

2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT



The Power of Philanthropy



Who we are | What we do

At the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, we connect donors who care with causes that matter. A leader in charitable giving in the Lehigh Valley for more than 56 years, we receive support from donors, manage funds to grow over time, and make impactful grants to strengthen local nonprofits.



A Respected Thought Leader

With more than five decades of expertise in regional philanthropy, the Community Foundation has taken on a transformative role to address the Lehigh Valley’s most pressing needs. Through research and collaboration, we identify service gaps, convene donors and leaders, and inspire local giving. As a champion of place-based philanthropy, the Foundation promotes integrity, innovation, and lasting community impact.

A Valued Resource to Donors

The Community Foundation offers expert guidance and personalized support to donors, providing a wide range of fund options to meet diverse goals. By fostering connections with nonprofits, we help donors see the direct impact of their generosity. With the EverGreen Fund and a commitment to sustaining legacies, the Community Foundation offers a community-focused alternative to private foundations and for-profit financial services so they can focus their efforts on fulfilling their missions.

A Powerful Partner to Area Nonprofits

The Community Foundation raises awareness of nonprofits’ work, connects leaders, and aligns donors with causes that matter. It invests in capacity-building initiatives like the CORE Fellowship and manages Agency Funds, supporting nonprofits so they can focus on their missions and maximize their impact for the people they serve. In addition to grantmaking, the Foundation provides leadership by fostering collaboration, driving solutions, and empowering the community to address its most pressing challenges.



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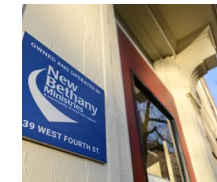
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Growing to **299 Total Funds**

Assets Reached **\$84+ Million**

Added in 2023-24 **9 New Funds**

Supported by **787 Donors**

Received Gifts **\$7.2+ Million**

Total Number of **1,138 Gifts**

Grants/Leadership to the Community **\$8.1+ Million**

Supporting **423 Nonprofits**

Issued **873 Grants**

Message from the Board Chair & President and CEO

The Power of Philanthropy—The fiscal year 2023-24 has been a testament to the incredible power of philanthropy and the enduring impact we can achieve when we come together as a community. Thanks to the dedication of our Staff, the leadership of our Board of Governors, and the commitment of our generous donors and partners, the Foundation continues to thrive as a catalyst for positive change in the Lehigh Valley.

This year, we embraced the power of connection in new and meaningful ways. We are proud to highlight our role in addressing the childcare challenges in the Lehigh Valley. We are going beyond strategic grantmaking to address the early childhood crisis by implementing a multifaceted leadership approach that includes coordination of activities, increasing awareness, and advocating for change. Philanthropy is about harnessing collective energy to create lasting change, and this work exemplifies that mission.

At the heart of all we do is the meaningful effort of connecting people who care to causes that matter. This year, we received \$7.2 million in charitable gifts, a reflection of the shared passion and generosity of our community. We also distributed a total of \$8.1 million in grants and community support, with more than 85% staying within the Lehigh Valley, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to strengthening the region we call home.

We invite you to explore this year’s annual report and discover the stories of impact and innovation that define our work. Share these stories with friends, family, and neighbors, and encourage others to join us in harnessing the power of philanthropy to transform lives and communities.

To our donors, partners, and advocates, we offer our deepest gratitude. Your belief in the power of giving fuels everything we do. Together, we are building a brighter future, one gift at a time.



Anne Reid

Anne Reid
Chair, Board of Governors

Erika Riddle Petrozelli

Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA, CAP®
President & CEO





Addressing the Early Childhood Crisis in the Lehigh Valley

The early childhood sector in the Lehigh Valley is in crisis, with profound impacts on families, communities, and the economy. This crisis costs Pennsylvania \$6.65 billion annually, affecting labor force participation, family finances, and children’s learning outcomes. Root causes include disparities in educator salaries, a lack of a sustainable educator pipeline, and fragile business models for childcare centers. Without action, the region faces more program closures, parents leaving the workforce, increased family poverty, and unsafe childcare alternatives.

The Crisis in Numbers

Recent data from 38 childcare providers in Lehigh and Northampton Counties reveals:

- 93 closed childcare classrooms
- 156 unfilled staff positions
- 1,014 more children could be served if fully staffed
- 6,302 eligible children lack access to publicly funded pre-k

Lehigh Valley Community Foundation | Role in Solutions

As a leader in early childhood support, the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation is driving systemic change through collaboration, advocacy, and funding. LVCF’s response is centered on four key pillars:

Coordination and Convening

LVCF played a vital role in the [City of Allentown’s \\$20M Recompete Plan](#), which supports childcare services and workforce development. LVCF’s **Megan Briggs**, Vice President of Community Investments, led the childcare strategy, aimed at increasing access to quality care. LVCF also serves as the convener of the [Early Childhood Action Collaborative](#), uniting stakeholders to improve access, workforce development, and policy reform.

