

I. HESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

One page only. This page will be shared electronically with Grant Panel Members & Fund Advisors.

Note: If Philanthropy Network's Common Grant Application is used, CCCF's **Summary Sheet MUST accompany application.**

To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit www.chescocf.org

Date: 2/23/2026

Contact Information

Organization Name: Good Samaritan Services
Address: P.O. Box 551, Phoenixville PA 19460
Phone: 888-477-0025
Website: www.goodsamservices.org
Year Incorporated: 2001
FEIN:23-3011817

ED/CEO Name: Nate Hoffer
ED/CEO E-mail: nateh@gmail.com
Board Chair Name: John Torres
Board Chair Approval (check here):
Primary Contact Name: Mikaela Potrako
Primary Contact E-mail: mikaelap@goodsamservices.org

Organization Information:

Field/s of Interest:

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

Mission: Good Samaritan Services compassionately responds to homelessness and poverty through a unique and personalized approach to empower our neighbors to move from housing crisis to stability. We engage the community to support these efforts.

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served): Our programs are offered County-wide, though residential program (Emergency & Transitional Housing) are located in Phoenixville & Kennett Square.

Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served: We serve men, women and children in

Good Samaritan Services works throughout Chester County to address the full spectrum of housing needs in our community. (We also have a comparable set of programs in Lancaster County, but all information shared here is regarding Chester Co.) We serve approximately 650 men, women and children every year, offering Emergency and Transitional Housing in Phoenixville, Coatesville and Kennett Square, and Housing Support Services to individuals and families across the county.

Annual Budget \$3,461,254 (org) { \$2,078,432, Chester Co} 17.95 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

83 % of budget for program expenses 17 # of Board Volunteers

6 % of budget for administrative expenses 216 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers

11 % of budget for fundraising expenses 800 # of Volunteer Hours

100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

Is this grant proposal for: Capacity Building or General Operating ?

If Capacity Building Proposal, the focus is:

Mission, Vision & Strategy Governance & Leadership Partnerships & Collaborations

Fundraising, Development & Marketing Technology Other: _____

Grant Amount Requested from the Community Foundation: \$5,000_____

Proposal Summary:

Our house for fathers and children is on St. Mary's Street, Phoenixville, and has room for as many as four fathers and six children. In the past 12 months we have provided vital housing for 12 children and 5 fathers. This grant will provide funds to cover the cost of heating and electricity for the house during the year ahead.

(See narrative as second document)

II. CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Provide clear, concise information. 3 pages maximum

1. Our history, goals, key achievements & distinctiveness

Mission: Good Samaritan Services compassionately responds to homelessness and poverty through a unique and personalized approach to empower our neighbors to move from housing crisis to stability. We engage the community to support these efforts.

History: Good Samaritan was founded in 2001 with the goal of helping men experiencing homelessness in norther Chester County. Over time, as the housing crisis in Chester County and Lancaster County has increased, we have grown to meet that need. We offer men, women, families with children and individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless support, working across the continuum of need, from Winter Shelter to Emergency to Transitional to Long-Term Affordable Housing. And for people recovering from an episode of homelessness, as well as people at risk of becoming homeless, we provide Housing Support Services so that they can remain safe in their home.

Over the last 24 years our organization has grown significantly from originally providing emergency shelter to just six men in a tiny in a tiny Phoenixville row house, we now work across the entire continuum of housing needs and this past fiscal year provided essential support to 852 men, women, and children.

- 2001-2008: served approximately 7 people per day in Phoenixville, then doubled that number & added a second location, Ephrata, in 2010.
- 20017: added housing support services by taking over Bridge of Hope Lancaster & Chester Counties
- 2022 opened a winter shelter in Ephrata
- 2022 launched Mental Health Counselling program with a staff licensed clinical social worker
- 2023: opened shelter and transitional program in Kennett Square
- 2025: completed a merger with Phoenixville Women’s Outreach; to provide stability to women facing a housing crisis and helping provide supports and opportunities as they move along the path to sustainable independent living.

We now serve at least 350 people per day in five locations across two counties, providing emergency shelter, transitional housing, long-term affordable housing and housing support for individuals and families living independently but at risk of becoming homeless, along with a comprehensive mental health counselling program with our in-house LCSW.

