



Women's Giving Circle

Grant Application

I. Contact Information

Name of organization:	Catholic Charities Corporation – Disability Services & Ministries
Name, title of individual who can answer questions about this application.	Lynn Berner, Senior Grants Specialist
Mailing address:	7911 Detroit Avenue Cleveland, OH 44102
Phone number:	216-319-1007
Email address:	lynn.berner@ccdogle.org
Organization website and social media:	www.ccdogle.org @ccdogle – LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, X/Twitter

II. Organization Information

Tax ID Number: <i>Attach an IRS status determination letter and most current IRS Form 990</i>	34-1318541
History of organization: <i>Please include the following: how many years you have been a non-profit, if you are partnering with other organizations, provide information about them.</i>	<p>Fr. Charles LeBlond (later became a Bishop) opened the first Catholic Charities office in Cleveland at East 9th and Prospect Avenue in March 1912. Catholic Charities Corporation's ("Catholic Charities") early years consisted of four orphanages, one infant home, nine Catholic hospitals, a home for working boys, a home for working girls, a home for dependent women, and a home for the aged. Over the last 111 years, Catholic Charities has grown to become one of the largest social services organizations in Northeast Ohio, meeting the needs of people across the lifespan in the eight counties of the Diocese of Cleveland: Cuyahoga, Summit, Lorain, Medina, Ashland, Wayne, Lake, and Geauga. We provide comprehensive services at our three family centers in Cleveland, adoption and foster care services, behavioral health services, and emergency assistance services. We also offer specific programs to meet the unique needs of vulnerable populations, including older adults, at-risk teens, families of incarcerated parents, children and adults with disabilities, and migrants and refugees.</p>
Mission of the organization:	<p>Under the leadership of the Bishop of Cleveland and inspired by the Gospel, our mission continues the mission of Jesus by responding to those in need through an integrated system of quality services designed to respect the dignity of every person and build a just and compassionate society.</p>
Leadership of organization: <i>Please attach composition of organization's staff and Board of Directors, including names and titles</i>	<p>A current Organization Chart of the leadership of Catholic Charities and our most recent Board of Directors list are attached.</p>
Sources of organizational funding:	<p>Catholic Charities' sources of organizational funding include the Catholic Charities Annual Appeal, government contracts, primarily state and local, United Way in Greater Cleveland and other counties within the Diocese, community foundations, affiliated and donor-advised funds, and individual donations through #WeGiveCatholic and other giving opportunities.</p>

III. Project/Program Description

Project Overview – <i>Describe the specific purpose of the project and how funds will be spent.</i>	Catholic Charities Disability Services & Ministries seeks \$15,000 for the Enhanced Access project at Camp Happiness for summer 2025. Camp Happiness will expand its seasonal staff to add 4 one-on-one assistants for a small number of youth who would not otherwise be able to participate due their higher level of need. Camp Happiness usually maintains a 4:1 ratio, but recently it has received interest from a growing number of families of youth with more intense needs. For example, with 1:1 assistants, it will be able to welcome youth with cerebral palsy. This added capacity also improves access to the camp for youth with low-functioning autism, which can lead to behavioral challenges that might disrupt the experience for other campers. These campers will join the larger group for the transformative experience of summer camp. Camp Happiness also will be able to keep its tight-knit and relaxed atmosphere, without turning away these families. All campers will benefit, as they join staff in welcoming the new campers, who might need that extra help. Camp Happiness also has added a weekly music program that adapts to a cohort with a wide range of needs. The weekly “cardio-drumming” sessions leverage the power of music to help youth overcome sensory and mobility challenges and just have fun. The Enhanced Access project aligns with our mission to welcome in and celebrate people with different abilities in our community. It is an ideal way to prepare for Camp Happiness’s 60 th year in 2026!
Project Details – <i>What do you hope to achieve? Why is the project needed? Who will participate in your project? What specific activities will you do to achieve your goals?</i>	<p>Camp Happiness is a six-week summer day camp for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and mobility limitations (ML), ages 5-18. Camp Happiness will provide a fun, enriching, traditional camp experience for 20-25 campers per week with a wide range of abilities. With the addition of four one-on-one assistants, Camp Happiness can enroll youth with more intense needs, including youth with autism and cerebral palsy. The project promotes the inclusion of youth with higher needs, through welcome and accommodation. Together, the youth will discover arts, crafts, groups, music, and swimming, all adapted to meet their unique needs and abilities. Campers gain confidence and affirmation of their talents and interests, and the value they bring to the larger community. They also make friends with peers and our dedicated adult staff.</p> <p>Each week, campers will participate in “CardioDrumming,” which builds on children’s natural love of music and dance to help them develop cardiovascular health, range of motion, endurance, strength, flexibility, coordination and body awareness. Skilled recreational therapists from Rec2Connect guide all campers, whether they are sitting, standing, or fidgeting, in music and drumming. Campers also will learn how to do these “moves” at home, which promotes independence and transferable skills to a variety of other environments. Camp Happiness also includes all campers in weekly community outings, for enrichment and access to the natural and cultural wonders of the region, with accommodations and supports.</p>

