

**Contact Information**

Organization Name: Gateway HorseWorks  
Address: 2045 Union Hill Road, Malvern PA 19355  
Phone: 484-433-9911  
Website: [www.gatewayhorseworks.org](http://www.gatewayhorseworks.org)  
Year Incorporated: 2015  
FEIN: 47-5474101

ED/CEO Name: Kristen de Marco  
E-mail: [kristen@gatewayhorseworks.org](mailto:kristen@gatewayhorseworks.org)  
Board Chair Name: Basil Joy  
Board Chair Approval (check here): X  
Contact Name: Kristen de Marco  
E-mail: [kristen@gatewayhorseworks.org](mailto:kristen@gatewayhorseworks.org)

**Organization Information:**

**Field/s of Interest:**

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

**Mission:** Gateway HorseWorks (GHW), established in 2015, is a nonprofit organization which specializes in equine-assisted psychotherapy (EAP), incorporating horses for the mental health treatment of people.

**Geographic Area Served:** Gateway HorseWorks' home is our farm in Malvern, PA, and thanks to partnerships with other organizations, we serve individuals from all over Chester County and beyond.

**Describe Population Served & Annual Number of People Served.** Gateway HorseWorks serves individuals who may benefit from innovative mental health solutions, including Veterans experiencing PTSD, justice-involved and dependent youth, families experiencing loss and grief, justice-involved adults, people in recovery from substance abuse, and youth in need of social-emotional learning. In 2025, Gateway HorseWorks treated 239 unique individuals, in 356 sessions with a total client aggregate attendance of 1,482 sessions. We also provided 11 professional wellbeing retreats serving 100 people.

<b>Annual Budget</b> \$993,298	4 Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
90% of budget for program expenses	5 Board Volunteers
5% of budget for administrative expenses	99 Active Non-Board Volunteers
5% of budget for fundraising expenses	722 Volunteer Hours

**Top 3-5 funding sources:**

Van Ameringen Foundation: \$225,000 over 3 years (to support a Clinical Director)  
Germeshausen Foundation: \$75,000 (to support Leading the Way)  
Caroline Alexander Buck Foundation: \$25,000 (to support Leading the Way)  
Berndt Family Foundation: \$20,000 (general operating support)

**This grant proposal is for:** X Direct Service Programs & General Operating

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

**Proposal Summary:** (a few sentences, please) Gateway HorseWorks seeks support from the Chester County Community Foundation to provide individual and family sessions as well as a series of community programs for vulnerable populations who seek innovative mental health treatment. All sessions are facilitated by a treatment team consisting of a licensed mental health professional and equine specialist certified in the Eagala Model. In sessions, clients discover their own solutions through the healing power of horses.

## **Organization Overview**

Gateway HorseWorks (GHW), founded in 2015, is a nonprofit organization specializing in equine-assisted psychotherapy (EAP), incorporating horses for the mental health treatment of people. We serve individuals, families, and community-based partners through a trauma-informed, evidence-aligned model that addresses complex mental health needs including anxiety, depression, substance use, PTSD, grief, and the long-term impacts of trauma.

All services are delivered by a treatment team consisting of a licensed mental health professional and a certified equine specialist trained in the Egala Model. In this ground-based, non-riding approach, clients engage directly with horses as sentient, responsive partners. Horses offer immediate, nonjudgmental feedback, allowing participants to externalize internal experiences, build emotional awareness, and practice new ways of relating in real time. Through this process, clients strengthen core competencies such as self-regulation, trust, boundaries, and accountability—skills essential to long-term mental health and stability.

Since our founding, Gateway HorseWorks has operated with a clear mission: to expand access to innovative mental health care for individuals who are historically excluded from it. While equine-assisted therapies are often positioned as premium services, we have intentionally built a community-driven model that prioritizes those facing the greatest barriers to care. More than 85% of our clients are low-income, and many are navigating intersecting challenges such as poverty, involvement in the justice system, addiction, and family instability.

## **Statement of Need**

Mental health care remains profoundly underfunded and inaccessible, particularly for individuals who are uninsured, underinsured, or involved in public systems. At the same time, individuals with the highest levels of trauma—often measured through Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)—require approaches that extend beyond traditional talk therapy. Trauma impacts neurological, emotional, and sensory processing, necessitating experiential and somatic interventions that engage the whole person.

Despite this need, effective somatic and experiential treatments are rarely accessible to the populations who would benefit most. These services are typically limited to private-pay or high-cost insurance models, reinforcing inequities in care. Gateway HorseWorks exists to disrupt this pattern by delivering high-quality, trauma-informed treatment at low or no cost, ensuring that access is not determined by income or circumstance.

## **Programs and Partnerships**

Gateway HorseWorks delivers both individualized care and targeted community-based programs in partnership with schools, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations. These collaborations allow us to embed services directly within systems where individuals are already receiving support, reducing barriers to access and increasing continuity of care.

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Our core programs include:

- **Beyond the Barn** – serving justice-involved youth and those engaged with Children, Youth, and Family Services
- **Stable Pathways** – providing mental health treatment within the Chester County Prison Complex
- **Breaking Free** – supporting individuals in substance use recovery
- **Galloping Home** – serving Veterans in partnership with VA Medical Centers
- **Stable Connections** – supporting families navigating grief and loss
- **Leading the Way** – delivering social-emotional learning for youth in the School District of Philadelphia

Across all programs, we create relational, non-stigmatizing environments where participants are seen as individuals with strengths—not problems to be fixed.

### Outcomes and Impact

Gateway HorseWorks is advancing a more effective and equitable model of mental health care. Our outcomes demonstrate measurable impact across multiple systems:

- **Justice-involved youth (Beyond the Barn):**  
92% not rearrested within six months; 96% avoided out-of-home placement
- **Adults experiencing incarceration (Stable Pathways):**  
8% recidivism rate five years post-release (compared to 79% nationally within six years)
- **Substance use recovery (Breaking Free):**  
68.5% treatment completion vs. 53.2% baseline; 15-point reduction in early discharge
- **School-based programming (Leading the Way):**  
76% improved attendance; 88% reduced suspensions; 85% reduced behavioral referrals

These outcomes reflect not only individual transformation but also reduced strain on public systems, including corrections, child welfare, and education.

### Expanding Access Through Strategic Delivery

A central component of our model is bringing services to where they are most needed. In addition to our Malvern farm, Gateway HorseWorks operates satellite and embedded program sites to eliminate transportation and access barriers.

- At **Fox Chase Farm in Philadelphia**, we deliver school-based programming during the academic day, dramatically increasing participation and scalability.
- Within the **Chester County Prison Complex**, we provide on-site mental health treatment prior to release, ensuring individuals reenter the community with stronger emotional and behavioral tools.

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We further remove barriers by offering services at no cost, along with transportation, meals, and participant stipends when needed. This comprehensive approach ensures that individuals can fully engage in treatment without competing basic needs.

### **Funding Request**

Gateway HorseWorks seeks general operating support from the Chester County Community Foundation to sustain and expand access to our programs. Flexible funding is critical to maintaining the infrastructure that allows us to deliver high-quality care, respond to community needs, and deepen our partnerships across systems.

By investing in Gateway HorseWorks, the Foundation will support a proven, scalable model that is expanding access to effective mental health care while improving outcomes across justice, education, and recovery systems.

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