



I. GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

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This page will be shared electronically with Grant Panel Members & Fund Advisors + posted online.

Date: 11/10/25

Contact Information

Organization Name: Caring for Friends

Address: 12271 Townsend Road, Philadelphia, PA 19154

Phone: 215.464.2224

Website: www.caringforfriends.org

Year Incorporated: 1974

FEIN: 23-2072722

ED/CEO Name: Vincent Schiavone

ED/CEO E-mail: vincent@caringforfriends.org

Board Chair Name: Vincent Schiavone

Board Chair Approval (check here): ☒ X

Primary Contact Name: Karen Courtney

Primary Contact Email: kcourtney@caringforfriends.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

☐	Arts, Culture, Heritage	☐	Education, Library	☐	Environment, Animals
☐	Health	☒ X	Human Services	☐	Social Justice, Civic Engagement
☐	Religion	☐	If other, please describe:		

Mission: Caring for Friends' mission is to provide food and friendship to hundreds of thousands of low-income seniors, kids and adults, especially homebound seniors and people with disabilities in the Philadelphia 5-county area, including in Chester County where 80 residents are on the Homebound Meals program with 15 more on the waiting list.

We fulfill this mission through outreach to the unhoused, delivery of meals to hundreds of homebound people; regular, open neighborhood food distribution events and by providing millions of pounds of food to small food pantries; and meal packaging by the thousands to meal preparation partners.

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

Serve all of Chester County as well as the neighboring 4 counties.

Caring for Friends currently serves Homebound Meals clients and has seven (7) Healthy Meal Hubs and Meal Preparation Partners in Chester County. The Hubs are Caring for Friends freezers installed at partner sites – in order for volunteers to pick up frozen meals for program participants without making the long drive from Chester County to Northeast Philadelphia to the Caring for Friends warehouse. With a shorter drive, the Chester County volunteers can also serve more hungry people. The meal preparation partners are churches, schools and civic organizations that kindly and generously prepare soups and meals in their organizational kitchens with meal packaging and some food items from Caring for Friends. These meals go directly to Chester County neighbors and some are returned to Caring for Friends for distribution to the wider region. Caring for Friends Chester County partners are Sacred Heart Parish, St Maximillian Kolbe Church, St Norbert Church, Saints Peter and Paul Church, Saints Simon and Jude Church, St Ann's Church and Great Valley Middle School.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served. *(Include Chester County # &/or % served.)*

Annual Budget \$ 1,700,000

91.8% of budget for program expenses

7.3 % of budget for administrative expenses

.9% of budget for fundraising expenses

100% = total

20: Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff: 20

4 Board Volunteers: 4

Active Non-Board Volunteers: 10,000

Volunteer Hours: 105,627

Top 3-5 funding sources:

1. City of Philadelphia: \$200,000
2. I am Mercy Foundation: \$100,000
3. Sarah Ralston Foundation: \$82,500

This grant proposal is for: General Operating

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

☐	Contingency Planning	☐	Partnerships, Collaborations	☐	Merger, Closure
☐	Mission, Vision, Strategy	☐	Board Engagement & Leadership	☐	Marketing, Communication
☐	Resource Development	☐	Operations	☐	Technology
☐	If other, please describe:				

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:\$4,000

Proposal Summary: *(a few sentences, please)*

The mission of Caring for Friends is to provide food and friendship to isolated neighbors in the Philadelphia 5-county area, including in Chester County. Our founding belief – since 1974 -- is that no one should be hungry or alone in a world of caring people.

Proposal Summary. A general operating grant (\$4,000) from Chester County Community Foundation will allow Caring for Friends to carry out its mission in Chester County and across the Philadelphia 5-county region at this time of crisis in anti-hunger work where 689,000 recipients of federal food stamps across the region have lost their benefits including 29,000 residents of Chester County. With the holidays approaching – Thanksgiving, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Chanukah and New Years – residents deserve comforting and nutritious meals – not fear about how they will get their holiday meals.

II. GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information in 1-3 pages. Please be brief.

1. Nonprofit's overall aims, key initiatives, key achievements & distinctiveness

Mission of Org: The mission of Caring for Friends is to provide food and friendship to isolated neighbors in the Philadelphia 5-county area, including in Chester County. Our founding belief – since 1974 -- is that no one should be hungry or alone in a world of caring people.

Key Achievements in Last Year: Caring for Friends increased the number of food pantries we supply from 202 to 278 and expanded the number of seniors we provide with daily nourishing meals from our kitchen and warehouse from 720 to 803, with thousands more served by community organizations that help us prepare and deliver meals. Together with our network or partners, we reach 50,000 neighbors weekly.

These efforts make Caring for Friends:

- the third largest food bank in the Philadelphia region
- largest home delivered senior meals provider in the Philadelphia region.