Raising Awareness

LVCF raises awareness through strategic events and partnerships. By working with the Early Childhood Action Collaborative and the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, LVCF brings the crisis to the forefront at regional forums. Collaborative events with Carbon and Monroe County community foundations further spotlight the issue and engage new stakeholders.

Advocacy and Policy Change

LVCF’s advocacy efforts aim to change regulations, increase funding, and influence public policy. By supporting community organizations advocating for better regulations, LVCF ensures systemic solutions with lasting impact.

Strategic Grantmaking

In 2023-24, [LVCF granted over \\$190,000](#) to nonprofits serving youth and families. Funding priorities included:

High-Quality Childcare Centers: Support for improved infrastructure, staff retention, and expanded access.

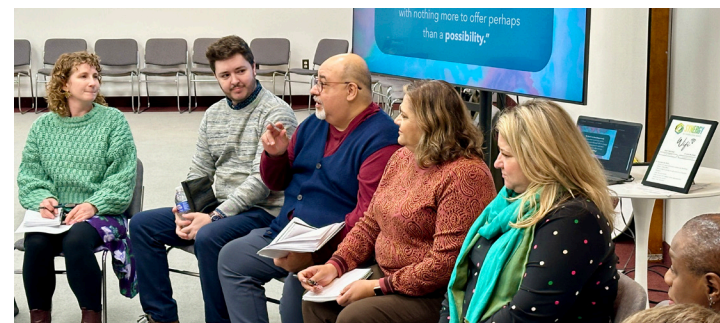
Behavioral and Mental Health: Resources for providers to support children with high mental health needs.

Advocacy and Policy Reform: Investments in organizations driving policy change to support the childcare sector.

Impact and the Path Forward

LVCF’s leadership has yielded meaningful outcomes. Federal funding through the Recompete Plan, expanded grantmaking, and coalition-building initiatives are strengthening the early childhood ecosystem. Investments are improving childcare access, supporting workforce development, and reshaping the conversation around early childhood as a community and economic priority.

The road ahead requires sustained investment, policy reform, and collective action. By strengthening partnerships and mobilizing the community, LVCF is helping to build a sustainable, thriving early childhood system that benefits children, families, and the entire Lehigh Valley economy.



Leading the Charge for Equity-Centered Capacity Building

The CORE Fellowship, described as a “movement of love-centered leadership” by Co-Designer Guillermo Lopez, is transforming the Lehigh Valley through equity-driven leadership. By fostering inclusion and community cohesion, the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation is nurturing leaders to prioritize equity within themselves, their organizations, and the nonprofit sector—driving systemic change that extends beyond individual participants in the Fellowship.

Launched in 2022, the CORE Fellowship is a two-year program designed to empower nonprofit leaders to “reimagine” their roles in advancing equity and justice. Through leadership development, cohort convenings, and equity assessments, participants build the knowledge and tools to disrupt systemic racism. To date, 58 leaders from 37 organizations—including nonprofits, corporations, higher education, and government agencies—have engaged with the fellowship. This cross-sector approach strengthens connections and shared accountability for advancing equity. Cohort Two began its equity journey in 2023-24.

Addressing Systemic Inequities in the Lehigh Valley

While the Lehigh Valley is known for its natural beauty and strong industry, disparities in education, home-ownership, and health outcomes persist—especially for communities of color. CORE directly addresses these inequities, encouraging leaders to confront racism in real time. Participants report heightened confidence in identifying and addressing inequities, and cross-sector partnerships have emerged as a result. By promoting shared leadership and collaborative problem-solving, CORE aims to create lasting systemic change.

Impact on Organizations and Communities

The ripple effects of the CORE Fellowship extend beyond individual participants. Organizations like Pinebrook Family Answers, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lehigh Valley, and New Bethany Ministries are embedding equity into their daily operations. Pinebrook has placed therapists in schools and partnered with police departments to offer social services, while Big Brothers Big Sisters has adopted youth-centered program design. New Bethany Ministries has revised its policies to better serve housing-insecure clients with dignity and respect. These changes illustrate how organizations can shift their internal policies to prioritize equity, creating lasting impact for the communities they serve.

