

**Chester County Community Foundation**  
 Grant Proposal — Direct Service Programs & General Operating

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**PART I — GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET**

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**Date:** June 26, 2025

**Contact Information**

<b>Organization Name:</b> Little Smiles of PA	<b>ED/CEO Name:</b> Steve Grandizio		
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<b>Phone:</b> (215) 668-5654	<b>Board Chair Name:</b> Jeff Mullen		
<b>Website:</b> www.littlesmiles.org	<b>Primary Contact Name:</b> Steve Grandizio		
<b>Year Incorporated:</b> 2006	<b>Primary Contact Email:</b> SGrandizio@littlesmiles.org		
<b>FEIN:</b> 51-0600203	<b>Board Chair Approval:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Approved		

**Organization Information**

<b>Field(s) of Interest:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health <input type="checkbox"/> Arts, Culture, Heritage <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Library <input type="checkbox"/> Environment, Animals <input type="checkbox"/> Social Justice, Civic Engagement
<b>Mission:</b> To help heal hearts and create little smiles by providing gifts and fun activities to children impacted by serious illness, tragedy, and trauma.
<b>Geographic Area Served:</b> The Greater Philadelphia region including Southeastern PA, South Jersey and Northern DE.
<b>Population Served &amp; Annual # Served:</b> Children ages 0–18 experiencing serious illness, homelessness, abuse, trauma, or tragedy, and their families. Served approximately 4,000+ children and families in the past year; Chester County children served through this proposed initiative: est. 150–200 in Year 1.
<b>Annual Budget:</b> \$450,000   Program Expenses: ~80%   Admin: ~15%   Fundraising: ~5%
<b># of FTE Paid Staff:</b> 1 FTE   Board Volunteers: 9   Non-Board Volunteers: 60+   Volunteer Hours: estimated 3,000+
<b>Top 3–5 Funding Sources:</b> 1. Individual Donors & Annual Events (Stars Ball, Monte Carlo Night, Derby Day) 2. Corporate Sponsorships 3. Grants 4. In-Kind Contributions
<b>This grant proposal is for:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct Service Programs & General Operating <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building
<b>Grant Amount Requested:</b> \$10,000

## Proposal Summary

Little Smiles of PA respectfully requests \$10,000 from the Chester County Community Foundation to launch a partnership with the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County — modeled on our proven collaboration with Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center in Montgomery County — to deliver comfort items, experiential programming, and emotional relief to children and families navigating the aftermath of abuse and trauma in the home. This grant will fund group items like Welcome or Back-To-School Kits, as well as individual requests submitted by the social work team at DVCCC.

## PART II — GRANT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

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### 1. Nonprofit's Overall Aims, Key Initiatives & Distinctiveness

Little Smiles of PA was founded in 2006 by Steve Grandizio and Jeff Mullen — two friends — with a simple, powerful idea: that a moment of joy can be transformative for a child enduring serious illness, tragedy, or trauma. Two decades later, Little Smiles has become one of the region's most nimble and responsive children's charities, touching thousands of lives through a volunteer-driven model that keeps overhead low and impact high.

Our approach is unique: we act as a 'silent checkbook' for dedicated frontline professionals — doctors, nurses, child life specialists, social workers, and forensic interviewers — who know exactly what each child needs. Rather than a rigid program structure, we respond to the real, specific needs identified by those closest to the child. Whether that means a Junk Food Run to a hospital ward, a Family Fun Night at a Ronald McDonald House, a birthday gift for a child in shelter, or a comfort kit for a trauma survivor, Little Smiles shows up.

Our current direct service programs include:

- Junk Food Runs — Monthly food and snack deliveries to St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, Shriners Hospital for Children, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), and Nemours Children's Health.
- Family Fun Nights — Events bringing laughter, music, and play to families at Ronald McDonald Houses in Philadelphia, Camden, and Wilmington, as well as Visitation Homes Shelter.
- Special Wish Fulfillment — Responding to one-of-a-kind requests from clinical professionals for children facing extraordinary circumstances.
- Mission Kids Partnership (Montgomery County) — An established, ongoing collaboration with Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center in East Norriton, providing trauma-informed comfort programming for child abuse survivors and their families throughout the investigative and healing process.

