



# JONAS C., MARIAN D., & ROBERT H. ERB CHARITABLE FUND PROPOSAL

## Contact Information

### The Timothy School

973 Old Lancaster Road, Berwyn, PA 19312  
610-725-0755  
<https://thetimothyschool.org>  
Year Incorporated: 1966  
FEIN: 23-1590371

Sarah Greim, Executive Director  
[sgreim@thetimothyschool.org](mailto:sgreim@thetimothyschool.org)  
Board Chair: Christopher Mayer, Vanguard  
Board Chair Approval (check here): X  
Contact: Sarah Louise Hale, Development  
[shale@thetimothyschool.org](mailto:shale@thetimothyschool.org)

## Organization Information:

### Field/s of Interest:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Arts, Culture, Heritage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education, Library
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Human Services

**Mission:** The Timothy School educates and empowers students with autism to achieve their greatest potential—academically, socially, and personally—through individualized, evidence-based programs in a supportive environment.

**Geographic Area Served:** The Timothy School serves students with autism from more than 25 school districts across six Southeastern Pennsylvania counties. We are a vital educational resource for Chester County families as students have come to us from Tredyffrin/Easttown, West Chester, Great Valley, Downingtown and Phoenixville.

Our Consultative and Training Services work closely with the school districts and Intermediate Units we serve—including the Chester County Intermediate Unit—as well as other districts across the Mid-Atlantic region and internationally.

**Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served.** The Timothy School serves approximately 70 students with autism, ages 5–21, who come from more than 25 school districts across six Southeastern Pennsylvania counties. Roughly one-third of our students reside in Chester County. Our students represent a diverse range of abilities and communication styles, and each receives individualized instruction, therapeutic supports and community-based learning experiences designed to build independence and confidence.

Through our Consultative and Training Services, we also reach more than 200 educators, therapists and administrators annually—including many from Chester County—who participate in our professional development programs. By equipping professionals who work directly with students, we extend our impact to hundreds more children and families across the region.

**Annual Budget** \$7,946,936 (FY2025 audited)

\_\_\_80 # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff

\_\_\_92.6 % of budget for program expenses  
\_\_\_4 % of budget for administrative expenses  
\_\_\_2.5 % of budget for fundraising expenses  
*100% = total*

\_\_\_9 # of Board Volunteers  
\_\_\_50 # of Active Non-Board Volunteers  
\_\_\_325 # of Volunteer Hours

**Top 3-5 funding sources:**

- School District Tuition (Program Services) – 94% of revenue
- Individual & Corporate Contributions – 3%
- Foundations & Grants – 1%
- Investment Income – 2%

**Grant Amount Requested:** \$ 50,000

**Proposal Summary:** The Timothy School respectfully requests funds to help with our 60th Anniversary initiative—the Occupational Therapy Sensory Space—which will serve all current and future students and provide inclusive, community-based sensory experiences throughout the year.



## **Grant Proposal Narrative: 60th Anniversary OT Sensory Space and A School of Their Own Campaign**

### **Grant Proposal Summary**

For nearly 60 years, The Timothy School has been where students with autism discover their potential and families rediscover hope. Founded in 1966, The Timothy School is Pennsylvania's oldest non-profit approved private school exclusively serving students with autism.

Located in Berwyn, Chester County, we serve 70 students ages 5–21 from more than 25 school districts (including Tredyffrin/Easttown, West Chester, Great Valley, Downingtown and Phoenixville) across 6 Southeastern Pennsylvania counties. Each student receives individualized instruction, therapeutic supports and community-based learning experiences that build independence and confidence.

Through our Consultative and Training Services, we reach over 200 educators, therapists and administrators annually, including the Chester County Intermediate Unit and Chester County school districts, multiplying our impact to hundreds more children and families across the region.

We seeking support to strengthen readiness for upcoming initiatives, including our 60th Anniversary project: the *Occupational Therapy Sensory Space*. This inclusive environment will integrate technology, sensory tools and adaptive equipment to support communication, regulation and learning. Designed for both student use and community access through *Open Sensory Days*, it reflects our mission to educate and empower students while preparing for our next chapter—a purpose-built new school that will incorporate these advancements.

### **1. Overall Aims, Key Initiatives & Achievements**

Since 1966, The Timothy School has educated and empowered students with autism to achieve their greatest potential—academically, socially and personally—through individualized, evidence-based programs in a supportive environment.