CORE’s influence extends across the broader nonprofit, corporate, and public sectors. Institutions like Lehigh University, Zoellner Arts Center, and United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley are embedding equity into their leadership, grantmaking, and hiring practices. Bethlehem, for instance, hired its first Director of Equity and Inclusion as a result of this growing movement. This sector-wide shift is transforming how leadership tables are structured—ensuring that they reflect the diverse voices and lived experiences of the communities they serve. The program empowers organizations to turn learning into tangible action. For example, JustBorn Quality Confections revised its grantmaking process to fund roles like a Criminal Justice Navigator, and the City of Bethlehem adopted an equity-focused strategy for distributing federal American Rescue Plan funds.



Financial Investment and Sustainability

Since 2022, LVCF has invested nearly \$1.2 million into CORE Fellowship initiatives. Each participating organization receives a \$25,000 grant—\$10,000 for general operating support and \$15,000 for equity-centered projects. These financial investments in the program help ensure the long-term sustainability of the fellowship’s impact.

Building a Lasting Network of Equity-Focused Leaders

The CORE Fellowship is more than a training program—it’s a growing network of equity-driven leaders. Participants describe the experience as “profound” and “life-changing,” with many emphasizing the unique and lasting relationships built across sectors. Fellows report that the program has strengthened solidarity, spurred new partnerships, and increased their ability to lead equity-focused change. By fostering shared accountability, the fellowship is driving a collective agenda for equity.

As the CORE Fellowship enters its third year, it shows no signs of slowing. Dedicated staffing resources are now in place to support the program’s expansion and deepen its impact. What began as a leadership program has grown into a movement for equity and justice. With each new cohort, the network of leaders grows stronger, and the Lehigh Valley moves closer to a future where every resident has access to opportunity, dignity, and prosperity.



Photo: Armen Elliot



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LVCF Flexes its Partnership in the Arts

Through the Partners in the Arts program, the Community Foundation worked with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts to distribute grant awards totaling \$105,000 for the Creative Sector Flex Fund and \$46,000 for the Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Program during FY 24. These important grant programs support projects and programs involving artists throughout Region 5, which includes: Carbon, Monroe, Lehigh and Northampton counties.

In 2023-24, the PCA launched the Creative Sector Flex Fund (CSFF), a new initiative aimed at bolstering the region's vibrant arts and culture scene. Twenty-one nonprofit arts and culture organizations in the region received grants of \$5,000 each, thanks to the collaborative effort between LVCF and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA).

One of the distinguishing features of the CSFF is the flexibility it offers to grant recipients. The \$5,000 grants can be used in various ways to maximize their impact on organizations and communities, including administrative support, programmatic enhancements, and project-related expenses. The grant recipients of the 2023-24 Creative Sector Flex Fund are:

- Alternative Gallery
- Appalachian Fiddle & Blue
- Bach and Handel Chorale Inc
- Bethlehem Fine Arts Commission
- Bloom for Women
- CEC of Organization of the Rebirth of Ukraine
- Chamber Music Lehigh Valley
- Godfrey Daniels
- Grass Association
- Karl Stirner Arts Trail Inc
- Lehigh Valley Chorale
- Lehigh Valley Girls Rock
- Mock Turtle Marionette Theater
- Movement Moves Media
- National Scenic Visitors Center
- Pocono Concert Chorale
- Repertory Dance Theatre
- SATORI
- SouthSide Film Institute
- The Allentown Band
- The Camerata Singers
- Young People's Philharmonic of the Lehigh Valley

These grants are supported by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency, through the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA), its regional arts funding Partnership. State government funding comes through an annual appropriation by Pennsylvania's General Assembly and from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. PPA is administered in this region by the state's PPA Partner—the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation for Region 5.

The Power of Philanthropy

"We recognize that the arts are not just a source of inspiration and creativity; they are a powerful tool for building social cohesion, driving economic growth, and fostering mental well-being. Through shared cultural experiences, communities are strengthened, economies are energized, and individuals are empowered."

Monique Saunders Moreno
Program Officer, Arts, Culture and Creative Economy



Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Program (CEAP)

Grants in FY 24 were issued to 23 creative entrepreneurs to grow their small businesses. Below are a few examples:

Taylor Bree Nidds' Flight Risk, a social card game from the Lehigh Valley, expanded with support from the Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Grant. The funding enabled professional product photography, upgraded packaging and shipping supplies, and freelance graphic design services to enhance its e-commerce presence and gameplay. The game is now sold in boutique stores nationwide and at www.flightriskgame.com.



