

Grant Name	Care Packages & Cards of Hope: Nurturing Whole-Person Care
Mission/Project Summary	Phil's Friends exists to provide Christ-centered support to cancer patients across the United States with free, personalized Care Packages, and ongoing encouragement and prayer.
Project Description and Details	<p>Every month, Phil's Friends delivers thousands of Care Packages and Cards of Hope to individuals who are living with a cancer diagnosis. The items in our Care Packages are intended to provide practical, emotional, and spiritual support and hope.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A Bible, to offer solace and strength for the journey, and to share the life-saving message of Jesus Christ with unbelievers. ● A Journal & Pen, to provide an outlet for thoughts, emotions, and reflections. ● A Blanket, Knitted Hat, & Fuzzy Socks, to provide warmth and comfort during treatments. ● A Puzzle Book, Playing Cards, & Toys, to offer relief and distraction. ● A Port Pillow, to protect the fragile port implanted in patients' shoulders to receive infusions. ● Personal Care Products, to address practical needs and promote self-care (toothpaste, toothbrush, lip balm, tissue, lotion, mouthwash). <p>Afterwards, for a year, cancer patients receive a Card of Hope that includes a joke, intended to bring a smile. These cards are hand decorated and have a personal message written inside intended to uplift and bring hope. Every month, cancer patients are encouraged, knowing that they are not alone in their journey and that Phil's Friends is there to walk alongside them.</p> <p>The cost to support a cancer patient with a Care Package and 12 monthly Cards of Hope is \$125.</p>
The recipient must be affiliated with one of the following. Please select the one that applies to this request:	Registered Service Organization (RSO)
Amount requested:	\$5,000
Project Goals and Objectives	<p>According to the American Cancer Society*, cancer diagnoses are at an "all time high." This year, ACS predicts that 2,041,910 will be newly diagnosed. Of that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 88% will be people 50 years or older ● Approximately 19,000 will be children and teens ● 57% will be people 65 years or older ● Nearly 1 in 3 women are diagnosed ● Women 50 years or younger have an 82% higher rate of being diagnosed than men† ● Nearly 1 in 2 men are diagnosed <p>Cancer patients often experience overwhelming feelings of fear, confusion, and hopelessness; and they crave compassion and comfort beyond the medical setting. Phil's Friends fulfills that need by offering Christ-centered hope, encouragement, and love to help disrupt their dark days.</p> <p>Our program reflects the unique opportunity and privilege we have of</p>

meeting a pressing and spiritually urgent need with the light and life of Jesus Christ. Our Care Packages and Cards of Hope are poignant, tangible reminders to recipients of Jesus' love and compassion.

On an organizational level, as diagnoses increase every year, so too does awareness of our organization and the demand for Care Packages. Since 2006, we have experienced steady increases in requests. Last year, we experienced an unprecedented and unexpected 60% increase in requests.

Our goal for 2026-2028 is to support 22,000 (11,000 each year), at a cost of \$125 per patient.

Budget Outline and Financial Plan

Overall Budget: \$2,040,000

As of November 19, 2025:

Care Package Supplies: \$55,922	Budget: \$69,117
Care Package Shipping: \$78,260	Budget: \$69,117
Card Ministry: \$41,051	Budget: \$31,900
Total Ministry: \$175,233	Budget: \$198,717

Additional Grants:

LWML National Convention: \$100,000 (2025-2027)

Crown Point Community Foundation: \$4,900

Dot Foods: \$2,500

Trinity Lutheran Roselle: \$10,000 (for the purchase of a cargo van)

Christ Community Church: \$6,000

Phil's Friends has a 20-year track record of sustainability—supported by donors, church, school, and business partnerships, and dedicated volunteers nationwide. Our yearly fundraising initiatives, quarterly appeals, recurring donations (both in-kind and monetarily), and various grants ensure that our programs will continue.

A \$5,000 grant from Rocky Mountain District will serve to strengthen and expand our current outreach to 40 patients who live within your District over the next two years.

Additional Comments or Information

Our dedicated volunteers—many who have been touched by cancer, whether personally or by a loved one—spend time at our Hope Centers and satellite locations, as well as at special offsite events, decorating and assembling Care Packages and coloring and writing Cards of Hope.

This strategy maximizes both impact and engagement and offers meaningful support to patients while simultaneously creating purpose-filled opportunities for community members. It fosters a cycle of giving and hope, which uplifts and inspires not only those who receive our Care Packages, but everyone involved in the process.

