



I. GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

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

Date: 11/19/2025

Contact Information

Organization Name: West Chester Area Community Chorus **ED/CEO Name:** Charles Vogeley
Address: 210 Equestrian Way, Downingtown, PA 19335 **ED/CEO E-mail:** cvogeley@aol.com
Phone: 484-433-7270 **Board Chair Name:** Charles Vogeley
Website: <https://www.westchesterchorus.org/> **Board Chair Approval (check here):** x
Year Incorporated: 10/21/1999 **Primary Contact Name:** Erica Belovich
FEIN: 20-1605520 **Primary Contact E-mail:** ebelovich@gmail.com

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Arts, Culture, Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Library	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment, Animals
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Justice, Civic Engagement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/> If other, please describe:			

Mission: The corporation is a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to enrich, educate and entertain the community by providing opportunities to individuals who enjoy singing in an adult group setting.

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): Primarily West Chester, PA but many communities in Chester, Montgomery and Delaware counties, as well as nearby Wilmington, DE.

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

We have 150 active members between the ages of 20-102, 550+ total members (active and former), 500 concert go-ers twice a year, and 560 people who watched the Youtube video of our most recent concert. The population includes individuals of varying socioeconomic status, religion, ethnicity, and age. All are welcome in our chorus and at our concerts.

Annual Budget \$ 12,770 0 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
83 % of budget for program expenses 9 # of Board Volunteers
16 % of budget for administrative expenses 140 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
1 % of budget for fundraising expenses 8618 # of Volunteer Hours
100% = total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

- Members
- Concert Tickets
- Donations

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

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Contingency Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Partnerships, Collaborations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Merger, Closure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mission, Vision, Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Board Engagement & Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marketing, Communication

<input type="checkbox"/> Resource Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Technology
<input type="checkbox"/> If other, please describe:		

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$3,000

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

We are requesting funding to help cover our music storage and sheet music costs. Our group is growing significantly, and your grant would help ensure we can continue to expand our music offerings and provide sheet music to each individual chorus member.

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

The West Chester Area Community Chorus is an all volunteer group with over 550 total members, including 150 active members, from the West Chester area, Chester, Montgomery, and Delaware counties, and Wilmington, Delaware. We welcome any singer who shows up for practices without the requirement for auditions. While some of our members are music school graduates or accomplished musicians, many do not read music but share a love for singing and willingness to learn. Our amazing directors, accompanists, and Board of Directors volunteer their expertise and time.

We practice weekly from September through May at West Chester East High School in West Chester, PA. We sing a broad repertoire of music such as classic choral works, Broadway show tunes, folk songs, spirituals, pop music, and more. Indeed, there is something for everyone. Our directors strive to choose music that is enjoyable to all while stretching our musical and cultural knowledge.

We typically perform two concerts, in January and May. We hold our concerts in January as there are fewer opportunities for the community to attend concerts in mid-winter. Additionally, in an effort to share our music with community members who are unable to attend or unable to afford our concerts, we livestream our concerts. Last season (2025) we secured a YouTube channel for free viewing under the name West Chester Area Community Chorus (WCACC). Prior to using YouTube we also livestreamed our concerts for free on Facebook. The chorus has also performed at a number of community events, such as Philadelphia Phillies baseball games, Wilmington Blue Rocks baseball games, and the West Chester Christmas Parade. The chorus also had the honor of performing at the Washington Chapel at Valley Forge National Historical Park for Veteran's Day celebrations. WCACC prides itself in being active in the community it serves.

The chorus began as a dream of Ruthann Waldie, then the choral director at Garnet Valley High School. Ruthann envisioned a group for adults in the area who enjoyed singing but did not want the pressure of an audition-based group. In September 1997, the Garnet Valley Community Chorus was born, and George Waldie became the first director of the group. The chorus began with 28 people. By 1998, there were 60 singers performing on stage.

