Charitable Guidelines/Criteria

Purpose
SMPS Central PA seeks to partner with and provide assistance to organizations in which our members are personally involved or find closest to their hearts. We consider these efforts an important way for SMPS Central PA to give back to our communities and their people.

Funding Priorities
SMPS Central PA will support non-profit organizations that fall within three broad categories of interest:

- **Education** – Charities that provide educational programs and services for youths and adults; scholarships and financial support for educational purposes; STEM initiatives, etc.
- **Human Services/Children** – Food banks; homeless services; social services; youth development, shelter, and crisis services; children's and family services, etc.
- **Community Development** – Housing and neighborhood development (e.g., Habitat for Humanity); broad-based community organizations (e.g., United Way); environmental protection/conservation, etc.

Eligible Requests
SMPS Central PA is interested in becoming a true partner in the projects it will support. Successful requests will be programs that provide an opportunity for member volunteerism, address a demonstrated community need, and are from non-profit organizations within the 21 counties that SMPS Central PA serves. Funding requests should produce long-term, tangible results for the communities in which they are implemented.

All requests for funding must:

- Align with one or more of the established SMPS Central PA funding priorities listed above
- Be sponsored by a current member of SMPS Central PA
- Be made via the official SMPS Central PA Charitable Request Form

Proposals will be considered from eligible 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations as defined by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

To be eligible for funding consideration the organization must:

- Serve the community without discrimination on the basis of age, color, citizenship, disability, disabled veteran status, gender, race, religion, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, military service or veteran status, or any other basis prohibited by law
- Keep financial records available for regular independent outside audit and make the results available to all potential contributors
- Comply with applicable laws regarding registration and reporting
- Observe the highest standards of business conduct in its relationships with the public

Ineligible Requests

SMPS Central PA does not provide funding for any of the following:

- Individuals
- Private charities or foundations
- Organizations not exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and not eligible for tax-deductible support
- Corporate donations and/or sponsorships or monetary compensation not associated with a specific project
- Religious organizations directly associated with a church, temple, synagogue, or mosque; SMPS Central PA will consider applications from faith-based organizations whose mission is based in a faith system
- Political causes, candidates, organizations or campaigns
- Organizations that discriminate on the basis of age, color, citizenship, disability, disabled veteran status, gender, race, religion, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, military service or veteran status, or any other basis prohibited by law
- Organizations whose primary purpose is to influence legislation
- Endowments
- Sports sponsorships
- Performing arts tours
- Association memberships