

TENDER HEARTS, INC.
FUNDING PROPOSAL**Date:** 6/23/25**Contact Information**Organization Name: Tender Hearts, Inc.
Address: P.O. Box 56, 651 Valley Rd. Hockessin, DE 19707
Phone: (302) 598-1654
Website: <https://www.tenderheartsde.org/>
Year Incorporated: 2014
FEIN: 47-1169798ED/CEO Name: Debbie Doherty
E-mail: DebbieD@tenderheartsde.org
Board Chair Name: Debbie Doherty
Board Chair Approval (check here): X
Primary Contact Name: Rebecca Baeurle
E-mail: baeurle.becky@gmail.com**Organization Information:****Field/s of Interest:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Arts, Culture & Humanities	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment/Animal Welfare	<input type="checkbox"/> Education
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Human Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion

Mission:

Tender Hearts' mission is to assist, support & empower medically fragile children & their families throughout the state of DE to create a better quality of life.

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

The state of Delaware

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served:

The population served are medically fragile children in the state of Delaware. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, a medically complex child is defined as having chronic multi-system health conditions, substantial healthcare needs, major functional limitations, and high resource use. In any given year, there are approximately 3 million medically complex children in the United States with Delaware being home to over 4,000 of them. The national average of medically complex children is rising about 5% each year. Delaware will certainly be impacted by this increase in need, and the demand for Tender Hearts services will become even more critical. Roughly 600 people are served annually.

Annual Budget \$143,400

<u>28.78</u> % of budget for program expenses
<u>64.45</u> % of budget for administrative expenses
<u>6.77</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses
100 % total

1 PT staff # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

<u>9</u> # of Board Volunteers
<u>100</u> # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>N/A.</u> # of Volunteer Hours

Top 3-5 funding sources:

The Borkee Hagley Foundation, The Crestlea Foundation, Crystal Trust, The Laffey Mchugh Foundation and the Welfare Foundation have all made \$15,000 grants. The ChiChester duPont Foundation has made a \$10,000 grant and the goal for the organization's 2025 5K Fundraiser is \$20,000 (the organization has achieved near this amount in the past).

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: \$ 5,000

Proposal Summary:

Tender Hearts, Inc. is pleased to request a grant of \$5,000 from the Chester County Community Foundation to help support medically fragile children and their families throughout the state of Delaware. This special population has a variety of complex needs that Tender Hearts is uniquely qualified to address. Need for services continues to outweigh resources, so support is being requested to help meet the demand.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum.

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

Founded in 2014 by Debbie Doherty and her family, Tender Hearts, Inc. has been a valuable resource for medically complex children and their families and has built a solid reputation for providing a variety of services that meet their many unique needs. In fact, Tender Hearts was recently named by Community Votes as a 2025 Platinum Winner of nonprofits in Delaware making the most difference in the community. While Tender Hearts partners with many other nonprofit organizations, its mission is unique and the services it provides are not offered through any other organization. Debbie, herself, was a medically complex child born with a hip displacement during a time when there was little to no research about or treatment for, this issue. Two of her siblings were born with spina bifida and both passed away much too early. As an adult, she is now the grandmother of medically fragile twins. Debbie has a very personal understanding of the struggles families of medically complex children face and first-hand knowledge of what resources are available, or more specifically, unavailable to support them. To help bring awareness to this unique population and to improve their quality of life, Tender Hearts created programming to assist children academically during hospital stays, relieve stress throughout treatments, celebrate medical milestones and enjoy holidays while in the hospital, and most importantly, help families acquire services, items, or assistive devices to positively impact the lives of their medically fragile children enabling them to experience more of their world. Each program is highlighted below in greater detail.

2025 Goals and Benchmarks:

- Adopt-A-Family: Raise \$10,000 to support 200 children
- Early Learning Success in Academics: Raise \$6,500 to support 300 children
- Milestones: Raise \$5,000 to support 100 children
- Mobility: Raise \$30,000 to support 15 families
- Hold a minimum of three 'Smile Events'
- Recruit a minimum of 100 volunteers to support events

2. Funding request

- **Description of key initiatives**
- **Specific needs & issues to be addressed**
- **Why it is important to fund this now**
- **How impact & results will be demonstrated**

Through established partnerships with area hospitals and organizations such as Autism Delaware, Independent Prosthetics, Highmark, AmeriHealth, Easter Seals, Ronald McDonald House, Special Olympics, United Way of Delaware and others, Tender Hearts receives referrals of families in need of the programming and services it provides. Programs include:

1. Adopt-A-Family – Provides assistance such as food, clothing, household items & gifts during the holidays.
2. Beads of Courage - Provides children an outlet to release stress & anxiety during medical procedures.
3. Early Learning Success in Academics - In partnership with the Alfred I. DuPont Hospital for Children, Tender Hearts provides backpacks, workbooks, & other needed school supplies to help children progress academically & relieve some of the stress of a lengthy hospital stay by providing a bit of educational normalcy.
4. Milestones - This program acknowledges medical milestones, treatment goals & other special occasions by providing resources for small celebrations that encourage a child's perseverance throughout their medical journey.

5. Smile Events – Tender Hearts organizes events that entertain hospitalized children with food, DJ, crafts, cartoon characters, face painting, gifts and more, providing a much needed change to lengthy hospital stays.
6. Mobility Program – This resource, which has seen an increase in requests, helps families acquire services, items, or assistive devices to positively impact the lives of their medically fragile children & help them be able to experience more of their world. Examples include: bathroom remodeling, widening doors/hallways to accommodate wheelchairs, prosthetic limbs, adaptive bikes & vehicles, installing stairway chair lifts, etc. Tender Hearts bridges the gap between insurance benefits & other assistance & the expenses that still remain. A medical diagnosis is required with each request & payments are made directly to the vendors.

Tender Hearts measures its success throughout the year by tracking the number of children serviced through each program, the number of 'Smile Events' held, the number of volunteers recruited, and the amount of money raised to support each program. Demand for services continues to outweigh resources, so grant funds from organizations like the Chester County Community Foundation are immeasurable.

- *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. Attached.
2. List of Board of Directors, with their affiliations. Attached.
3. Most recent annual report & financial statement, audited if available. Attached.
4. Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year & current fiscal year to date. Attached.
5. If capacity building initiative, itemized budget (including external consultant's proposal, if applicable). N/A
6. Current strategic plan. If your nonprofit does not have a current strategic plan, explain why. As a tiny, almost solely volunteer led organization that strives to apply as much money as it raises to the programming it provides, Tender Hearts has not yet committed funds to strategic planning. However, recognizing the need to remain nimble in an ever-changing landscape, Tender Hearts has applied for a strategic planning grant to define both short-term and long-term goals and objectives, and strategies and tactics for achieving them.

- 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.