

Friends Foundation for the Aging

New Grant Proposal Form

Limit 4 pages

Date: 1/13/2025

Organization: Twilight Wish Foundation

TIN & Formal organization name: 73-1670060

Contact name, phone, email: Peter Stinson, peter@twilightwish.org

Amount requested: \$15,000 215-230-8777 ex 101

Project title: wish granting celebrations for low-income seniors in NJ

Summary Description (maximum 25 words): This grant will help us grant basic needs and special experience wishes to 5-15 low-income seniors in NJ.

Please answer the following questions clearly and concisely. See attached.

1. What is the problem you have identified?
2. What is the solution you propose to address the problem?
3. What actions will you take?
4. Describe the population to be served.
5. Are there partners/collaborators for implementation or funding-who? Has the solution been tried by other organizations?
6. How will you know your actions are having an impact? How will you measure outputs and outcomes?

Include a simple **program budget** in the same pdf with expected income and expenses (eg. staff, program supplies, travel, etc)

Attach a copy of your **IRS determination letter**. We may also look at your website, your Guidestar (Candid) profile and your IRS Pub 78 non-profit status or plan a site visit. Please make sure these are up-to-date.



CELEBRATING SENIORS AND

MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE

Friends Foundation for the Aging Grant Proposal:

MISSION: To honor and enrich the lives of seniors through wish-granting celebrations connecting generations.

VISION: To make our world a nicer place to age, one wish at a time.

TAGLINE: "Celebrating Seniors and Making Dreams Come True."

Twilight Wish Foundation – Values Statement

Twilight Wish Foundation's goal is to promote the following core values with every wish it grants:

- **Appreciation**
Twilight Wish Foundation aims to show appreciation to seniors for all that they have accomplished in their lives, whether it be service to their country, service to their community, or simply the everyday actions that have positively influenced their family, friends, and all those around them.
 - **Joy and Celebration**
Twilight Wish Foundation aims to spread joy to seniors and foster a spirit of celebration of their lives.
 - **Honor and Respect**
Twilight Wish Foundation aims to give seniors the honor and respect that they deserve.
 - **Intergenerational Connection**
Twilight Wish Foundation aims to bring generations together so that those who are younger feel a connection with those who have come before them and learn from their experiences.
- *Twilight Wish serves a diverse range of seniors from any ethnic, gender, religious, and geographic (within the United States) background.

Grant questions:

- 1) Senior citizens are the fastest growing population in the world. The number of Americans 65 and older is projected to more than double to over 98 million by 2060. In the U.S. today, one in three seniors older than 65 live alone and the number of seniors living alone only increases with age. Many of these seniors experience social isolation which puts them at risk of developing medical

www.TwilightWish.org

P.O. Box 1042, Doylestown PA 18901 Toll Free 1.877.893.9474 P 215-230-8777 F 215-230-8770

conditions such as high blood pressure and dementia. Granting a Twilight Wish can help change that.

- 2) The solution is through granting wishes to seniors. The mission of Twilight Wish Foundation is to honor and enrich the lives of deserving elderly through wish granting celebrations connecting generations. Our vision is to make the world a nicer place to age, one Twilight wish at a time. Since our founding in 2003, we have granted the lifelong wishes of over 6,600 deserving senior citizens throughout the United States. Twilight Wish grants wishes to seniors, 65 and older, earning less than 200% of poverty level, or who are a permanent resident of a nursing facility. The types of wishes we grant include Simple Needs, Living Life to the Fullest, Celebrating Life, and Special Designation for a Veteran Wish.
- 3) Action items will be to grant wishes to seniors. Examples of our wishes include:
 - Simple Needs for food, clothing, stoves, refrigerators, air conditioners, heaters, mattresses, accessibility items including walkers, wheelchairs, scooters and ramps, visual aids such as glasses and reading equipment; hearing aids to participate in activities and reduce isolation and despair; dentures to smile again and eat healthy fresh fruit and vegetables; etc.
 - Celebrating a Life wishes include meaningful and nostalgic wishes granted for either hospice patients, persons 90 or older, or those recipients with limited life expectancies. These wishes can be for family reunions, visits to hometowns, visits to places of comfort and joy, chances to return to their jobs or careers one more time, and any similar wish that validates and brings joy to the recipient.
 - Living Life to the Fullest wishes include riding on a motorcycle, having a book published, taking a ride in a hot air balloon, having songs listened to by the music industry, riding in a fighter jet, going on a special fishing trip, meeting a famous person, going to the ballgame, and being greeted by favorite players, etc.

60% of the wishes granted fall into the "Simple Needs" category. 1/3 of the total wishes go towards veterans. Twilight Wish positively impacts the way society views and values our oldest generations by fulfilling seniors' wishes and sharing their incredible stories to inspire all ages. Our overall goal is to help inspire a society where aging is embraced, and seniors are celebrated for their achievements and sacrifices. Every wish we grant is helping to build a culture that values and respects our senior population.
- 4) Who qualifies for a wish?
 - Minimum of 65 years old or a permanent resident of an eldercare facility
 - Legal U.S. citizen
 - Annual income of less than 200% of current federal poverty level
 - Demonstrate a history of giving back to others throughout their lives – through service to our nation, community or family.
 - Must have the cognitive, emotional, and physical ability to experience the wish.
- 5) Partners and collaborators include senior living facilities, senior centers, healthcare providers, family members, and volunteers. There are only a handful of organizations throughout the country that provide wishes to seniors, some are specific for hospice patients, some are specific for special experiences and do not assist with basic needs.
- 6) Our Twilight Wish recipients report overwhelmingly that having their wish granted impacted their life for the better. Their mental and physical health often improves, positively changing

www.TwilightWish.org

their outlook on life. Simple Needs Wishes, such as hearing aids, dentures, and lift chairs often have the biggest impact on improving the quality of life for low-income seniors. Items such as these reduce isolation, increase self-esteem, and allow many seniors to continue living on their own.

We measure the impact of our wish granting process with follow-up surveys to wish recipients. With over 52% of our wish recipients responding to these surveys, 90% report that their wish granting improved their outlook on life. In addition, 94% report that having their wish granted changed their life positively and 100% report that they felt cared for and respected.

*Leadership profiles of our board and staff can be found on our website here:

<https://twilightwish.org/our-staff/>.

*Our current footprint has twenty-five Chapters lead by volunteers throughout the country. Our highly qualified, passionate Directors reside and lead their volunteer teams in their respective geographic area whether it be a Chapter that covers a specific County, metropolitan area, or entire State. As part of our request for funding towards New Jersey seniors statewide, Twilight Wish does have a local Chapter located in Bergen County covering Northern NJ.

*An additional \$15,000 would allow us to serve 5-15 seniors with essentials items or a chance to fulfill a lifelong dream. Wish costs average \$500-\$1,500 each. Please contact me if there are any further questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Friends Foundation for the Aging budget

Direct program support- \$12,750

Administrative costs- \$2,250

TOTAL- \$15,000

*Average wish costs are \$500-\$1,500 for each individual wish depending on the request. This request will serve 5-15 low-income seniors throughout New Jersey.

*A full list of our sponsors can be found on our website: <https://twilightwish.org/sponsors/>.

www.TwilightWish.org

P.O. Box 1042, Doylestown PA 18901 Toll Free 1.877.893.9474 P 215-230-8777 F 215-230-8770