Kyle Edwards, an artist based in Breinigsville, Pa. who creates art and graphic design, large and small-scale murals, inspired apparel, event coordinating and entertainment. He owns and operates Inkwell, LLC. The CEAP grant enabled him to design and print 250 shirts to promote his business at the Allentown Blues, Brews and BBQ event. atruelovestoryllc.com/



Claire Marcus is an artist who specializes mixed media pieces, artist's books, works on paper, and photography. "This program provided networking opportunities and resources that allowed me to grow my business with materials, time, exhibit opportunities, and new skills. My non-teaching income has increased significantly." clairemarcusfinearts.com/



Ed Eckstein, a photographer since the 1960s, captures unmanipulated "non-fiction photography" of humanity and place for editorial, corporate, and advertising clients worldwide. The funding enabled Ed to promote his photographic services and showcase work that increased visibility for Lenape Native Americans, with exhibits at the PA State Museum & other venues. edekstein.com/





Welcome New Members

The Board of Governors at Lehigh Valley Community Foundation provide administrative, programmatic, and fiscal oversight in support of the organization’s mission. Members of the Board serve as ambassadors, promoting the Community Foundation as a vehicle for philanthropy and a leader of community improvement. During the year 2023-24, LVCF welcomed new board members, **Lindsay Watson**, returning board member **Jennifer L. Mann**, and said thank you and farewell to former Board chair **Sandy Bodnyk** who served out her term.

Lindsay Watson

Lindsay Watson, Co-Founder of FIA NOW Employment Solutions and Founder of Joy Fluent, joined the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation’s Board of Governors in 2024. She serves on the Foundation’s Community Investments Committee.

With over 19 years of experience in human resources, staffing, and business development, Lindsay has built multi-million dollar partnerships with Fortune 500 companies and small businesses. Her career spans from administrative support roles to business ownership, with a focus on connecting people to opportunities. As a speaker, she’s presented at the Lehigh Valley Women’s Summit, SHRM HR Disruptor Summit, and the Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA) Summit.

In addition to the Community Foundation, Lindsay holds and/or has held board positions at the American Heart Association, Miller Keystone Blood Center, Habitat for Humanity, and Women United (a division of the United Way), marking her as the first African-American woman to serve on the latter three organizations. Lindsay was honored as a 2023 Woman of Influence and a 2020 Forty Under 40 recipient by the *Lehigh Valley Business Journal*. [Learn more...](#)



Jennifer L. Mann

Jennifer L. Mann, founder and president of JL Mann Consulting, rejoined the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation’s Board of Governors in 2024, serving on the Community Relations Committee. This marks her second tenure, having previously served from 2013 to 2022.

A former Pennsylvania State Representative from 1998 to 2012, Jenn was the third woman elected to a House Democratic leadership role, serving as Caucus Secretary. Her career includes founding a wireless telecommunications business, working in financial services, and leading her government relations firm, JL Mann Consulting.

Jenn currently serves on the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors and has been a member of the Board of Directors of QNB Bank since 2015. She is deeply involved with several community organizations, including the Board of Associates for Muhlenberg College, the President’s Advisory Council at Cedar Crest College, and the executive board of the Minsi Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America. She is also a Cabinet Member of the Tocqueville Society of the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley. [Learn More...](#)



Thank You Sandy

Governor of the Foundation 2015 – 2024



We thank Sandra Bodnyk for her distinguished service as a Governor of the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation from 2015 to 2024. During her tenure, Sandy demonstrated remarkable leadership and dedication, particularly during the challenging period of the COVID-19 pandemic. She stepped into the role of Chair in 2020, amidst a significant leadership transition.

Sandy’s ability to navigate these turbulent times was instrumental in maintaining stability and progress within the organization. Throughout her service, Sandy held several key positions including Immediate Past Chair, Chair of the Board, Vice Chair of the Board, Treasurer of the Board, and roles on the Executive, Finance, Audit, and Board Affairs committees. Her leadership, especially as Chair from 2020 to 2023, was essential in ensuring the organization’s continuity and effectiveness through unprecedented times. Sandy’s contributions have been a cornerstone of the Foundation’s success, leaving a lasting impact on the organization and the community it serves.

We thank Sandy for her service to the Foundation and for her commitment to improving the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley.



LVCF Presents Prestigious Philanthropy Awards for 2024

The 2024 Board of Associated (BOA) meeting at the Lehigh Country Club in June was the perfect occasion for the Foundation to present its prestigious philanthropy awards. **Linda Sheftel**, chair of the BOA executive committee, got the proceedings rolling with a welcome to the crowd of more than 75 members and guests in attendance to honor **Judith A. Harris, Esq.** and **The Century Fund**.



Lifetime Service to Philanthropy Award

The award recognizes a professional advisor who values and promotes philanthropy within the community, understanding its benefits in estate, retirement, and wealth management planning during their career.