<p>Organizational Capacity – <i>Who will staff your project? What are the qualifications of your staff? What experience does your organization have that will support the project's success? How does the project help your organization meet its mission?</i></p>	<p>Camp Happiness has operated since 1966, as a flagship program of Catholic Charities Disability Services & Ministries. In addition to Camp Happiness, Disability Services & Ministries provides adult social and educational programs, including Wellness Warriors, and community events for people with disabilities and the whole community. It supports parishes and Catholic schools with their efforts to include people with disabilities, such as assistance with sacramental preparation, and school trainings and workshops.</p> <p>Megan Bonilla will serve as Program Coordinator for Camp Happiness, and Kayti Hedberg is the Camp Coordinator. This is Megan's first year leading the Camp Happiness team, but she has led programs at Disability Services & Ministries since 2022. There will be three part-time senior counselors and 17 counselors. Marilyn Scott, Director for Disability Services & Ministries, has supervised Camp Happiness since 2004 and has been with Catholic Charities since 1992.</p> <p>All staff are CPR and first-aid certified, and lifeguards are American Red Cross Certified.</p>
<p>Project Evaluation – <i>What are your specific measurable outcomes for this project? What criteria will you use to measure your success?</i></p>	<p>Our specific measurable outcomes are for all campers, regardless of ability, to experience social-emotional growth and development, discover new interests and talents, gain confidence, engage in healthy activity, make friends, and have fun. Each year, we give families a customer experience survey to assess whether we have achieved our desired outcomes.</p>
<p>Project Sustainability – <i>What are your plans for continuing this project after your grant cycle ends?</i></p>	<p>Disability Services will continue to expand access to youth with more intense needs, building on the success of the Enhanced Access project. We anticipate steady interest from families in this expansion.</p> <p>As we enter our 60th year in 2026, we have strong funding partners. In particular, the Annual Appeal is an anchor for this ministry, given its long and trusted role for this community. We also are blessed with donations through #WeGiveCatholic, the International Order of the Alhambra, and our TopGolf fundraising event. Our grants team also is working with us to secure more funding for Camp Happiness and our adult programming, particularly Wellness Warriors.</p> <p>We have a long-standing partnership with Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Ohio Opportunities of Developmental Disabilities, and Family and Children First Council, and we work with these agencies to facilitate any funding or reimbursement that is available to the families whom we serve.</p>

<p>Partnerships – <i>Do you plan to partner with another organization(s)? If yes, please describe the partnership arrangement(s).</i></p>	<p>This request includes funding support for the adaptive “CardioDrumming” experience. For this experience, we will partner with Rec2Connect. Rec2Connect is a local provider of recreational therapy services to individuals with and without disabilities.</p>
--	--

IV. Project/Program Funding

Requested Funding:	\$15,000
Brief Narrative of Project Budget <i>indicate how WGC funds will be used.</i> <i>Attach project budget. Include all committed and anticipated funding for the project and the project's expenses, itemized by category e.g. salaries with F.T.E.</i>	<p>Camp Happiness will use \$14,000 of grant funds for the four one-on-one assistants for campers with higher needs. Your support will allow us to make this a known and structured opportunity for certain applicants. We also will use \$1,000 of a grant to support the cost of services provided by Rec2Connect.</p> <p>Please note that on our attached budget "Net Asset Release Revenue" refers to grants that are restricted to specific programs or projects. Also, fees for Rec2Connect are included as "program supplies."</p>