### 2. Funding Request

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

Children who have experienced or witnessed abuse face an invisible but urgent need alongside their immediate safety: the need to feel seen, valued, and cared for. Child advocacy centers and domestic violence centers provide critical forensic, legal, and clinical services — but the small, human moments of comfort, joy, and normalcy often fall through the cracks. Little Smiles fills that gap.

Our proven model with Mission Kids in Montgomery County demonstrates what this looks like in practice. Mission Kids is a nationally recognized multidisciplinary Child Advocacy Center serving child abuse victims, and over the course of our partnership, Little Smiles has provided comfort items for children awaiting forensic interviews, celebration moments for families reaching milestones in recovery,

and joy-focused programming that reminds children — and the staff who serve them — that healing is possible.

This grant will fund our expansion into Chester County, where we will establish relationships with child abuse agencies and advocacy organizations to replicate and build on the Mission Kids model. We have begun discussions with DVCCC. Specific activities will include:

- Identifying and onboarding Chester County child advocacy partners (e.g., Chester County's Victims' Services, child advocacy centers, and trauma-focused shelters).
- Making regular visits and comfort deliveries — snack pantry stocking, gift distributions, holiday programming — guided by partner professionals' knowledge of what each child or family needs most.
- Building an active Chester County volunteer base to sustain the program beyond the grant period.

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

Chester County lacks a robust Little Smiles presence despite being home to thousands of children experiencing trauma and abuse each year. Meanwhile, the success of our Montgomery County partnership shows that this model works — and that child advocacy professionals actively want and value this kind of complement to their clinical services. Funding now allows us to move from a proven concept to an active Chester County program while the organizational momentum and volunteer energy are strong.

Additionally, Chester County's child advocacy sector is itself growing — making this an ideal moment to embed Little Smiles as a trusted, long-term partner before those organizations' capacity is fully committed.

**How will results and impact be demonstrated?**

Little Smiles will track and report the following metrics throughout the grant period:

- Number of Chester County partner agencies formally onboarded.
- Number of children and family members reached through deliveries and events.
- Number of volunteer hours contributed by Chester County volunteers.
- Number of comfort deliveries, special requests fulfilled, and events hosted.
- Qualitative testimonials from partner professionals and families.

We will provide CCCF with a brief mid-year update and an end-of-year impact report summarizing these outcomes. Our established reporting practices from our Mission Kids partnership will serve as the template.

**PART III — ATTACHMENTS CHECKLIST**

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The following supporting documents will be submitted with this proposal:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Copy of 501(c)(3) federal tax-exempt letter (EIN: 51-0600203)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	List of Board of Directors with affiliations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Most recent annual report (URL: <a href="http://www.littlesmilespa.org">www.littlesmilespa.org</a> )
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Audited or reviewed recent financial statements
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Itemized organizational operating budget with actual results for prior fiscal year and current fiscal year to date



Current strategic plan/proposal specifically for Chester County

### Submission Information

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Submit electronically to: [grants@chescofc.org](mailto:grants@chescofc.org)

Online portal: <https://chescofc.org/receive/apply-for-grants/>

Questions: Kevin Baffa, Grants Administrator | (610) 696-8211 | [grants@chescofc.org](mailto:grants@chescofc.org)

*Thank you for your consideration. Little Smiles is honored to bring this work to Chester County.*



# Chester County Strategic Plan

## Modelled After Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center

2023 – 2025 | A Story of Smiles, Healing & Hope

Grant Proposal Submitted to the Chester County Community Foundation

### AT A GLANCE — 2023 THROUGH 2025

<b>\$30,291.43</b> Total Invested in Mission Kids Children	<b>75</b> Acts of Generosity	<b>420+</b> Kids Served	<b>Mont. Co.</b> Community We Serve Together
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## Executive Summary

Little Smiles is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing joy, dignity, and relief to children facing serious medical and life challenges — and to the families standing beside them. Through individualized gifts, meaningful experiences, and responsive community partnerships, Little Smiles fills a critical gap that traditional funding and social service systems simply cannot reach.