We are distinguished by our collaborative culture, where students receive academic, communication, therapeutic and vocational support in a setting that fosters confidence and belonging. Our Consultative & Training Services extend this expertise to hundreds of educators in regional and international districts.

Our leadership team brings exceptional longevity and expertise, with current supervisors serving an average of 25 years each.

Recent milestones include completing campus improvements (Phase I), expanding our Secondary Center (Phase II) and securing \$1.55 million in state grants—all on time and on budget. These accomplishments demonstrate sound stewardship and readiness for the next phase of growth.

As one parent shared, ***“The Timothy School gave our son his voice. Today he can tell us his name, share that he loves cookies and bread, talk about his friends and even say, ‘I love you..’”***

## **2. Funding Request**

We respectfully request support for our new *Occupational Therapy Sensory Space*, a calming, inclusive environment where students can explore and regulate their senses safely and confidently. The new space features adaptive seating, sensory lighting, interactive technology and therapeutic tools that promote communication and self-regulation.

The *Sensory Space* serves as a cornerstone of our 60th Anniversary celebration and a model for future facility design. Beyond daily use, we will host *Open Sensory Days* for families, educators and community members to experience this model of inclusion firsthand.

Funding this initiative now is essential as we launch Phase III of our capital campaign, *A School of Their Own*, timed with our 60th Anniversary in 2026. This investment will strengthen donor and community engagement and advance architectural planning with Heckendorn Shiles Architects.

### **Timeline of Key Activities**

- 2025–2026: Capacity Building & Planning Phase
  - Strengthen donor engagement, complete architectural programming and finalize sensory and technology design plans.
- 2026–2027: 60th Anniversary & Public Campaign Launch
  - Launch the public phase of *A School of Their Own*
  - Create our \$50,000 *Occupational Therapy Sensory Space*, designed to immediately benefit students and model future facility integration.
- 2027–2029: Quiet Phase Expansion & Pre-Construction Preparation
  - Cultivate lead donors, secure naming opportunities and begin pre-construction activities.
- 2029–2031: Construction & Transition Phase
  - Build the new facility and integrate the *Sensory Space* and technology enhancements.

## **3. The Impact of This Grant**

This grant will help to strengthen our readiness and sustainability as we prepare for *A School of Their Own*, ensuring we can manage a major campaign and meet growing needs.

As a specialized school serving students with autism, our traditional fundraising base is limited. Timothy families carry the lifelong financial and emotional responsibility of caring for their special-needs children, and we are mindful not to rely on them for major fundraising support. Our outreach focuses on expanding relationships with foundations, businesses and community partners who can help ensure The Timothy School continues to thrive for future generations.

Grant support will help us expand capacity, deepen donor engagement and advance architectural planning for a purpose-built school designed for students with autism. The impact will be demonstrated through measurable campaign milestones, increased community engagement and expanded philanthropic partnerships.

Consultant: Heckendorn Shiles Architects providing autism-informed educational design and architectural expertise to guide the vision and sensory integration of our future facility.

#### **4. Results and Impact**

We will evaluate success through campaign milestones, donor growth and community partnerships. Long-term results include a 25% increase in student capacity (from 70 to nearly 90 students) along with staff expansion to maintain individualized, evidence-based instruction.

Each year, hundreds of students are turned away due to limited classroom space. With *A School of Their Own*, we can serve more students, improve educational environments and extend our consultative reach to regional schools and educators.

Our families say it best:

*"It's been life-changing for our family. She's a whole new kid and looks forward to school most days—she has friends."*

*"The school was responsible for us being able to be a family again. We went from dealing with autism all the time to enjoying our son and his three sisters."*

#### **5. Conclusion**

Our *A School of Their Own* campaign and *Occupational Therapy Sensory Space* reflect our commitment to innovation, inclusion and community. As the oldest non-profit approved private school in Pennsylvania exclusively serving students with autism ages 5–21, we remain the only school of our kind providing comprehensive, evidence-based programming for this age range. After nearly six decades of proven excellence, we are ready to build our future on a foundation of compassion, expertise and hope.

**This is what drives our mission every day, a truth we see come to life in our classrooms, with our families and in the community: when students find their purpose, families rediscover joy and communities grow stronger. ###**