Fund. “Judy has been instrumental in establishing six endowment funds at LVCF, including the George T. Walker Charitable Fund, our largest endowed fund valued at nearly \$10 million,” Erika explained. “Judy’s recognition of the Foundation’s role and her commitment to her clients have significantly impacted philanthropy in the community. The LVCF staff and board express deep appreciation for Judy’s contributions, the importance of her work, and the lasting impact of her dedication.”

LVCF President and CEO **Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA, CAP®** presented the **Lifetime Service to Philanthropy Award** to **Judith A. Harris, Esq.** for her exceptional career of service and dedication to philanthropy.

The Community Foundation has collaborated with Judy on numerous occasions to help clients achieve their charitable goals, including our mutual work with the trustees of the Century



Dolores A. Laputka, Esq., representing Norris McLaughlin, P.A., which sponsored the meeting, expressed her admiration for her colleague. “I am thrilled to present this award to Judy Harris, my colleague for over 20 years,” she noted. “Judy, born and raised in the Lehigh Valley, returned home after earning her L.L.M. in Taxation from Villanova University, her J.D. from Washington College of Law, and her A.B. from Bryn Mawr College, and also spending time in Moscow.”

Her extensive community focus includes leading the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival as President of the Board of Trustees, involvement with the Allentown Symphony Association, and the Lehigh County Agricultural Society. Judy’s unwavering commitment to philanthropy in the Lehigh Valley

has earned her many accolades,” Dolores continued. “Her husband, **Dr. Jack Mydlo**, Chairman of Urology at Temple University, has been a steadfast supporter. Judy’s dedication to philanthropy and community service makes her a most deserving recipient of this award.”

Judy then took to the podium and delivered a heartfelt speech, expressing her gratitude and admiration for the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation and the dedicated individuals who have contributed to its success. She began by thanking Dolores and acknowledging the Foundation’s role in improving lives in the Lehigh Valley, emphasizing the collaborative efforts of professional advisors and business leaders. Judy shared her admiration for the Century Fund and lauded the trustees,

including **Joan Miller Moran**, **David Bausch**, **Lee Butz**, and **Don Bernhard** (in attendance), and **Pastor Bob Stevens** and the late trustees **Alice Anne Miller**, **Dick Hummel**, **Rev. Dr. Grant Harry**, and **Jack Leh**. She also paid tribute to the late Attorney **Michael Egan**, Donald Miller’s lawyer, who wrote the Century Fund Trust and served as a mentor to many, including herself. Judy recognized **Lisa Curran**, the longtime Executive Director of the Century Fund for her dynamic leadership. She highlighted the contributions of **John Zayaitz, CPA**, and **Dianne Pagano Manges**, who played crucial roles in the Century Fund’s operations and its eventual sunset after 36 years. Harris also thanked her law firm, Norris McLaughlin, for its ongoing support of client philanthropy and community involvement.





Erika Riddle Petrozelli announced The Century Fund as the recipient of the **Vision in Philanthropy Award**, highlighting its legacy of supporting the Lehigh Valley. “After 25 years of supporting the Valley, the trustees were thoughtful in its wind-down,” she said. The trustees established endowments for the Allentown Symphony and the Allentown Art Museum at the LVCF, ensuring the continuation of **Donald Miller’s** legacy. A video was shared, showcasing the tremendous impact of Miller’s generosity through The Century Fund. [See the video celebrating Donald Miller and the Century Fund’s charitable giving.](#)

Lisa Curran, Former Executive Director of the Century Fund, reminisced about the fund’s impactful history and the dedicated individuals behind it. “The inaugural meeting in December 1985,



hosted by **Richard Hummel**, set a tone of warmth and camaraderie that lasted for 15 years. **Don Miller**, a humble community service pillar, and his daughter **Alice Miller**, chaired the board with strength and passion. Over its history, The Century Fund donated over \$55 million to more than 200 organizations,” she noted. “Major gifts included \$6 million to the Allentown School District, \$5 million to the Allentown Symphony, and a \$2 million endowment to the Allentown Art Museum.”

[Through a recorded video](#), **Max Weintraub**, President and CEO of the Allentown Art Museum, expressed gratitude for the Century Fund’s transformational gift, which has made the museum free for all forever. This milestone has led to a 60% increase



Vision in Philanthropy Award

The Award honors those who have established a Fund at the Community Foundation as a method of supporting charitable organizations and demonstrating a deep and meaningful commitment to philanthropy in the Lehigh Valley.

in general attendance and a 120% increase in educational program attendance. Max emphasized the positive community response and the significant impact of the Century Fund’s generosity.