Since 2023, Little Smiles has partnered with Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center in Montgomery County — serving children who have experienced abuse, neglect, trafficking, or witnessed violent crime. Over three years, this partnership has delivered \$30,291.43 in direct support, touching hundreds of children and families through 75 distinct acts of care.

We are proud to submit this report to the Chester County Community Foundation in support of a \$10,000 general operating grant — funding that will go entirely and directly to children in need in Chester County.

## Our Request

**Our Request to the Chester County Community Foundation**

**\$10,000**

General Operating Support — Mission Kids Partnership Program

A \$10,000 grant will directly fund individualized gifts, meaningful experiences, and emergency support for Mission Kids children in the Chester and Montgomery County region — 100 cents of every dollar reaching a child in need.

The Chester County Community Foundation connects people who care with causes that matter. Little Smiles exists at exactly that intersection: we are the connective tissue between generous donors and the children of Mission Kids who need — and deserve — someone in their corner. A grant of \$10,000 allows us to say “yes” to more children, more often, throughout 2026 and beyond.

We recognize that CCCF’s typical grant range is \$1,000–\$7,500. We are requesting \$10,000 because the documented need and demonstrated impact of this partnership justify an exceptional investment. Our three-year track record — documented in full in this report — shows consistent growth, responsible stewardship, and expanding reach. Every dollar has been accounted for. Every gift has reached a child.

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## Why This Partnership Makes Sense for CCCF

The Chester County Community Foundation has spent more than 30 years connecting people who care with causes that matter — so their philanthropy makes a difference now and forever. Little Smiles shares that precise philosophy. The children we have served through Mission Kids are Montgomery County children. With CCCF’s support, we can extend that reach further — to more children, more families, and more communities across the region.

Mission Kids draws children from across the Chester and Montgomery County region. When Little Smiles funds a basketball camp, repairs a bicycle, or sends a child to a Philadelphia Union game, those are regional children experiencing those moments — children whose resilience, confidence, and hope we are collectively investing in. A CCCF grant deepens that investment and expands our ability to say yes.

### What Little Smiles Delivers

- ✓ Individualized, relationship-based care
- ✓ Direct investment in Montgomery County children
- ✓ Documented, accountable use of every dollar
- ✓ Trusted Mission Kids partner since 2023
- ✓ Fills gaps traditional funding cannot reach
- ✓ 100% of funds go directly to children served

### CCCF’s Philanthropic Priorities

- ✓ Connecting people who care with causes that matter
- ✓ Supporting vulnerable Chester County residents
- ✓ Strengthening local nonprofit effectiveness
- ✓ Children, families & community well-being
- ✓ Philanthropy that makes a difference now & forever
- ✓ Partnerships rooted in community relationships

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## Who Are Mission Kids?

Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center provides coordinated services, advocacy, and support to children who have experienced abuse, neglect, trafficking, or witnessed violent crime. It is one of the most important child-protective institutions in our region, serving families across Montgomery County.

Every day, Mission Kids' Family Advocates and therapists work closely with children and caregivers as they navigate some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable. Through those relationships, they come to understand not only the challenges families are facing, but also the interests, goals, and experiences that bring children comfort, confidence, and joy.

These children arrive carrying wounds that no child should ever have to bear. Many have been removed from their homes. Many have witnessed things that haunt their sleep. Many have never in their young lives been told, simply: you matter. And yet — they are still children. They still need to laugh. They still need to feel the rush of catching a pop fly in a Little League game, sitting in a private suite at a Union match, the warmth of new pajamas fresh from a box, or the unforgettable magic of arriving somewhere special in a limousine and feeling, for one shining evening, like the most important person in the world.

“At Mission Kids, we understand that healing does not happen through services alone. Positive experiences, opportunities for connection, and moments of normalcy can play a meaningful role in helping children regain hope after trauma.”

— Leslie Slingsby, MSW, LSW — CEO, Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center

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## In Their Own Words — A Partner's Endorsement

On June 22, 2026, Leslie Slingsby — Co-Chief Executive Officer of Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center — provided a formal letter of endorsement for Little Smiles. Her words speak directly to the value of this investment.