Through volunteerism, we are able to strengthen local partnerships, increase awareness of the Phil's Friends mission, and demonstrate the power of community-driven support in times of hardship. Ultimately, we hope to build lasting connections and remind everyone that hope is stronger than cancer.

Additionally, based on our nearly 20 years of experience, we know that each Care Package affects not just the initial recipient and volunteers, but the recipient's family members, caregivers, and medical staff—creating a ripple effect of hope and encouragement, and resulting in thousands of individuals being impacted by our program.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

To Whom it May Concern,

I am honored to recommend Phil's Friends for a grant opportunity. This is an exemplary organization serving the needs of cancer care patients.

Phil's Friends continues to demonstrate a profound commitment to serving cancer patients. The organization successfully distributes cancer care packages and provides a card outreach. They serve as a beacon of hope and care for those afflicted with cancer. They promote collaboration with schools and businesses by engaging them in volunteer opportunities to provide donations and decorate and pack boxes and make cards.

This organization has proven itself to being trustworthy, transparent, and committed to high standards over the fifteen plus years that I have had a relationship collaborating with them. They have touched the lives of many with compassion and care.

Thank you for your consideration of a grant.

Sincerely,

Deaconess Dorothy Krans

Director, Recognized Service Organizations

Office of National Mission, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

dorothy.krans@lcms.org

Dear Grant Selection Committee,

It is with both deep conviction and personal gratitude that I write this letter of recommendation in support of Phil's Friends and their grant application.

I have had the honor of serving on the Board of Directors of Phil's Friends since January 2023. As a cancer survivor myself—now 11 years in remission—I know firsthand the spiritual and emotional battle that accompanies a cancer diagnosis. Even with a strong faith in Christ, the weight of doubt, fear, and uncertainty was overwhelming at times. I cannot imagine walking that road without the hope of the Gospel. This is precisely why the mission of Phil's Friends resonates so deeply with me.

Phil's Friends provides Christ-centered support and tangible care through hand-assembled care packages, ongoing Cards of Hope, hospital visits, prayer, and personal connection. Their ministry reaches thousands of individuals battling cancer—believers and non-believers alike—with the message that they are not alone and that hope in Christ is real.

Professionally, I bring an entrepreneurial and operational background to the board. I was a part-owner and Vice President of Operations at Homewerks Worldwide, a successful start-up that achieved over 20% annual growth from 2006 to 2021 before we sold a significant stake to private equity. In 2022, I founded my own consulting firm and now serve as a Chair for Vistage Worldwide, leading executive peer groups and providing one-on-one coaching to business owners and CEOs. I bring this experience in leadership, operations, and strategy to my role with Phil's Friends.

In the past year, I have worked closely with the leadership team to initiate and facilitate a strategic planning process, including refining the organization's Vision and Mission statements, developing a biblical framework for organizational behavior, and laying the foundation for a comprehensive annual budgeting process. This process ties financial stewardship directly to ministry objectives in marketing, donor development, and operational

scalability. I've witnessed firsthand a transformation in the board's culture—from reactive and informal to proactive, strategic, and expansion-minded. We are now actively aligning volunteers with strategic competencies to prepare for scalable growth. Our long-term goal is bold: to deliver 1 million care packages annually. We believe this is possible through a replicable “Hope Center” model, and we are now documenting processes and exploring geographic expansion.

Phil's Friends is poised for a new season of faithful growth and deeper Kingdom impact. Their Gospel-centered mission and operational readiness make them an ideal partner for your mission of advancing the cause of Christ. I wholeheartedly recommend this ministry for your support and would welcome a conversation if you'd like to learn more.

With deep gratitude,
Eric McMillian
eric.mcmillian2@gmail.com

To Whom it May Concern,

Thanks for your consideration of supporting Phil's Friends with a grant.

The Ozinga Foundation supported 650+ organizations last year, one of which was Phil's Friends. We began a relationship with Phil's Friends three years ago and have been very impressed with their impact and stewardship.

Cancer has impacted almost all of our 2,500 coworkers, and we know that when one of them or their family members is battling cancer, Phil and his team are there to help. We cannot recommend Phil's Friends enough, and I hope you are able to support them with this request.

Sincerely,
Eric Holtrop
Director, Ozinga Foundation
ericholtrop@ozinga.com