In 2004, the chorus moved from Garnet Valley to West Chester and became the West Chester Area Community Chorus. By our 20th season we had over 160 members. Many members continue to participate year after year, and seven of the original group are still members today. One of those original seven members is George Waldie, the group's original director, who still directs the group today alongside his daughter, Samantha Brown. Both directors are quite talented with their abilities to teach music to a very diverse group of singers. George is a graduate of West Chester University with a B.S. in Music Education and continues to be involved in many community music activities. His daughter, Samantha, is a graduate of Susquehanna University with a B.S. in Music Education. She also is a graduate of West Chester East High School, where our group currently rehearses and performs. In addition to being our co-director, Samantha is active in community music groups and has a leadership role with her daughter's school music programs.

Countless hours are volunteered to provide opportunities to allow a community of singers to learn, practice, and sing beautiful music, enjoy the social benefits of participating in a community group, and experience the excitement of performing. We are proud that we are a non-auditioned group who welcomes anyone who loves singing without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, or religious beliefs. We welcome everyone who is older than high school age. Our members range in age from early 20s through 102 years old.

In addition to providing beautiful music to the West Chester area, since 2008 we have offered an annual scholarship to a graduating senior in the West Chester Area School District who will major in vocal or choral music in our effort to give back to our community. It started as a \$500 scholarship, but in recent years we have raised it to a \$1,000 scholarship. We also take up seasonal collections from our members to support local food banks. We are very proud of our all-volunteer status and the involvement of our leadership and members.

2. Funding request

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

We are requesting \$3,000 to support our music library and storage. With our group growing so rapidly, we need to purchase additional copies of music in our library for new members, in addition to replacing music that is worn or tattered. We also want to be able to add new sheet music to our repertoire to ensure our community gets to hear fresh songs different from the years prior. Additionally, the cost of storage has risen 49% in the last year, and we are requesting funds to help pay for rental of our storage unit. Proper storage of our music is important to ensure we can use music for years to come.

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

For many years, we have charged members \$15 per semester for dues and all audience members \$5 per ticket to attend the concert. This year, to offset costs, we have raised our membership fee to \$20 and our at the door ticket price to \$8 per ticket, while keeping our purchase in advance tickets at \$5. We truly want to keep the chorus affordable for all chorus and community members, and the help of this grant will ensure that we can continue providing music for all without continuing to raise prices.

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

Our request is for funds that will be used only for music and music storage. We will track the expenditures and clearly document the purchase of music and the payment of storage rental. These purchases will allow every member to have their own music and make sure our music is stored safely and properly so it can continue to be utilized in future years.

- **Additionally, for capacity building grant proposals:**

- **How will this capacity building initiative impact your nonprofit?**
- **How will this impact be demonstrated?**
- **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 proposal/s if applicable.**

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 **ATTACHED IN EMAIL**
2. List of **Board of Directors**, with their affiliations **URL: ATTACHED IN EMAIL**
3. Most recent **annual report** **URL: ATTACHED IN EMAIL**
4. Audited or reviewed recent **financial statement** **URL: ATTACHED IN EMAIL**
5. Itemized **organizational operating budget** with actual results for prior fiscal year & current fiscal year to date **ATTACHED IN EMAIL**
6. If capacity building initiative, **itemized budget** (including external consultant's proposal, if applicable) **N/A**
7. Current **strategic plan**. If your nonprofit does **not** have a current strategic plan, **explain why**.

WCACC does not yet have a strategic plan. Our organization began in 1997 as a small grass roots club that met weekly to enjoy singing. We gradually grew into a group of approximately 150 active members that

performs twice yearly to audiences of approximately 500 attendees. We have been funded by member dues and revenue from concert attendees. We strive to keep both at affordable rates to allow anyone to participate.

Recently, our operational costs have risen dramatically with the rising costs of storage of risers and music, rental of facilities for practices and performances, replacement music and music for new members, and new music to enhance our repertoire. We realized that if we want to continue with our mission, which is to promote the love of music in our community, while keeping membership fees and concert tickets at very affordable prices, we must approach fund raising in a different manner. Thus, we formed a fundraising committee. We are considering a variety of fundraising approaches including seeking sponsors, grants, and requesting donations. We hope that our efforts will allow us to continue our growth with keeping existing members, attracting new members, and providing enjoyable musical performances at a very affordable price in our community. As we are evolving, our Board of Directors is considering the need for a strategic plan.

- 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.

*Connecting people who care with causes that matter,
so their philanthropy makes a difference, now & forever.*