

**Barclay Friends Proposal to
Friends Foundation for the Aging
March 2022**

Executive Summary

Barclay Friends is requesting support from the Friends Foundation for the Aging to help us acquire a new bus for community excursions. Especially since the onset of the pandemic, our residents have been struggling with isolation from the world outside our campus. Now that the pandemic is receding and our residents are vaccinated, they are eager to re-engage with the larger community and engage in stimulating excursions. This new bus will enable more of our residents to benefit from these trips, while comfortably and safely accommodating those who use wheelchairs and other bulky equipment.

Brief statement of organization's history and competence for this effort. In order to advance equity, please include a description of the diversity of your organization's leadership staff, board, and people served.

Barclay Friends has served as a Quaker-based continuing care community in West Chester, Pennsylvania for over 120 years. We aspire to the highest professional and humanitarian standards while providing care and services in a supportive, homelike, and compassionate atmosphere.

With the support of our Caring Fund, we are able to accept Medicaid-insured residents and continue to support them throughout their lives. No one ever needs to leave our care due to inability to pay. We are currently seeking to diversify our Board's membership in order to bring new voices to our leadership and better reflect the community we serve.

1. What problem are you addressing? Include need statement, why this solution was chosen, and a description of the people to be served.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a difficult time for senior living communities, as older persons are among the most vulnerable populations affected by the virus. Keeping our residents and staff safe has been our topmost priority during the past year and a half. However, the social isolation and distancing guidelines we have needed to observe to stay safe have been difficult on our residents. Social connection and external stimulation are extremely important factors in the health and well being of seniors. Fortunately, in January of 2021, Barclay Friends residents and staff were among the first in our area to receive the Pfizer vaccine. Vaccination allowed our residents gradually and safely to engage with one another and with the outside community.

For many years, Barclay Friends has offered our residents a bus to take them on regular trips and outings. This transportation has been an important element of our program to help residents connect with the outside world. For example, residents have visited Elmwood Zoo, Marsh Creek, and Highland Orchards – just to name a few. With visits to local parks, residents have the opportunity to sit outside and enjoy a picnic with fellow residents. Some residents have treasured the opportunity to take a scenic ride through their old hometown and by old familiar

locations they frequented when younger. Recreation staff have also hosted scenic tours during which they present nature or culture talks to participating residents. Our residents enjoy a drive to see the holiday lights in December, and (pre-COVID) taking in a local baseball game or a play at a local school. We are currently discussing a possible partnership with our local YMCA, to see whether we can offer our residents access to water aerobics classes.

Our current bus was gifted to us by our friends at Kendal Crosslands Communities in Kennett Square. While we were grateful for their donation, the bus is too small for our current needs, does not have adequate space to accommodate individuals in wheelchairs, and lacks storage for wheelchairs. In addition, with the recent opening of the Preston personal care building, the number of outings has increased as new residents have joined our community. With the pandemic easing and our residents vaccinated, we feel we must offer a better option to the many people here who are eager to once again re-engage with the larger community.

2. What action(s) will you do?

Our goal for the coming year is to purchase a new bus that will seat 14 passengers comfortably, and which will have a number of benefits:

- Easy to drive (no commercial license needed) with a small wheelbase for easy turning
- Electric door, entry steps, and a wheelchair lift
- Wide aisle and comfortable individual seats
- Wheelchair securement system
- Storage in back for wheelchairs and other items
- Air conditioning
- Audio-visual equipment for communicating with passengers
- Backup camera and other safety equipment
- 5 year/100,000 mile warranty.

With a new and larger bus, we look forward to being able to host more residents on outings, including more individuals who use a wheelchair. We hope to purchase this vehicle or one much like it: <https://nwbus.com/inventory/shuttle-buses-for-sale/2022-ford-starcraft-starquest-14-passenger-w-rear-luggage-21074/>

3. What other organizations will you partner with on this project?

This vehicle will cost approximately \$75,000. We have a \$35,000 grant in hand from the McLean Contributionship to support the purchase of the bus. Barclay Friends is reaching out shortly to several additional funders who we will ask to support the bus purchase in smaller amounts (see attached project budget). However, with a grant of \$25,000 from the Friends Foundation, we will move forward with the purchase immediately. With your support, we can safely ensure a better quality of life for our residents and engage them once again with the larger community and all of the enrichment opportunities it offers.

4. What specific, measurable outputs do you expect?

This vehicle will make it possible for us to increase the number of trips we can take with our residents, and also expand the number of residents who are able to join trips like these, thanks to the expanded wheelchair storage the new bus will offer. We anticipate going on at least weekly trips in the new vehicle, generally starting in the spring with warmer weather. Approximately 250 residents will be able to join these trips in the new, larger vehicle (some individuals on multiple trips). This number may be impacted by ongoing staffing shortages, but we are hopeful to be able to schedule a busy roster of outings for our residents despite the challenges.

5. What outcomes do you expect? What change will occur, and what impact will it have?

This vehicle will improve the social engagement of our residents, both between one another and between each and the larger community. Research on senior health clearly shows that social engagement yields much improved health outcomes, and we hope that the social engagement we can offer with the help of this bus will improve the quality of life for our residents.

6. How will you measure outputs and outcomes, both quantitative and qualitative?

Our Director of Recreation, Elsabet Haile, is the Barclay Friends staff person responsible for the coordination of our residents' activities, including outside excursions. She will track both the number of excursions and the number of residents who benefit from them across personal care and skilled care. In addition, we will gather informal feedback from residents after trips, both to determine the trips' benefit to our residents and to make adjustments if necessary for the improvement of our excursion programming.

7. How will you sustain the project after the grant period?

Once purchased, the routine costs of insurance and upkeep will be included in Barclay Friends' operating budget. Purchasing the bus rather than leasing or contracting for individual trips allows us to keep the bus as an ongoing asset, eliminating annual lease costs and giving us much more flexibility to spontaneously use the bus for outings. We want to provide our residents with the same option people living independently have: to organize and go on trips when they wish.

The bus will therefore remain an asset to Barclay Friends after its purchase. In the unlikely event that we were to go out of business, our entire operations, including the bus, would be sold to its buyer.

8. How will your results be shared and replicated?

Barclay Friends will be pleased to share photos of the new bus and news of excursions we will take in it on our social media and in a press release, including sharing our appreciation of the foundation funders who made this purchase possible.

9. How does this project fit with Friends Foundation values?

The purchase of this bus will be a major step for us, essentially reconnecting the seniors who live at Barclay Friends with each other and with the outside world. By so doing, we feel we are fulfilling the Friends Foundation's values of enhancing their quality of life and fostering their independence and dignity. As a Quaker institution, these are our values as well, and the residents who live here appreciate and expect that we consider their dignity and quality of life foremost in our operations and programs.

10. Attached project budget and timeline, including other sources of support and a budget narrative.

Please see attached project budget form, which enumerates the received and prospective sources of funding for this project. If we receive a grant from the Friends Foundation to bring us to \$60,000 in funding for the bus, we are ready to move immediately on making the purchase.

Friends Association has recently updated our profile on Guidestar.com.

