

ZELINDA LEBOUTILLIER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



I. SUMMARY SHEET

(One page only. This page will be shared with Grant Committee Members.)

Date: 2/11/26

Contact Information:

Organization Name: Camp Dreamcatcher
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Year Incorporated: 1999

Has your nonprofit previously applied to the Community Foundation: Yes No

Field/s of Interest:

Arts, Culture and Humanities Environment/Animal Welfare Health
 Human Services Education Religion

Organizational Information:

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County municipalities served):
Chester County areas served include Kennett Square, Avon Grove, Oxford, Coatesville, West Chester, Spring City, Lincoln University, Chadds Ford and Exton. Four other counties in PA, and New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware.

Annual # of Clients & Description of Population Served: Camp Dreamcatcher serves 120 children who are HIV/AIDS infected themselves, have an HIV/AIDS infected family member, or have lost a family member to AIDS.

Mission Statement: To provide free therapeutic programs to youth impacted by HIV/AIDS, trauma, and mental health challenges.

Organization Description: Camp Dreamcatcher has provided free trauma-informed programs to 6,300 youth over the past 30 years. Over 200 counselors, medical personnel, professionals, and community members volunteer with our organization each year.

Annual Budget \$ <u>\$473,940</u>	<u>1</u> of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
<u>87</u> % of budget for program expenses	<u>6</u> of Board Volunteers
<u>9</u> % of budget for administrative expenses	<u>220</u> of Active Non-Board Volunteers
<u>4</u> % of budget for fundraising expenses	<u>12,000</u> of Volunteer Hours
<u>100</u> % total	

Top 3-5 funding sources: The Philadelphia Foundation, The Justamere Foundation, The Julian A. & Lois G Brodsky Foundation

Proposal Information:

Grant Amount Requested: \$ 5,000

Summary Description of Grant Purpose: To support our free therapeutic programs for youth.

Camp Dreamcatcher 2026 Application

1. Camp Dreamcatcher's history, goals, key achievements, and distinctiveness:

Camp Dreamcatcher has been providing free services to HIV/AIDS impacted youth for thirty years. All of our programs are free and children attending our programs come from Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Maryland. 85% of the children served are from Philadelphia and the surrounding counties. We are currently providing services throughout the year to 120 HIV/AIDS impacted youth and their families.

The mission of Camp Dreamcatcher:

- Camp Dreamcatcher provides free comprehensive therapeutic services throughout the year to youth impacted by HIV/AIDS, trauma, and mental health challenges. Our programs provide an equitable, inclusive safe place for youth to develop leadership skills and a sense of agency and control over their lives.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST THIRTY YEARS:

- **Total Number of unduplicated HIV/AIDS Impacted Youth served: 6,300 children**
- Provided 30 camp sessions and 30 retreats to children and families coping with HIV/AIDS.
- Provided 36 Reunion Events for HIV/AIDS impacted children and their families.
- 1,735 children received gifts through our holiday Adopt-a-Family Program.
- 1,260 counselors have attended our HIV/AIDS & Diversity Training.
- Provided Restorative Practice Trainings for 200 community members.
- **THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS SINCE INCEPTION IS 326,000**

2. Funding Request:

Camp Dreamcatcher requests a \$5,000 grant from the Zelinda LeBoutillier Foundation to support our free therapeutic and educational programs for HIV/AIDS impacted youth.

A. Specific needs to be addressed:

98% of the youth served by our programs are from low-income households, and only 13% have access to free or affordable therapeutic support in their communities. Children attending our programs are HIV/AIDS infected themselves, have HIV-infected family member, or have lost a family member to an AIDS-related complication.

B. Organizational impact:

Camp Dreamcatcher offers the only free therapeutic and educational program serving children impacted by HIV/AIDS in Chester County. The children attending our programs are facing issues beyond HIV/AIDS. 100% have experienced trauma, 50% have lost one or both family members and 30% have been diagnosed with a mental health condition.

We provide **Trauma Informed Programming** which ensures the following:

- A physically and emotionally safe environment.
- Predictable schedule & Camp Traditions that increase security and a feeling of BELONGING at camp.
- Clear & healthy emotional and physical boundaries.
- Caring adults & the opportunity to form positive relationships
- Opportunities that develop a sense of agency and control over their lives.

