implement outreach strategies that support the following objectives:

- Develop and execute a community engagement plan to raise awareness about our programs



- Create updated informational materials to distribute through healthcare providers, schools, and community organizations
- Refresh and optimize our website to better communicate available services and how to access them
- Launch targeted digital outreach campaigns
- Strengthen relationships with local partners to amplify our message and refer more families to our support services

**Specific Needs & Issues to be Addressed:** Although our services are free and deeply needed, many individuals still don't know we exist. This lack of awareness limits our ability to connect families with the support that could make a significant difference in their lives.

Key challenges include:

- Low visibility in high-need areas
- Limited tools to effectively share our story and services
- Missed opportunities to connect with families at the time they need us most

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

The need for holistic cancer support continues to grow, and outreach is essential to meeting that demand. With more individuals seeking non-medical resources during treatment and recovery, now is the time to expand program visibility. This funding will help us close the awareness gap and ensure that families know where to find compassionate, no-cost support throughout the cancer journey.

### **How Impact & Results Will Be Demonstrated:**

We will track success through:

- Increased participation in programs across Chester County
- More referrals from healthcare providers, schools, and community partners
- Growth in website traffic and online inquiries
- Survey feedback indicating stronger awareness and access to services
- Increased engagement from previously underserved communities

## **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](http://www.chescocf.org) to apply online for grants from all Community Foundation Funds.
- Email proposals to [grants@chescocf.org](mailto: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](mailto:grants@chescocf.org) with questions.

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