“Since 2024, Little Smiles has become one of our most valued community partners. Their team consistently asks a simple but powerful question: “How can we help?” Time and again, they have transformed that question into meaningful action.”

— Leslie Slingsby, CEO — Mission Kids

“What makes Little Smiles so unique is their willingness to respond to the individual needs of each child. Rather than offering a one-size-fits-all approach, they work alongside our Family Advocates and therapists to create opportunities that help children feel seen, supported, and cared for. Whether funding a summer basketball camp, helping a teenager participate in a senior class trip, providing holiday gifts for families facing financial hardship, or celebrating a birthday for a child who had never experienced one before — Little Smiles finds ways to create moments of joy during incredibly difficult times.”

— Leslie Slingsby, CEO — Mission Kids

“Our team has never viewed Little Smiles as a funder. We view them as a trusted partner in helping children and families move forward after adversity. Their support fills a critical gap that many child-serving organizations cannot address through traditional funding sources — and they do so with remarkable flexibility, compassion, and responsiveness.”

— Leslie Slingsby, CEO — Mission Kids

“The Little Smiles model works because it is rooted in relationships, collaboration, and a genuine commitment to meeting children where they are. We have seen firsthand the difference it has made for Montgomery County families, and we believe children and families in communities throughout our region would benefit tremendously from expanded access to their services and support.”

— Leslie Slingsby, CEO — Mission Kids

## Three Years of Impact — By the Numbers

2023	2024	2025
<b>\$1,052.26</b>	<b>\$10,421.33</b>	<b>\$18,817.84</b>
8 activities	29 activities	38 activities

**Three-Year Grand Total: \$30,291.43 (420 kids)**

## 2023 — The Beginning of Something Beautiful

Little Smiles began its partnership with Mission Kids in 2023 in the most grounded way possible: by listening. What do these children need? What would make a difference today? The answers that first year were beautifully simple.

A sleeping cot so 25 children could rest comfortably. School supplies and backpacks so children could walk into the school year with the same confidence as their peers — a quiet but powerful equalizer. And in December, tickets to the Pennsylvania Ballet, because even children navigating trauma deserve to experience the world’s beauty. Every gift in 2023 sent the same message: someone sees you, and you matter.

Date	Activity / Gift	Kids	Investment
Aug 13, 2023	Sleeping cot (group)	25	\$73.14
Aug 26, 2023	School supplies	1	\$106.10
Oct 30, 2023	Two backpacks	2	\$97.42
Dec 14, 2023	Carpet, wall art, hair ties, Barbies & Barbie Dream House	1	\$178.24

Dec 14, 2023	Reward transportation	1	\$222.78
Dec 14, 2023	Tickets to PA Ballet	2	\$345.40
Dec 16, 2023	Finger skateboards	1	\$10.00
Dec 18, 2023	Gift for Felix	1	\$19.18

**2023 Total Investment: \$1,052.26 (34 kids)**

## 2024 — Bigger Dreams, Bigger Smiles

In 2024, the partnership matured and the scope of impact expanded. Little Smiles helped send a child to summer camp — perhaps their very first. We funded a two-week basketball camp, because healing often happens in motion, in the rhythm of dribbling drills and the camaraderie of a team. We sent a child on their school's senior trip to Disney — a trip their classmates may have taken for granted, but which for this child was a milestone of belonging.

We dressed children up for Halloween, because joy should not require a stable home address. We repaired a bicycle so a child had a way to move through the world freely. We brought holiday magic through Christmas trees, wish lists, and gift cards that let parents invest in something lasting for their families. These are not just gifts. They are building blocks of normal childhood — the kind that resilience is made from.

“We have seen children light up with excitement when given the opportunity to participate in activities alongside their peers, celebrate important milestones, or pursue interests that may have otherwise been out of reach. For children who have experienced trauma, these opportunities can help restore a sense of normalcy, belonging, confidence, and hope.”