Al Jacobsen, Executive Director of the Allentown Symphony Association, also expressed profound gratitude for the Century Fund’s transformational support. He highlighted the Symphony’s multifaceted nature, including its professional orchestra and ownership of the historic Miller Symphony Hall, along with numerous educational and community programs like El Sistema Lehigh Valley. The Century Fund’s relationship with the Symphony dates back to 1959 when Don Miller and his brother helped purchase the Lyric Theater, now Miller Symphony Hall. Contributions have supported musician wages, education programs, and free concert attendance for individuals under 21. Al emphasized that the Century Fund’s legacy gift ensures



BOARD OF ASSOCIATES

The Board of Associates are members of an important group of foundation donors, professional advisors, government representatives, nonprofit leaders, corporate executives, and community volunteers who share an interest in the work of the Foundation.

executive committee

The Board of Associates is led by an executive committee (as of June 30, 2024):

Linda Sheftel, Chair
Justin Sheftel Memorial Fund

Alan Abraham
Retired (Concannon Miller)

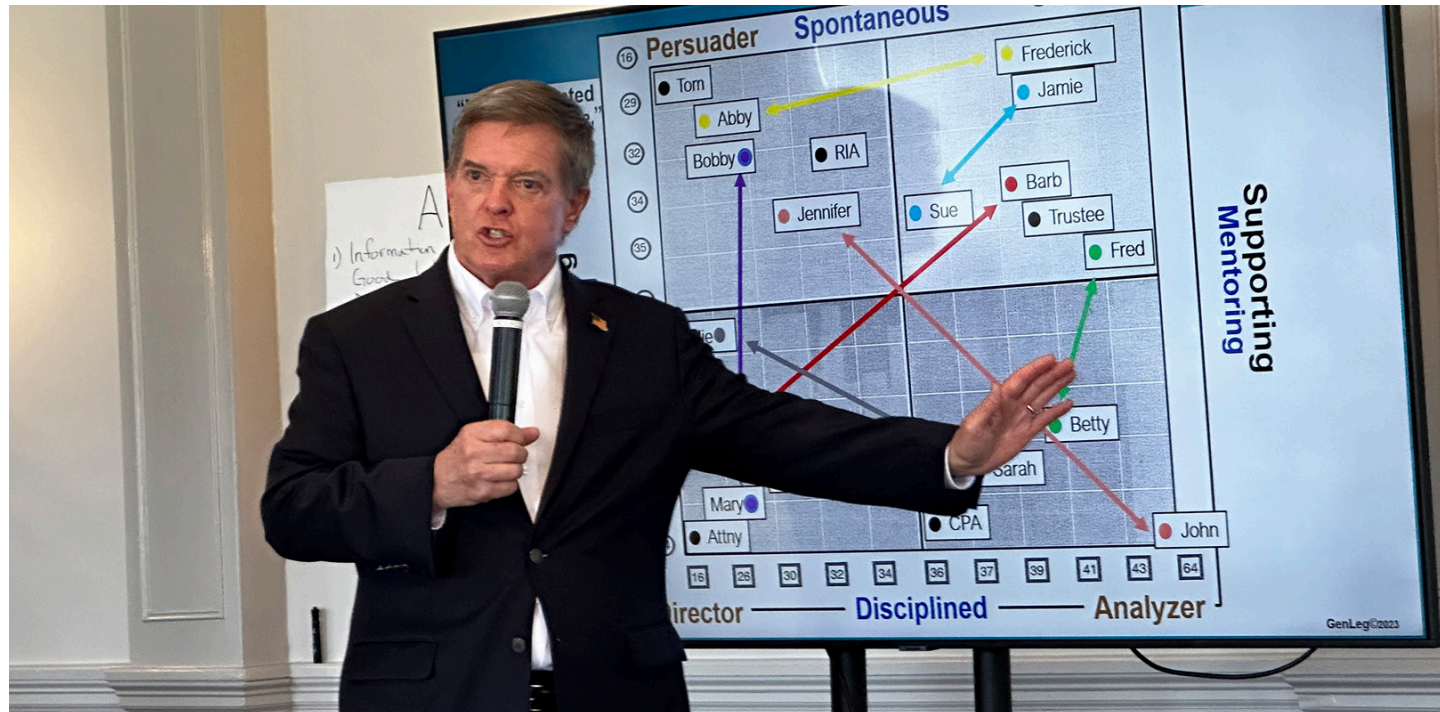
Patricia Beldon
Community Representative

Kathryn Brown
Morton Brown Family Wealth

Dawn Godshall
Community Action Lehigh Valley

Michael Tukeva
Pocono Mountains United Way





Cultivating Skills for Lasting Family Legacy and Governance

On April 23, 2024, families from across the region gathered at the Northampton Country Club in Easton, Pennsylvania, for an extraordinary opportunity to explore the art and strategy of legacy planning. The event, titled “**Cultivating Skills for Legacy Planning**,” was led by two of the field’s most respected thought leaders—**Tom Rogerson**, CEO of GenLeg Co., and **Cathy Rogerson**, Director of GenLeg Co. This husband-and-wife duo are renowned pioneers in the realms of family governance and legacy planning.

