



I. GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

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Contact Information

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Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: Friends Home in Kennett is a non-profit organization serving the regional community as a valued resource dedicated to providing a full range of high-quality care prioritizing residents' independence in a homelike atmosphere for older men and women of modest means.

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

All of Chester County.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: Friends Home in Kennett serves older men and women of limited means. Our current average age is 89, and our average total census for all levels of care is 57. In 2024 we served 96 Independent Living, Personal Care and Skilled Nursing residents. This number will continue to increase because of the popularity of our short-term respite and give-it-a-try programs, and because of the relatively lower cost to residents.

Annual Budget \$5,462,400 73 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
85 % of budget for program expenses 11 # of Board Volunteers
13 % of budget for administrative expenses 4 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers
2 % of budget for fundraising expenses 17 # of Volunteer Hours/week
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources: Foundations (65%), Individuals (25%), Monthly Meetings (8%), Corporations (2%)
100% = total

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

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$ 10,000

Proposal Summary: (a few sentences, please)

Today, we face a new and pressing challenge: how to care for individuals living with dementia across a broad and growing spectrum of need. While Friends Home offers supportive programs for those with mild cognitive changes, our current facilities cannot adequately serve residents with more advanced dementia symptoms and behaviors. In the past year alone, we have had to discharge five residents and decline more than twenty applicants for this reason. To meet this growing need, Friends Home is creating **Willow Wing**, a thoughtfully designed space within the main building that will provide safe, supportive care for residents living with dementia while maintaining their connection to the broader community.

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

History

Friends Home in Kennett has operated continuously since 1898, when local members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) founded it to serve the needs of older adults among them. A boarding home at first, the Home served "Friends and those in sympathy with Friends." Today, we serve all older adults regardless of their religious preference. Our original building dates to the 1850s, with additions built in 1912, 1914, 1952, and 1959. In 1980, a 20-bed skilled nursing unit was added. Throughout its history, the Home has offered older adults a safe, comfortable, peaceful place to live in community at a time of their lives when they are the most frail and vulnerable. Over 70% have incomes below the median income for southeastern Pennsylvania - what used to be called the "working poor." 43% of our residents have incomes classified as low-income.

Services and Programs

Friends Home in Kennett serves older adults seeking supportive care through its three key residential programs: Independent Living, Personal Care and Skilled Nursing. Each program offers levels of care and support that can be tailored to each resident's specific needs. Some residents live independent of care, enjoying the Home's comfort and security while receiving housekeeping and dining services. Some need assistance with activities of daily living, such as bathing, dressing and taking medications. Others may have additional care needs due to advancing medical conditions. Short-term, respite stays are available in each level of care.

Friends Home is a special place, and residents who come are uplifted and supported here. For many, they reflect to us and to family and friends that their years here are some of the best of their lives. We endeavor to help them stay here as long as possible. We have even initiated a Resident Assistance Program to help residents whose resources are in danger of being depleted due to a variety of economic factors.

Life at Friends Home -- Why Residents Want to Stay

Friends Home has two major challenges as we work with our residents - how to slow the effects of the aging process, and how to reduce isolation. Our Community Life activities operate under the umbrella of the Montessori Lifestyle model that embodies the concept of "meaningful activity" as a way to slow the aging process. Often called "education for life," it incorporates daily, repetitive hands-on experiences that build confidence and foster independence. This is especially important for residents who are dealing with memory loss and dementia. The whole concept of meaningful activity is found throughout all our programming. Because of the specter of isolation, a big problem with aging seniors, participation is something we monitor very closely. Many come to us having lived alone, or having been left alone during the day while others in the household go off to their activities. Social isolation and reduced participation in activities is a real risk. The Montessori Lifestyle programming is designed to be so compelling that residents are drawn from their rooms to join in.