— Leslie Slingsby, CEO — Mission Kids

Date	Activity / Gift	Kids	Investment
Mar 19, 2024	Craft supplies (group)	30	\$58.36
May 9, 2024	Summer camp	1	\$620.00
Jun 21, 2024	2-week basketball camp	1	\$569.38
Sep 3, 2024	School trip to Disney	1	\$800.00
Sep 12, 2024	Halloween costumes (group)	10	\$317.87
Sep 15, 2024	Halloween costume	1	\$30.41
Dec 11, 2024	TJ Maxx — Christmas wish list (group)	20	\$499.80
Dec 11, 2024	Target — Barbie Dollhouse	1	\$62.08
Dec 11, 2024	Target — Christmas tree & decorations	1	\$200.28
Dec 12, 2024	Walmart — Holiday gifts	1	\$157.54
Dec 12, 2024	Bike repair (Dom Fixes Bikes)	1	\$772.11

Dec 12, 2024	Amazon — slippers	1	\$50.58
Dec 12, 2024	Amazon — shirt	1	\$46.97
Dec 13, 2024	Amazon — holiday gift	1	\$37.12
Dec 13, 2024	Amazon — holiday gift	1	\$50.58
Dec 13, 2024	Home Depot gift cards — group (20)	20	\$3,469.00
Dec 13, 2024	Home Depot gift cards (2)	2	\$731.80
Dec 13, 2024	Home Depot gift card	1	\$207.95
Dec 13, 2024	Home Depot gift card	1	\$207.95
Dec 13, 2024	Home Depot gift card	1	\$207.95
Dec 13, 2024	Home Depot gift card	1	\$207.95
Dec 16, 2024	Amazon — holiday gift	1	\$316.16
Dec 17, 2024	Amazon — holiday gifts	1	\$55.98
Dec 17, 2024	Amazon — sneakers	1	\$85.00
Dec 17, 2024	Amazon — holiday gifts	1	\$285.52
Dec 20, 2024	Amazon — holiday gift	1	\$55.98
Dec 23, 2024	Amazon — holiday gifts	1	\$31.49
Dec 23, 2024	Amazon — holiday gifts	1	\$198.48
Dec 23, 2024	Amazon — holiday gifts	1	\$87.04

**2024 Total Investment: \$10,421.33 (106 kids)**

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## 2025 — A Year That Moved Mountains

2025 was the most expansive year of the partnership yet — a testament to what is possible when trust between organizations deepens and resources grow. Little Smiles showed up in every season, for children of every age, in ways both grand and tenderly small.

We helped a family move. We put prescription sports glasses on a child who had been trying to play without being able to see clearly. We supported a teenager's participation in a formal gala — arriving by limousine to the Sonesta Hotel, dressed up and celebrated. We gave a child a saxophone, because music opens doors that trauma tries to close.

One hundred children received fidget spinners at a community outreach event. Ten kids cheered together at a Philadelphia Union soccer game — united, laughing, just being kids. A refrigerator was provided for a family who needed one. Crumbl Cookies arrived on ordinary afternoons for no reason except to say: today is a good day. Art supplies. New clothes. And at Christmas, \$4,000 brought the holiday to twenty children who might otherwise have been left out of it.

“Little Smiles recognizes that something as simple as attending camp, joining a sports team, celebrating a birthday, or receiving a special gift can help a child feel like a child again.”