The workshop provided a transformative experience for participants, equipping them with practical tools and actionable insights to navigate the often complex journey of family legacy planning. From fostering healthy family governance to addressing sensitive family dynamics, Tom and Cathy Rogerson guided attendees through the essential steps of business succession, wealth transfer, and the preservation of family values across generations.



One of the event’s key highlights was the integration of the **Stratton Interpersonal Leadership Style Assessment**. This tool enabled participants to gain a deeper understanding of their personal leadership and communication styles—insights that are critical for fostering effective family governance and ensuring harmonious intergenerational relationships. By identifying strengths and opportunities for growth, families left the workshop better prepared to engage in constructive dialogue and make thoughtful, strategic decisions



This impactful workshop was made possible through the collaboration of four key partners: **Cornerstone Advisors Asset Management, LLC**; the **Lehigh Valley Community Foundation**; **Lehigh University’s Planned Giving and Family Philanthropy Program**; and **Norris McLaughlin, P.A.** Their collective efforts brought together a diverse group of families united by a shared goal—to create lasting legacies that extend well beyond financial wealth.

LVCF’s Artificial Intelligence Speaker Series Provides Key Insights for Nonprofits

LVCF’s three-part AI Speaker Series, held in September 2023, concluded with a with an in-person program at Steelstacks that focused on practical applications and legal considerations of artificial intelligence (AI) for the nonprofit sector. The series, aimed at helping nonprofit leaders understand AI’s potential, featured expert speakers who provided critical knowledge and actionable strategies tailored to the industry.

The first session, “**AI Basics and Emerging Trends**,” featured **Dr. Sarah Lewis**, a data science consultant, who provided an overview of AI’s foundational concepts and how they apply to nonprofit work. The presentation covered emerging trends and highlighted AI’s growing role in driving nonprofit efficiency.

The second session, “**AI Tools and Implementation Strategies**,” was led by **Michael Rivera**, a nonprofit technology specialist. Rivera’s presentation focused on practical tools and step-by-step strategies for integrating AI into daily nonprofit operations. Attendees learned about cost-effective tools and approaches.

The final session, “**Practical Possibilities and Legal Perspectives for Artificial Intelligence**,” was held in person on September 22, 2023, at SteelStacks in Bethlehem. The



event attracted nonprofit leaders, philanthropic professionals, and community stakeholders for an in-depth look at AI’s role in the sector. Presentations were led by **Jeffrey A. Franklin, Esq.** of Prince Law Offices and Principal Technology Consultant with BrightLine Tech Solutions, LLC, and **Eric Robuck**, a cybersecurity expert. They addressed the legal implications and operational uses of AI for nonprofits. A Q&A session followed, allowing attendees to ask questions and engage with the speakers on issues critical to their work in the nonprofit sector.



Key Takeaways

Participants walked away with clear strategies for incorporating AI into their organizations. Insights included guidance on navigating legal risks and practical tips for streamlining operations with AI tools. Attendees left better equipped to make informed decisions on how AI can support their missions.

The AI Speaker Series highlighted growing interest in AI’s role in nonprofit operations. LVCF’s commitment to fostering learning opportunities positions it as a key resource for nonprofits navigating new technological challenges. As AI continues to evolve, LVCF will remain a vital source of guidance for nonprofit leaders seeking to leverage innovation for social impact.

LVCF and Chamber Co-host AI Program

LVCF co-hosted the Chamber Nonprofit and Business Partners Council program, **Continuing the Conversation on Artificial Intelligence (AI)** at The State Theatre during February 2024, to spark more thoughtful and engaging conversations on artificial intelligence through a facilitated discussion and networking reception. LVCF’s **Monique Saunders Moreno**, Program Officer, Arts, Culture & Creative Economy, discussed the Community Foundation’s involvement with funding the arts.





Economic Outlook & Real Estate Trends in Focus with Federal Reserve Experts

Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, in partnership with the Estate Planning Council – Lehigh Valley, hosted an event focused on the **“Economic Outlook & Developments in Residential & Commercial Real Estate.”** The event held in September 2023, at Northampton County Club, featured expert insights from Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia speakers **Ryotaro Tashiro**, Senior Outreach Economist, and **Kali Aloisi**, Economic Outreach Associate.

