

I. GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

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Date 11/5/2025

Contact Information

Organization Name: The Kinney Center for Autism
Education and Support at Saint Joseph's University
Address: 5600 City Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19131
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ED/CEO Name: Theresa McFalls, EdD

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Board Chair Name: Paul Hondros (Co-Chair);
Margaret Hondros (Co-Chair).

Board Chair Approval (check here): **X**

Website: <https://sju.edu/kinney>

Year Incorporated: 2009 (for Kinney);

1851 (for Saint Joseph's University)

FEIN: 23-1352674

Primary Contact Name: Madalina Veres

Primary Contact E-mail: mveres@sju.edu

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: The Kinney Center for Autism Education and Support has a two-fold mission: to educate and train the autism professionals of tomorrow, while supporting and serving the individuals and families affected by autism today.

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

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

The Kinney Center provides comprehensive and caring individualized support for individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their families, and education for future autism professionals. We serve approximately 180 families per year through our programs (since 2009, we have worked with 59 families from Chester County), and around 1,000 individuals attend our community events, such as the 5K Walk/Run and/or the Autism Awareness Luncheon.

Annual Budget \$ 3,521,512 _____ 18 _____ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
 _____ 75 _____ % of budget for program expenses _____ 17 _____ # of Board Volunteers
 _____ 18 _____ % of budget for administrative expenses _____ 75 _____ # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
 _____ 7 _____ % of budget for fundraising expenses _____ 5,000 _____ # of Volunteer Hours

100% = total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

(1) Fee for services provided; (2) The Kinney Center's endowment; (3) The Wawa Foundation; (4) The Henry A. Quinn Charitable Foundation; (5) Other donors.

This grant proposal is for: ☒ **Direct Service Programs & General Operating** &/or ☐ Capacity Building

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: \$10,000

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

The Kinney Center for Autism Education and Support at Saint Joseph's University is respectfully requesting a grant to support the attendance of low-income autistic Chester County residents in all of our programs, including but not limited to ASPIRE (Autism Support Promoting Inclusive and Responsive Education Program), Camp Kinney, Youth Social Skills Classes, Adult Social Skills and Saturday Sports and Recreation. This support will help us expand our mission of training and educating the professionals of tomorrow while serving the families affected today, throughout Chester County.

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

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

Founded with support from Paul and Margaret Hondros in 2009, the Kinney Center has established itself nationally, offering services across the lifespan and trailblazing many firsts in the field: the first major and minor in autism studies in the country; one of the first college support programs for individuals with autism; one of the first and only accredited camps in the Delaware Valley to implement reverse inclusion, fostering meaningful interactions between individuals across the autism spectrum and their neurotypical peers. Here is a brochure (<https://tinyurl.com/KinneyCenterBrochure>) summarizing Kinney's programs and services.

2. Funding request

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

Autism rates in Chester County increased by 84% between 2005 and 2011, from 718 to 1,324 individuals.¹ Overall, the number of adults in Pennsylvania who require autism services is estimated to be 58,746 and projected to increase to 78,952 adults by the year 2030.² These staggering rates increase demand both for services and for autism professionals. The Kinney Center addresses both needs by educating autism professionals, while supporting and serving the individuals and families affected today. The Kinney Center utilizes Applied Behavior Analysis, the only research proven methodology for serving individuals with autism.

A grant from the Chester County Community Foundation will allow us to serve more low-income individuals with autism from Chester County through the following services:

1. Camp Kinney – Six-week traditional summer camp experience that builds on the social and life skills needed for children to be successful during the academic year.
2. Youth Social Skills - Two 10-week sessions (Fall&Spring) build social skills through group learning, with individualized goals based on each child's strengths and challenges.
3. Transitional Social Skills - Two 10-week sessions (Fall and Spring) helping participants between the ages of 15-21 explore options after high school, whether they are college bound, entering the workforce, or still exploring. Participants set individualized goals and participate in sample activities such as personal finance, daily living skills, cooking, and community skills.
4. Adult Social Skills - Two 10-week sessions (Fall and Spring) designed to help participants over 21 seek greater autonomy and work toward personal goals. Weekly topics in this program include community resources, self-care, healthcare navigation, and meal planning.
5. Vocational Skills - Two 10-week sessions (Fall and Spring) for individuals choosing between attending college or entering the workforce. High school students interested in a vocational

¹ Autism Services, Education, Resources, and Training Collaborative, *Chester County Census* (2014), accessed at: <https://paautism.org/resource/chester-county-autism-census/>

² "Pennsylvania Autism Census Summary Report." - PAAutism.org, an ASERT Autism Resource Guide, <https://paautism.org/resource/autism-census-summary/>.

career before college will develop the skills necessary for success in a field they are passionate about. Individuals will have the opportunity to practice job readiness skills, live simulations of work-related roles, and learn to explore vocational opportunities in the area. Students will leave the program with an up-to-date resume or portfolio to continue on their career path.