— Leslie Slingsby, CEO — Mission Kids

Date	Activity / Gift	Kids	Investment
Jan 13, 2025	Holiday gifts	1	\$150.82
Jan 13, 2025	Holiday gifts	1	\$119.68
Feb 12, 2025	Sky Zone (indoor trampoline park)	1	\$370.18
Feb 13, 2025	Foot Locker — shoes	1	\$160.00
Mar 24, 2025	Dick's Sporting Goods	1	\$36.19
Mar 24, 2025	Dick's Sporting Goods	1	\$87.91
Mar 25, 2025	Dick's Sporting Goods	1	\$134.46
Mar 26, 2025	Stars Ball at Sonesta Hotel (gala outing)	1	\$575.57
Mar 28, 2025	Dick's Sporting Goods	1	\$351.91
Apr 6, 2025	Oakley prescription sports glasses	1	\$309.50
Apr 15, 2025	Limousine outing	1	\$783.75
Apr 23, 2025	Moving assistance — All My Sons Moving	1	\$100.00
Apr 25, 2025	Moving assistance — All My Sons Moving	1	\$846.50
May 9, 2025	Amazon — pajamas	1	\$77.18
May 9, 2025	Amazon — refrigerator	1	\$402.79
May 10, 2025	Amazon — Play-Doh	1	\$23.31
Jun 1, 2025	Amazon — games (group)	20	\$357.99
Jun 3, 2025	Amazon — game wheel & Dum Dums (group)	20	\$356.23
Jun 3, 2025	Amazon — fidget spinners (group)	20	\$657.34
Jun 16, 2025	4Imprint — fidget spinners (large group, 100 kids)	100	\$3,235.71
Jun 17, 2025	Airline ticket	1	\$1,250.00
Jun 26, 2025	Visa gift cards (group)	20	\$511.90
Jul 11, 2025	Philadelphia Union soccer game (group outing)	10	\$1,342.40
Jul 21, 2025	Crumbl Cookies treat	1	\$41.36
Aug 7, 2025	Crumbl Cookies treat	1	\$28.29
Aug 19, 2025	GOAT sweatshirt	1	\$130.95
Aug 31, 2025	Clothing & shoes	1	\$273.23
Sep 2, 2025	Alo Yoga sweatshirt	1	\$138.00
Sep 5, 2025	Hollister — clothing	1	\$89.93

Sep 5, 2025	Nike — clothing	1	\$135.91
Sep 9, 2025	Sterling Limo to Philadelphia Union game	1	\$474.38
Nov 3, 2025	Clothes	1	\$475.27
Nov 12, 2025	Dunkin' Donuts — group snack run (FFR)	20	\$93.09
Nov 12, 2025	Dunkin' Donuts — group snack run (FFR)	20	\$30.37
Nov 29, 2025	Art supplies	1	\$47.99
Nov 29, 2025	Christmas wish list gifts	2	\$386.35
Dec 12, 2025	Saxophone	1	\$231.40
Dec 18, 2025	Christmas gifts — group (20)	20	\$4,000.00

**2025 Total Investment: \$18,817.84 (280 kids)**

## What a Smile Does — The Case for Investment

A smile is not a small thing. For a child who has experienced trauma, a genuine smile — produced by something genuinely wonderful — is neurologically real. It interrupts hypervigilance, the exhausting state of constant alert that trauma imposes on a child’s nervous system. It builds positive memory. It restores a child’s sense of safety in the world.

The children served through Mission Kids are Montgomery County children. They will grow up there, or they will not, depending in part on whether the community around them showed up for them in their hardest moments. Little Smiles has been part of that showing up. The Chester County Community Foundation, through this grant, would be part of that showing up too, so that Little Smiles can begin our important work for the kids and families of Chester County.

There is no one-size-fits-all program, no overhead-heavy initiative. A Mission Kids Family Advocate identifies a need. Little Smiles responds. A child receives something they needed — a pair of sneakers, a camp registration, a birthday celebration, a refrigerator. The loop is tight, the accountability is clear, and the impact is immediate and lasting. Every dollar of a CCCF grant reaches a child. That is our promise.

“On behalf of Mission Kids, I offer my strongest endorsement of Little Smiles and their efforts to grow their impact. Their work brings hope, joy, and opportunity to children who need it most, and our community is stronger because of it.”

— Leslie Slingsby, MSW, LSW — CEO, Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center

The Chester County Community Foundation connects people who care with causes that matter — so their philanthropy makes a difference now and forever. Little Smiles — and the children who need to smile most— are exactly that cause.

Little Smiles | Making Smiles Happen

Mission Kids Partnership Report | Prepared June 2026

**Grant Application to Chester County Community Foundation | Request: \$10,000**

Partner Reference: Leslie Slingsby, MSW, LSW | Mission Kids CAC | 484-687-2990 | [www.missionkidscac.org](http://www.missionkidscac.org)