



## LET FREEDOM RING AMERICA250 GRANT APPLICATION FORM CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

An electronic version of this application is available at <https://cccf250.org/planning/>

### Contact Information

Contact Person Name: Jason Lang (Director of Parks and Recreation; East Goshen Township)

Organization Name: East Goshen Township

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

Year Incorporated: 1817 (PA Municipality)

FEIN #: 23-6005479

*Note: Please attach a copy of your 501c3 letter with this request. Per IRS regulations, grants can be awarded to nonprofit charities and municipalities, but NOT individuals nor businesses.*

### Organization Field of Interest

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

A lot	Some	A little	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			This inspires & engages a wide array of people in commemoration of America's founding with our Revolutionary Declaration of Independence.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			This connects Chester County's stories to the nation's past, present & future.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			This commemoration is truly by the people, for all people. We invite wide input & welcome all to actively participate.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			This examines & fosters fundamental rights of Life, Liberty & the Pursuit of Happiness for All.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			We zoom in to CCCF250 planning meetings to share information & ideas.

### Amount Requested from the Community Foundation:

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1,250	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$2,250	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$5,250	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10,250
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**Please BRIEFLY describe how this funding will help your programs, services, activities and/or events to celebrate and commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our nation's Declaration of Independence, and our continuing journey toward liberty and justice for all.**

**What are you doing? When? Who will it impact? What difference do you aim to make?**

**What will it cost overall? Who are you partnering & coordinating with?**

*Please e-mail this Mini-Grant request with your 501c3 letter to [grants@chescofc.org](mailto:grants@chescofc.org)*

*Let Freedom Ring Mini-Grant decisions are made on the 25th of each month.*

*Questions? Contact Grants Officer Stephenie Stevens (610) 696-8211 [grants@chescofc.org](mailto:grants@chescofc.org)*

**For Good. For All. Forever.**

# America250 at Goshen

*"On the Path to Independence"*

*an East & West Goshen Township initiative*

Chester County Community Foundation,

It is with great pleasure East and West Goshen Townships submit this application for Let Freedom Ring funding to help accomplish our America250 goals. In 1776, the two Townships were known as Goshen Township and celebrated the call for our nation's independence as one municipality. It is with this in mind that East and West Goshen Township's have been meeting monthly since September 2024 to deliver a comprehensive calendar year worth of programming for our community. Our campaign is called *America250 at Goshen...On the Path to Independence*. The America250 at Goshen campaign includes fifteen total events stretched from January to December, ranging from nuanced discussions of local history for an audience of one hundred, through a Ben Franklin Fun Run for kids and families, to our flagship America250 at Goshen for an anticipated crowd of 6,000 in East Goshen Township Park on May 30th, 2026. All in attendance will get to sign the Declaration of Independence like our Founding Fathers did 250 years ago.

## **America250 at Goshen, addressing Grant Specifics:**

**This inspires & engages a wide array of people in commemoration of America's founding with our Revolutionary Declaration of Independence.**

- Our fifteen planned events cover a diverse range of topics across American and Chester County-centric life in 1776. Topics include the Revolutionary War, Quakers, the African American community, Blacksmithing and more. We have specifically looked at providing programs for both history buffs and those with more digestible historical elements that remain authentic.

**This connects Chester County's stories to the nation's past, present & future.**

- We are unique in that we have a working Blacksmith Shop, dated to 1740. So Chester County's story is woven into daily life here in East and West Goshen Township. Our planned programs, specifically many of the historical speaker sessions, discuss how our local area of Chester County played a pivotal role in the founding of our country.

**This commemoration is truly by the people, for all people. We invite wide input & welcome all to actively participate.**

- Our America250 at Goshen Planning Committee is made up of nine members divided amongst the municipalities. Among these are elected officials, Township staff, Historical Commission members, two Blacksmiths, and park staff. In addition, at least ten other Township residents are enthusiastic about volunteering their expertise and are available with period garb at many of these events.