C. Overall Strategies:

Therapeutic and Educational Camp Session: The session will be held August 16-22, 2026, at Camp NorthBay. Although this will be the first year to hold our therapeutic camp session at Camp NorthBay, we have been facilitating our Teen Leadership & Mentoring Retreats at the facility for over eighteen years. NorthBay is a non-profit education and retreat center in Maryland, located on the Elk Neck State Park shoreline of the upper Chesapeake Bay. The facility offers environmental, team building, and adventure programming for youth to align with Social Emotional Learning principles.

Anticipated Outcomes:

- We will provide 130 therapeutic programs (psychotherapy, mindfulness, wilderness-based therapy, yoga, massage, and sessions with therapeutic dogs) during the camp session. We are looking forward to holding our Wish Log Ceremony on the Chesapeake Bay.

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- We will provide 70 educational programs. These will include sessions on substance use, puberty education, karate and self-defense, dance, drumming, sessions with the Lenape Nation of PA, teambuilding, and leadership programming. Camp NorthBay will offer us a hands-on, outdoor learning experiences to improve social and emotional learning throughout the camp week.
- We will have FUN! We will provide 150 recreational programs during the camp session. The activities at Camp NorthBay include high and low ropes adventure courses, canoeing/kayaking, zip lines (one that lands in the water), a GIANT SWING, fishing, swimming, beach volleyball, frisbee golf, rock walls, basketball, tubing, game room (ping pong, pool tables, foosball), Gaga Ball, arts/crafts, bonfires/s'mores on the beach, and hiking. We will hold our annual opening ceremony, talent show, dance, and John Flynn Concert in the expansive indoor theatre.
- Progressive Leadership Program (PLP): This program was developed to continue to engage young people who attended camp as children and are ready for new age-appropriate challenges. The PLP starts when campers are aged fifteen, with our Wilderness-Based Therapy Program.
- Restorative Justice/Conflict Mediation Program: Restorative Circles will be held throughout the camp week to promote connectedness in the cabins, repair harm, and restorative justice in our community.

Other Programs:

- **Mentoring Program:** HIV/AIDS impacted, low-income, BIPOC youth face barriers to obtaining equitable physical and mental healthcare, educational, and career support. We decrease these barriers by assisting youth and families with direct assistance in completing FAFSA and scholarship applications for college or technical schools & for mental health support. Each mentee is matched with a mentor who is a long-term volunteer with Camp Dreamcatcher. The program bridges the gap between our current LIT program, which is held during the camp session, and expands it to year-round support through mentorship at the leadership retreat, the camp session, and ongoing virtual sessions.
- **Adopt-a-Family Program:** This annual program is held in November and December each year. In 2025, we distributed gifts to 200 children.
- **The Phoenix College Scholarship:** Our college scholarship was renamed in honor of Gennifer Robinson, a beloved counselor who passed away in 2022. The Phoenix Scholarship awards four \$1,000 scholarships per year to college/technical school bound campers.
- **HIV/AIDS Education, Restorative Practice Training, & Community Outreach:** Camp Dreamcatcher provides services throughout the year to schools, community groups, and organizations. In 2025, Camp Dreamcatcher provided Restorative Practice Training to AHHAH, Thistle Hills, Camphill Village Kimberlon Hills, Kennett Square community members, and incarcerated youth at the Chester County Youth Center.

D. Why is it important to fund this now?

Camp Dreamcatcher provides services throughout the year to children impacted by HIV/AIDS. Funding will enable us to expand and adapt our programs to meet the changing needs of the children and families served by our programs.

3. Camp Week Timeline: The 2026 camp online registration process has begun, and we have 40 children registered for the camp session. Counselors will attend virtual training this summer, and we will provide in-person training at camp on August 14 & 15, and the campers will arrive on Sunday, August 16th.

4. How impact and results will be demonstrated: Youth complete evaluations at the conclusion of each program.

2025 Camper Evaluation Results:

- 90% of the campers reported that participating in a restorative circle helped them resolve conflicts at camp.
- 93% of the campers feel that Camp Dreamcatcher has made a positive impact on their life choices.
- 93% of the campers learned new coping skills at camp.
- 94% of the campers made new friends at camp.
- 99% of the campers felt safe or very safe at camp.
- 100% of the campers felt they had someone to talk to at camp.
- 100% of the campers had fun at camp.
- 100% of the campers felt accepted at camp.
- 100% of the campers would recommend camp to a friend.
- 100% of the campers feel Camp Dreamcatcher is important.