Goals

- Continue to assess and respond to the community's need to provide services for older adults, especially those of limited means or who prefer a simpler lifestyle.
- Stay true to our tradition and history of service to the community while keeping current with innovations in providing compassionate care, such as campus-wide programming for those with cognitive difficulties, and now with the introduction of the new concept of Integrated Secure Dementia Unit – Willow Wing.
- Maintain and strengthen our signature programs – Montessori Lifestyle, Health & Wellness programs, Performance Arts.

Key Achievements

- Maintaining a high quality of care that consistently receives high marks from the PA Department of Health and the PA Department of Human Services during their annual unannounced surveys.
- Recruiting, retaining, and continued training of a professional, experienced and compassionate staff.
- Providing a more modest alternative for senior living for those of limited means, and those who prefer a simpler lifestyle.
- Instituting *Montessori Inspired Lifestyle* for those in cognitive decline that tailors resident care in answer to the question, “How can we connect with the person who is still there?”
- Establishing a Performance Arts program that gives our residents as many opportunities to engage in the performance arts as possible. We find that performing gives our residents a means to live purposefully every day. We also find that the extra “juice” from performing can be a transforming experience for our residents. This program has, we believe, the potential to slow the effects of aging and cognitive decline.
- Creating a special structured Health & Wellness program, which introduced a new concept of old age as an entire life stage, and as such it's not really about age. It's about function.

Distinctiveness

Friends Home in Kennett serves persons of modest income and is the only area home to do. Friends Home offers independent living and personal care options, with a separate skilled nursing unit. Friends Home fills the need for affordably priced personal care for aging adults in Chester County by offering lower than average rates, even as the cost of services for the elderly in our community continues to rise. Our historic buildings and our central location in Historic Kennett Square give our programs the homelike feel and casual comfort for which the Home is known. The relatively small size of our campus allows our staff to serve as a “community of care” to respond more intimately with residents. And now, Willow Wing will add to the Home’s distinctiveness by offering SDU residents activities that are integrated into activities of the whole campus.

2. Funding request

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

Friends Home is facing a new and pressing challenge: how to care for individuals living with dementia across a broad and growing spectrum of need. While we offer supportive programs for those with mild cognitive challenges, our current facilities cannot adequately serve residents with more advanced dementia symptoms and behaviors. In the past year alone, we have had to discharge five residents and decline more than twenty applicants for this reason.

To meet this growing need, Friends Home is creating **Willow Wing**, a thoughtfully designed space within the main building that will provide safe, supportive care for residents living with dementia while maintaining their connection to the broader community.

Unlike traditional secured dementia units that rely on isolation, Willow Wing will embody an **integrated model of care**—balancing security with inclusion. Residents will live in personalized apartments equipped with safety features and carefully controlled sensory environments to reduce stress and confusion. Yet, they will continue to enjoy access to community spaces and participate in activities such as choir and art classes when beneficial.

Further, the new concept of an integrated unit means that it can only be offered by organizations that have the complete range of supportive care options to enable SDU residents to engage in the varied activities that a supportive senior living community such as Friends Home has to offer.

Dining and activities will be flexible, allowing residents to choose between small, intimate settings or the main dining and activity rooms, depending on their comfort and abilities.

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

As we mentioned above, we cannot adequately serve residents with more advanced dementia symptoms and behaviors. In the past year alone, we have had to discharge five residents and decline more than twenty applicants for this reason. The sooner we can get Willow Wing on line, the better for the community.

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

Outcome: Friends Home will be able to care for residents living with dementia throughout their disease process without having to discharge them to a higher level of care when their needs increase

Measurement: Retention of our residents will result in 0 discharges due to a higher level of care need

Outcome: Improved mental health of our residents living with dementia

Measurement: Decrease incidence of agitated behaviors reported in medical records and decrease use of psychotropic drugs as reported in records

Outcome: Improved physical health of our residents living with dementia

Measurement: Demonstrated by minimal weight loss and fall incidences as documented in medical records.

Outcome: Overall census of Friends Home will reach 90 percentile within first year

Measurement: Friends Home census including Willow Wing will reach 44 a year after Willow Wing opening