



CFMC Grant Application

COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION FOR FUNDING REQUESTS FOR THE Community Foundation of Middlesex County Competitive Cycle.

Instructions: Complete the application on the website. You may "Save and Continue Later" - the site will email you a link which is active for 30 days. Review instructions document for full details before completing. Complete all questions.

Section V requires certain documents to be uploaded to the form - see the Application Instructions Document for a list of the required items. All items must be uploaded as PDF Files. The CFMC Budget Summary form is available on the website in Word. This document must be submitted as PDF file as well.

I. Application Information

Legal Name of Organization

Ray of Light Farm, Inc.

Division or Department Name (if applicable)

Other Tax Exempt Entity?

Are you a 501(c)3 Organization

Yes

EIN #

30-0180645

If your organization is not a 501(c) 3 tax exempt entity or division/department of a 170(c)1 government agency or religious organization, please contact Thayer Talbott, 860.347.0025, for further information before completing the application.

Total Cost associated with request \$

50,000

Dollar Amount Requested \$

5,000

Summary Statement

The grant will help fund the Horse Feathers Veterans Program which is a program that pairs veterans and first responders with rescue horses and other animals. The intent is to promote wellness for both the participants and the animals, including those who may be affected by physical trauma or post-traumatic stress.

II. Funding Request Information

1. Proposal / Purpose

Horse Feathers Veterans Program began in 2015 as a program that pairs veterans and first responders with rescue horses and other animals. The intent is to promote wellness for both the participants and the animals, including those who may be affected by physical trauma or post-traumatic stress. Ray of Light Farm is proud to offer no-cost services in an area of great need for our country's veterans, first responders, and their extended families. The program runs on a weekly basis on Wednesday mornings with the exception of extreme heat or cold weather conditions, and regular attendance is between 15-25 veterans/first responders per week. A number of participants come from the Rocky Hill Veterans Home which provides their transportation. There are a few private citizens providing additional transportation when it is needed. We will do whatever is necessary for our participants to continue being part of the program.

(We also provide food, gardening needs, grooming supplies and tack.)

The Horse Feathers program is facilitated by one staff member and six dedicated volunteers. Two of the volunteers are former veteran participants who have moved their skill levels up enough to become mentors to the veterans group. There are 4 horses and one mule involved in the driving portion of the program and 6 horses, two donkeys, and one mule who are not under cart but are partners to the veterans in hand. Our animals are primarily rescues that may have issues that often parallel those in the participants. This is why connecting with an animal can be so powerful. These sensitive animals will often mirror the behaviors of a veteran/first responder that he or she has not been aware of, and act as a calming presence when they connect.

The horses, donkeys and mules that participate in Horse Feathers are primarily for the program and are experienced and friendly animals. In addition, for those who would like to interact with other animals, we offer a variety such as llamas, sheep, guinea pigs, rabbits, goats, turkeys, ducks, chickens and a few others.

Now, with Horse Feathers entering its 9th year, we have come to recognize that opening our farm to the needs of our most fragmented veterans developed into so much more than what we initially expected. Even though we still promote our equine assisted programs, and many participants come for that aspect, we've discovered that there are other options that the farm has to offer that has attracted veterans and first responders on other days of the week as well. Our activities now include:

- Grooming, walking, horse turnout and basic animal care
- Driving horses/mules in carts
- Cultivating and managing the Veterans garden
- Helping with facility maintenance
- Participating in get-togethers such as picnics, holiday parties, etc.
- Off-site field trips
- Working towards becoming a volunteer

Our biggest rewards from the program are that the participants keep coming back and that they have become a vital part of the farm family.

2. Sustainability and Assessing Impact

We have learned that over the existence of the program there has been a consistency of participation. When we think there is a dip in attendance, it is only very temporary. Many of our Veterans have been with us since the beginning which tells us that they are still deriving benefit from our program. The program will not only continue, but will continue to grow in participation and visibility.

We would attribute the continued success of the program to the perseverance and dedication of our volunteers. The volunteers and participants are now going out into the community to bring awareness of the program to those who might benefit. An example of a very positive outcome is that this year employees and owners of Reynolds Subaru prepared a home cooked Thanksgiving dinner for the member of the Horse Feathers Family. They not only cooked the meal, but delivered it and served

it. This was a sure sign that we are becoming an important part of the community.

III. Grant Program / Project Information

Organization Area of Impact (choose ONE)

Public / Social Benefit (Civic Improvement/ Social Service)

Grant Type (choose ONE)

Select ONE (1)

Target Demographics (Select all that apply):

- Adults
- Families
- Retirees
- Veterans
- Animals

Geographic Area(s) Served By This Application:

- Chester
- Clinton
- Cromwell
- Deep River
- East Haddam
- East Hampton
- Essex
- Haddam
- Killingworth
- Middletown
- Old Saybrook
- Portland
- Westbrook

Total Number of People in Middlesex County Personally Impacted

45-50

IV. Organization Information

Board of Directors / Trustees Information

Percent (%) of Directors/Trustees who contribute annually to Operations

100%

Total Number of Directors/Trustees:

9

Average number attending in person:

8

Total Number of Board meetings held last year:

12

Year of Return:

2022

Date most recent IRS Form 990 was filed:

9/21/2023

Organization's Total Operating Budget

540000

Organization's Fiscal Year

Jan 1 - Dec 31

Division Operating Budget Information**National Organization Chapter Information****Did you RECEIVE a competitive process grant in the:**

- 2020-2021 process
- 2021-2022 process
- 2022-2023 process (fall 2022 or spring 2023)

Brief Background Statement of the Organization:

Ray of Light Farm is a non-profit animal rescue, sanctuary, and animal-assisted therapy center committed to helping people make a positive connection with life through animals.

