



LET FREEDOM RING
AMERICA250 GRANT APPLICATION FORM
CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Contact Information

Contact Person Name: Stephen Lyons

Organization Name: Friends of Shiloh AME Church and Cemetery

Fiscal Agent: Civil War Round Table as fiscal agent; letter on file at CCCF

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Year Incorporated: Unincorporated

FEIN #:

Organization Field of Interest

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Arts, Culture, Heritage		Environment, Animals		Education, Library
	Health & Human Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social Justice, Civil Rights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Religion
	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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$250	\$1,250	\$2,250	\$5,000	\$6,000	

Please **BRIEFLY** describe how this funding will help your programs, services, activities and/or events to celebrate and commemorate the 250th 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@chescof.org

For Good. For All. Forever.

What are you doing?

On April 11, 2026, the Friends of Shiloh AME Church and Cemetery will hold the Dedication Ceremony for a historic marker for Shiloh AME Church and Cemetery in Westtown Township, Chester County. This marker represents the first historic marker dedicated to Black History in Westtown Township's 331-year existence. Shiloh is one of the earliest African Methodist Episcopal connection churches in the country dating back to 1817. "It is unique in that it is the first major religious denomination in the Western World that had its origin over sociological rather than theological beliefs and differences." (<https://www.robinsonmorrissame.org/ame-history>)

The ceremony will be held at St. Paul's Baptist Church in West Chester.

We plan to have the US Colored Troops at the dedication (USCT members buried in cemetery) and film them marching down Shiloh Road and read the names of the soldiers.

We are expecting 300-500 people -- particularly because Rev. Dr. Carolyn Cavaness <https://motherbethel.org/rev-carolyn-clarene-cavaness/> has been secured as the keynote (she's Mother Bethel AME Church's first woman pastor). We will have programming to show the connections between Shiloh and Mother Bethel AME Church -- ties to the early Republic - both very early AME churches - that would become sanctuaries for the early UGRR. Rev. Cavaness will be a big deal for AME and Baptist congregations in this area!

When?

Saturday, April 11, 2026, 11am – 1pm (Free Registration: with options for either in person or virtual registration)

Who will it impact?

Chester County Community and beyond.

What difference do you aim to make?

We aim to increase the profile of the Shiloh AME Church and Cemetery in Westtown Township. We seek to encourage the community to honor the 14 United States Colored Troops included in the 140 people buried at this historic AME church. Our goal is to become good stewards of this property; ensuring the cemetery is properly maintained, including the graves of the Civil War Veterans buried there; and providing access to descendants of those interred. The remains of the building were demolished and the headstones removed in the 1960s. This American History must never be erased. Their bodies may be buried but their stories and histories need to be told.

What will it cost overall?

Our budget to date: \$6,000

\$ 500 US Colored Troop Reenactors

\$ 800 Honorarium/Stipend for MT former pastor of Mother Bethel/now AME Church in TN

\$ 800 Filming

\$3,900 \$10/meal to St Paul's for Food & Fellowship Reception for descendants and guests

Who are you partnering & coordinating with?

St. Paul's Baptist Church, West Chester

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