Achievements:

Record Number of Individuals Served: In the last year, we reached an all-time record in the number of individuals served. Our dedicated team provided essential support to 852 men, women, and children—an increase from the 644 individuals we served the previous year. This significant growth not only highlights our commitment to responding to the needs of our communities but also underscores the escalating demand for our services.

Substantial Increase in Rental Assistance: Preventing homelessness remains a cornerstone of our program. Over the past year, we provided \$203,060 in rental assistance, marking a 28% increase from the previous year. This financial support has been crucial in helping many families avoid eviction and maintain stable housing. The positive impact of this assistance on the lives of those we serve cannot be overstated.

Comprehensive Support and Counseling: Our comprehensive program is designed to help individuals transition from crisis to stability successfully. We provide free counseling sessions to all program participants, and in the last year 98 people participated in 405 sessions. These sessions have played a vital role in significantly reducing symptoms of anxiety and depression.

Each participant in our program also received an average of 30 case management meetings with a dedicated Resource Coordinator. This relational approach to case management is a cornerstone of our strategy, enabling us to provide personalized support tailored to each individual's unique needs.

Achieving Stability Benchmarks: Our commitment to fostering long-term stability for our participants is reflected in the 3,240 stability benchmarks achieved over the past year. These benchmarks include obtaining identification, securing employment, and establishing budgets—critical steps that empower individuals to build stable, self-sufficient lives.

2. Funding request

Description of key initiatives

When people think about homelessness, single fathers are often left out of the conversation. Yet in Chester County, there are fathers doing everything they can to care for their children while not having a safe place to call home. At Good Sam, we recognized this gap—and stepped in to meet it by offering housing to fathers with children. The program is like all of our residential programs, providing basic needs of housing, food and clothing along with case management, mental health counselling, financial stability programs such as matched savings and microloans, and referrals to many local resources and benefits.

The house for fathers and children is on St. Mary's Street and has room for as many as four fathers and six children. In the past 12 months we have provided vital housing for 12 children and 5 fathers. The program helps to reduce the traumatic impact of a housing crisis, particularly on children. It is well known that a period of homelessness is the single most traumatic, disruptive, and stressful event in the life of a child, and that undergoing adverse childhood experiences such as homelessness puts children at greater risk for poor behavioral & medical outcomes throughout their life. These adverse effects can be reduced if the family remains intact, especially if given children are given help to reflect on their experience and increase their resilience—work that our LCSW specializes in.

Lamar is one of the fathers in the program. When he and his two young children came to Good Sam, he knew that his children needed stability, safety, and a place where they could simply be kids again.

Through our single-father housing—the only program of its kind in Chester County—Lamar found exactly that. “To go into a house that is sheltered, has toys for the kids, crayons, and things like that, just to make it easier and more comfortable for parents to handle what they're having to handle, is definitely huge,” Lamar shared. That sense of normalcy matters. A secure roof overhead, a bed to sleep in, and a space designed with children in mind gave Lamar the foundation he needed to focus on work, parenting, and building a more secure future for his family. The program's stability created an opportunity for him to address the fundamentals of his situation and allowed his children to have the security which a child needs in order to grow and thrive.

Specific needs & issues to be addressed:

We seek support for the most fundamental aspect of this program, to keep the lights turned on and the rooms heated in winter. The cost of utilities to all of our Phoenixville residential programs is \$29,488. The cost of utilities for the house for fathers and children is approximately \$5,000, and this request would then cover a full year of heating and electricity.

Why it is important to fund this now:

Covering basic needs is an essential part of the work we do. We have wonderful teams of volunteers who can assemble play equipment, cook and share meals, paint rooms and provide clothing and toys to the program. But we always need support for the fundamentals of case management, transportation costs, and the cost of heating, keeping the lights on and the other basic utilities such as water and sewer. These utilities are essential in making a house a home.

And this year, we have seen our electric bills double in price, and given the exceptionally cold winter, heating has been far more expensive than usual. At a time when families across the county have been staggered by exceptionally high costs for food and utilities, our home for fathers and children is no exception.

How impact & results will be demonstrated: We publish our statistics monthly on social media and in our newsletter which is

available online and through the mail. We also produce a full account of our work and its results in our annual report. And as part of the Chester County Partnership to End Homelessness, we are held accountable for our work and share it with our peers across the county. Finally, all data is entered into the database for housing and homeless services, CCIMS.