Since inception it has been proactive in designing educational programs that teach cooperative relationships between humans and animals focusing on a reverence for all life. The wonderful side effect of these methods is that they have the same healing effect on the participants and observers.

Ray of Light Farm has become well known, not only in Connecticut, but also on a national and international level. Our goal is to continue to serve our community well into the future.

V. Additional Information To Be Included with the Application

Please Note: Additional information requested below MUST be uploaded in PDF files. Other document formats will not be accepted by the application form. Attempts to upload other file formats could result in a loss of all application data entered.

A. Current Organization Operations Budget (Required)

- 2024-Operating-Budget-Ray-of-Light-Farm-Inc.pdf

B. Board of Directors and Officers List (Required)

- 2024-Board-of-Directors-Ray-of-Light-Farm-Inc.pdf

C. IRS Tax Exempt Determination Letter

- 2024-IRS-Letter-of-Determination.pdf

D. For Program/Project Requests only - CFMC Budget Summary Form:

- 2024-Summary-Budget-Ray-of-Light-Farm-Inc.pdf

E. Organizations serving a region greater than Middlesex County - county-based budget summary:

F. America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

No

ARPA Funding detail

Additional financial documentation, including the organization's most recent audit, annual report, and IRS Form 990 may also be required. Only provide this information if requested.

For programs or projects which are collaborations among two or more organizations or where an organization provides in-school or after-school programming for schools, the Community Foundation requires a list of organizations or schools partnering with your organization as well as Letters of Support.

For the purposes of this application, collaborations are defined as partnerships where two or more agencies are committed through staffing, funding, and resource allocation to the goals and objectives of the program described. Because the nature of the collaboration requires two or more entities to work together, for the purposes of funding, only one organization may complete the application, and in doing so, accepts responsibility for all evaluative and fiduciary reporting.

For all collaborations, the Community Foundation requires letters of support from the non-applicant organization(s) and/or from the school(s) and school district(s) at which the applicant organization is the program.

Is this application in collaboration with a School(s) or School District(s)?

No

Is this application a collaboration of two or more nonprofit organizations (NOT schools)?

No

If this is an On-Going Collaboration, how long has the collaboration existed?

If Yes, is this a New or On-Going Collaboration?

List of Collaborators

Letters of Support (if a collaboration with schools or other nonprofits))

VI. Organization Contact Information

Are you a new nonprofit applicant to the Community Foundation?

No

Title

Board Chair

Executive Officer's Name

Theresa Roddy

Executive Officer Email

theresa.rodny@gmail.com

Phone

(857) 222-7512

Title

Treasurer

Contact Person

Patricia (Patsy) Limon

Application Contact Email

patsylimon@icloud.com

Phone

(310) 329-3280

Mailing Address

Ray of Light Farm, Inc.
232 Town Street
East Haddam, Connecticut 06423
United States

Street Address

Connecticut
United States

Website

<http://www.rayoflightfarm.org>

Social Media Channels

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/RayOfLightFarm> - Instagram [rayoflightfarmllc](#)

VII. Non-Funding Needs

Our goal is to continue to grow the Horse Feathers Veterans Program to include more veterans in the surrounding communities. Any insights that CFMC could provide which would widen our area of outreach would be greatly appreciated. We have found our program to be very well received by all involved and the outcomes have been incredibly rewarding. Our goal is to share this with even more that would benefit from the program.

VIII. Marketing and Public Relations

Organizations receiving grants from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County must promote their funding awards according to the marketing and public relations guidelines established by the Community Foundation. By signing the application below, the CEO/Executive Director understands the Community Foundation's marketing and public relations requirements if awarded a grant. The Community Foundation will host a seminar on marketing guidelines and tips for grantees annually. The Community Foundation's Grantee Communications Kit may be downloaded on our website in the Nonprofit Resources section, middlesexcountycf.org/nonprofits/resources/forms-pr-guidelines/.

IX. Tax Exempt Standing and Use of Grant Funding Certification

By signing this application, the CEO/Executive Director/Board President is certifying that your organization is a qualified 501c3 organization or other charitable organization recognized and currently in good standing with the IRS, or 170(c)(1) governmental agencies. Should a grant be approved by the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, these funds may only be used for the purpose outlined in your original application; you must notify us if you are unable to do so. If grant funding is provided, you may only use these funds for charitable purpose as described in Section 170(c)2 of the IRS code, and funds may not be used for any political or lobbying activity. In addition, no tangible benefits, goods or services may be received by our donors or by staff members of the Community Foundation of Middlesex County in exchange for grant funding.

Signature Certification

I certify that my printed name as stated and assigned below constitutes my signature and may be accepted as such.

Title

Treasurer and Member of the Board of Directors

Printed Name

Patricia Limon

Date

03/04/2024