# America250 at Goshen

*"On the Path to Independence"*

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**This examines & fosters fundamental rights of Life, Liberty & the Pursuit of Happiness for All.**

- The Planning Committee thought it important to not only discuss the commonly known 1776 experiences of our Founding Fathers, but also those of traditionally marginalized communities that also played a pivotal role in the founding of our country. Designed programs will focus on the role of women, Quakers and African Americans during the pivotal founding of our nation.

**We zoom in to CCCF250 planning meetings to share information & ideas.**

- Members of our committee have routinely attended CCCF250 meetings and offered their insights, most notable Bonnie Dean and Nate Wolman from West Goshen Townships. In addition, this committee will also be presenting at the PRPS (PA Recreation and Park Society) Annual Conference in March, with the hopes of helping other communities across Pennsylvania develop their America250 programming.

## **Budget:**

America250 at Goshen	\$50,000
Parade; Fireworks plus drone show, Military Encampment, Dignitary Remarks, Town Square, 1700s Weapons and Cannon Display; Inflatables, Live Music, Wall Size Declaration of Independence for signing	
Fourteen other events (Speakers, Ghost Walks, Tours Beat Ben Run etc.)	\$5,000
	\$55,000

## **Goals:**

- **Introduce both East and West Goshen Township residents and the greater Chester County to the importance of this region to America's fight for independence in 1776.**
- **Offer a comprehensive profile of programs for those that understand the nuance of local history and more approachable events for other populations, most free of charge.**
- **Position this area of Goshen Township, and specifically the Blacksmith Shop, for continued historically focused tourism in the future.**
- **Engender community pride and sense of communal identity surrounding America250.**



### America250 at Goshen Planning Committee

**East Goshen Township**

**Barbara Emery, Supervisor**

**Gary Kerschner, Blacksmith/Historian**

**Jason Lang, PR Director**

**Jess Wilhelmy, Rec Coor. & Blacksmith**

**West Goshen Township**

**Rick Davis, Hist. Comm.**

**Bonnie Dean, Hist. Comm.**

**Ken Lehr, PR Director**

**Kathy Massi, Hist. Comm.**

**Nate Wolman, Supervisor**

## America250 at Goshen, Calendar of Events

### **America250 Speaker #1**

**Michael Harris**

Revolutionary War—PHL Campaign

Jan 22, 7pm; WGT

### **America250 Speaker #2**

**Noah Lewis**

Celebrating Ned Hector,  
our little known Africa American Rev War Hero

Feb 25, 7pm; EGT

### **America250 Speaker #3**

**Noah Donogue**

Quaker life during the Rev War

March 26, 7pm; WGT

### **America250 Speaker #4**

**Gary Kerschner & Jess Wilhelmy**

The Blacksmith's role in Colonial Life

April 9th, 10a; Blacksmith Shop

### **Bus Trip to Museum of American Revolution**

April 18, 9a

### **Beat Ben Fun Run**

April 26, 12p, EGT Park

### **America250 at Goshen**

May 30, 3p—fireworks, EGT Park

### **Kid's Rev War Spy Camp**

June 6, 10a—12p, Blacksmith Shop

### **America250 at Summer Camp**

Summer; EGT & WGT Camps

### **America250 Speaker #5**

**Battle of the Clouds and Paoli Massacre**

**Chris Reardon & Jim Christ**

July 18th, 10am

**Battle of the Clouds Battlefield,  
Interactive Map Presentation**

Sept 9; 10a; Blacksmith Shop

**Historic Homes & Goshen-based Rev War  
Skirmish Sites**

Late Sept

### **Paoli Battlefield Tour**

Sept 26th, 10a

### **Blacksmith Shop Ghost Walks**

Oct 10, 6p-9p; Blacksmith Shop

### **America250 Speaker #6**

**Tom McGuire**

Rev War in Chester County

Nov 12, 7pm; WGT