2. Funding request:

- **What specific needs & issues are being addressed, via what programs and services?**

Needs & Issues Addressed. Food insecurity affects 1.7 million Pennsylvanians, and is a growing crisis that transcends hunger, impacting the health, development, and stability of individuals and communities. Further, in Pennsylvania, 1 in 6 children face food insecurity, and in the City of Philadelphia, the crisis is even more dire, with 1 in 3 children lacking consistent access to nutritious meals;

Caring for Friends is addressing food insecurity and loneliness which both have significant health risks for Philadelphia area residents. The American Heart Association notes that chronic food insecurity puts people at risk for:

- o heart disease
- o stroke
- o high blood pressure
- o diabetes
- o cancer

Further, the negative health effects of loneliness are real and documented. The Sarah Ralston Foundation notes the following health effects of loneliness:

- o 29% increased risk of heart disease
- o 32% increased risk of stroke

Programs & Services Addressing Hunger

- **How many served:** Caring for Friends currently serves approximately 300,000 hungry people in the entire Philadelphia region. In Chester County, Caring for Friends currently serves homebound meal clients but also has Chester County residents on the waiting list. We have a goal to serve dozens more participants with weekly meals, as food insecurity increases due to inflation, the weakening economy and federal benefit cuts.
- **How serve:** Caring for Friends programs provides food and friendship several ways:
 - **Matching volunteers with homebound participants** in their local area who need nutritious meals and a consistent, reliable and friendly volunteer visit to stave off loneliness. Caring for Friends volunteers are also especially trained to work sensitively with people who have chronic pain and disabilities. Caring for Friends would like to expand this program in Chester County
 - **Distributing food to the homeless** incl sandwiches, soups and snack bags
 - **Community neighborhood food distribution events** in partnership with local officials and community partner groups – at the events, Caring for Friends provides produce (most popular), grains and shelf-stable foods to anyone who needs in the neighborhood
 - **Distributing to community pantries** shelf-stable food, protein, grains and produce to local food pantries throughout the 5-county region for smaller pantries to share with their hungry neighbors
 - **Accepting cooked meals from meal preparation partners** (houses of worship, unions, civic organizations) for distribution to hungry neighbors
- **Why is it important to fund this now?**

The region has entered a hunger crisis with the region's 689,000 food stamp recipients, 29,000 in Chester County -- experiencing desperate need with the suspension of federal food stamps. Caring for Friends is facing surging demand for food from residents – food stamp suspension was the latest and hardest blow exacerbating increasing food inflation. September 2025 saw the highest inflation rate since January 2025 (US Bureau of Labor Statistics).

The picture now -- everyday at Caring for Friends, current pantries (250) are seeking more food. More pantries want to join Caring for Friends Food Bank – 29 waiting at last count. Homebound people are calling – we currently serve more than 800 people; 400 more are now on the waiting list.

A general operating grant from Chester County Community Foundation will allow Caring for Friends to directly address this surging hunger in Chester County and across the Philadelphia 5-county region. With the holidays approaching – Thanksgiving, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Chanukah and New Years – residents deserve comforting and nutritious meals – not fear about how they will feed themselves, their kids and grandparents at the holidays.

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

Defining Impact. Overall, Caring for Friends defines success as no person in need being alone or hungry in the Philadelphia 5-county region. We work with over 500 partners in the region to achieve this goal. Caring for Friends defines impact with the following metrics, including tracking at the county-level to understand county-wide impact.

- **8 million** – Pounds of shelf-stable and fresh food recovered and shared to individuals and families, to small pantries and meal preparation partners

- **10,000** -- Number of volunteers engaged in meal preparation and distribution to hungry neighbors
- **300,000** – Number of hungry and isolated homebound clients, homeless folks, disabled folks; and ill children and families that are supported by Caring for Friends and partners
- **803** – Number of homebound clients that benefit from daily meals and weekly visits straight from Caring for Friends Food Bank and Caring Kitchen
- **200** – Number of clients who get referrals for services when need is expressed or identified to volunteers or staff

III. ATTACHMENTS

Email this support information. If it is on your website, please provide the URL.

1. Copy of **501 (c) (3)** federal tax-exempt letter
 2. List of **Board** of Directors, with their affiliations **URL:**
 3. Most recent **annual report URL:**
 4. Audited or reviewed recent **financial statement URL:**
 5. Itemized **organizational operating budget** with actual results for prior fiscal year & current fiscal year to date
 6. Current **strategic plan**. If your nonprofit does **not** have a current strategic plan, **explain why**.
- Visit our website to learn more at www.chescocf.org
 - Proposals are only accepted electronically: <https://chescocf.org/receive/apply-for-grants/>
 - **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 Kevin Baffa, Grants Administrator or Stephenie Stevens, Grants Officer at **(610) 696-8211** or grants@chescocf.org with any questions.

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so their philanthropy makes a difference, now & forever.*