6. Transitional Day Services - This program is designed to help transitional aged students identify potential career tracks based on interest and abilities. Skills development is individualized to hone work, social and daily living skills needed to be successful in the employment track of choice. Participants can secure an on-campus internship or paid campus position while working with a job coach. This program takes place during the academic year.

7. Saturday Sports and Recreation - Two 8-week sessions (Fall and Spring) for children ages 5-21 to enjoy a variety of recreational activities while building confidence and improving skill building and retention. Participants sample different sports while working on skills such as sportsmanship, asking for help, taking turns, and eye contact.

8. ASPIRE (Autism Support Promoting Inclusive and Responsive Education) Program - This immersive program provides undergraduate students with autism with wide-range ongoing personal support services and caring assistance to ease their transition into college.

In addition to directly serving autistic individuals and families from Chester County, your support will impact the county by allowing us to train more SCHOLARS and thus create a pipeline of future leaders in the field of autism in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

The SCHOLARS (Students Committed to Helping Others Learn about Autism Research and Support) Program trains undergraduate students to work with autistic individuals. Our unique 1:1 staffing model means that for each additional program participant we train at least one more Kinney SCHOLAR. SCHOLARS graduate with up to 2,000 hours of direct care experience and are committed to support individuals with autism throughout their personal and/or professional lives. More than 75% of SCHOLARS pursue careers directly impacting autistic people in fields such as education, behavior analysis and psychology. For all students, regardless of major, their experience as SCHOLARS enables them to become competent and compassionate professionals who can advocate for and support autistic people. One current SCHOLAR is from Chester County, and 39 out of the 700 SCHOLARS alumni are from Chester County.

While it is hard to say a specific number of residents that will be positively affected through this support (all of our programs have different fees), we can guarantee that support from the Chester County Community Foundation will be used to support program slots for low-income Chester County residents. We have already reached over 59 families from Chester County, so we should not have any problems distributing the funds.

The Kinney Center operates on just over \$3.5 million per year. We are respectfully requesting \$10,000 to provide financial assistance for low-income autistic Chester County residents, enabling them to participate in programs, including but not limited to Summer Camp, Social Skills Classes, Transitional Day Services, and Saturday Sports and Recreation programming. This funding will expand our mission of training and educating future professionals while serving families affected by autism throughout Chester County.

Program Fees are as follows:

1. One camp session per participant: \$800 per week
2. Youth, Transitional, and Adult Social Skills Classes, ten-week session per participant: \$1000
3. Vocational Skills, ten-week session per participant: \$1000
4. Transitional Day Services: \$70 per hour
5. Saturday Sports and Recreation, eight-week session per participant: \$400
6. ASPIRE: \$10,000 per academic year.

Why is it important to fund this now?

The Kinney Center and the Chester County Community Foundation share the common goal of addressing unmet community needs in Chester County. Kinney provides opportunities for individuals with autism to build independence and self-confidence and a wide array of important life skills.

Kinney advances the health and welfare of these individuals through its focus on skills development including lessons on social skills, healthy relationships, vocational preparedness, and physical exercise. The Kinney Center provides access to enrichment activities for individuals with autism that they otherwise would not have access to in a safe and supportive environment, overseen by credentialed staff who accommodates their sensory and behavioral needs.

Furthermore, the Kinney Center trains future leaders in the field of autism studies through its SCHOLARS Program. SCHOLARS alumni, some of whom will impact Chester County positively, advocate for and support individuals with autism, improving the health and welfare of this under-served population.

How will results & impact be demonstrated?

The Kinney Center will use the following criteria to measure the success of the program.

1. Kinney will track all program scholarships granted to ensure that at a minimum the entirety of the Chester County Community Foundation grant is spent on scholarships for Chester County residents.
2. Utilizing the methods of Applied Behavior Analysis and in conjunction with the participants and their support teams (parents, teachers, case managers, etc.) all programs will develop measurable individual goals for each participant. By the end of each program, 85% of participants will reach at least 75% of their goals.
3. We will monitor program effectiveness by program retention each semester to see if participants are registering for the same program each semester or are registering for multiple programs each semester during the year
4. We will measure retention level of SCHOLARS each year which will help the Kinney Center develop a better training model and reduce training, recruiting and onboarding costs for the Center.