LVCF President and CEO **Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA, CAP®**, welcomed attendees and spoke about the work of the Community Foundation, and introduced the speakers. The program began with a General Economic Outlook, where Tashiro analyzed key economic indicators such as GDP, labor market conditions, and monetary policy. He highlighted both national and regional trends, providing local context for attendees. Aloisi shared perspectives on economic mobility,

housing, and health, informed by her research background and expertise in applied statistics. With extensive experience in labor economics and demographics, Tashiro drew from his work with the Federal Reserve and Bloomberg. The event provided valuable insights for estate planners, business leaders, and community stakeholders, aligning with LVCF’s mission to support informed community development.



Thrive Hub Career Conference

LVCF sponsored the **Thrive Hub Career Conference** that supports underrepresented students & young professionals from the classroom to careers, while maintaining financial, emotional and physical wellness. LVCF’s **Monique Saunders Moreno**, spoke to students about personal and professional development during the two-day conference at Muhlenberg College.

Megan Briggs, Vice President for Community Investments, served as a panelist at LINC’s online program **Allies in Action: Skills to Foster a Culture of Belonging at Work**, that was held during November 2023.

ALLIES IN ACTION

SKILLS TO FOSTER A CULTURE OF BELONGING AT WORK
Panelist Spotlight:

Megan Briggs (she/her)
VP of Community Investments
Lehigh Valley Community Foundation



Friday, Nov. 10

8:00 - 9:30 am
Virtual (Zoom)



Advancing DEI: Expert Insights at Lehigh Valley Chamber Resource Panel

LVCF’s **Megan Briggs**, Vice President of Community Investments, spoke at the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce’s DEI Resource Panel during April 2024 at the Ben Franklin Technology Partners offices, attended by over 150 young professionals. The panel was moderated by **Tyrone Russell**, CEO of Faces International (I). Megan, second from the left is joined on the panel by **Alea Bunch**, Eastern MSDC; **Dr. Ranajoy Ray-Chaudhuri**, Muhlenberg College; and **Meloney Sallie-Dosunmu, MBA**, CEO of Precision Talent Inc.



Fundraising for Higher Education Conference

The Community Foundation CEO **Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA, CAP®**, spoke as part of a panel discussion exploring trends in philanthropy, opportunities in philanthropic relationships and professional growth, as part of a higher education fundraising conference at Moravian University. She was joined by **Stephen P. Link, CAP®**, Director of Philanthropic Services at Cornerstone Advisors Asset Management, LLC, and **Lorraine Wiedorn**, Assistant Vice President, Planned Giving and Family Philanthropy at Lehigh University.



Nonprofit Virtual Tours

LVCF invited fundholders, donors, and others to visit three nonprofit organizations virtually via Zoom in 2023-24. During each visit, we heard from the organization’s leaders and learned more about their mission, successes and challenges. [Learn more...](#)





LVCF Honored with AFP’s Outstanding Foundation Award

The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation was honored by the **Association of Fundraising Professionals – Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter** with the **Outstanding Foundation Award** during the National Philanthropy Awards Breakfast held in November 2023, at DeSales University in Center Valley, Pennsylvania.

“The outstanding Foundation award recognizes a foundation that demonstrates outstanding commitment to philanthropy through their charitable support and their leadership in our community,” said **Laurie Hackett**, Director of Global Community Relations at Air Products, who served as master of ceremonies for the event. “For more than 50 years Lehigh Valley Community Foundation has been the philanthropic hub for the Lehigh Valley connecting people who care with the causes that matter most.”

“This past year, LVCF launched their CORE Fellowship Program, which is a two-year capacity building process designed to bring together leaders from different Lehigh Valley nonprofits to help individuals, organizations and networks focus their collective power to make equitable change in the nonprofit sector right here in the Lehigh Valley,” Hackett explained. “On behalf of AFP, we are so happy to present the 2023 Outstanding Foundation Award to Lehigh Valley Community Foundation.”



Photos by Marco Calderon Photography

Erika Riddle Petrozelli Named a Woman of Influence by Lehigh Valley Business

LVCF President and CEO **Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA, CAP®**, was selected as one of Lehigh Valley Business’s Women of Influence in 2024. The designation recognizes high-achieving women for their tremendous career accomplishments. The Women of Influence honorees are selected based on professional experience, community involvement and a commitment to mentoring.

Through her steady leadership, the Community Foundation has achieved an immense amount over the last three years. A few of those achievements include: Developing a new strategic plan, diversifying the board, creating new messaging and marketing, implementing a new database system to increase efficiency, and leading the process to refine grantmaking platform. During the last three years, LVCF’s assets have grown significantly, in addition to expanding and deepening relationships.



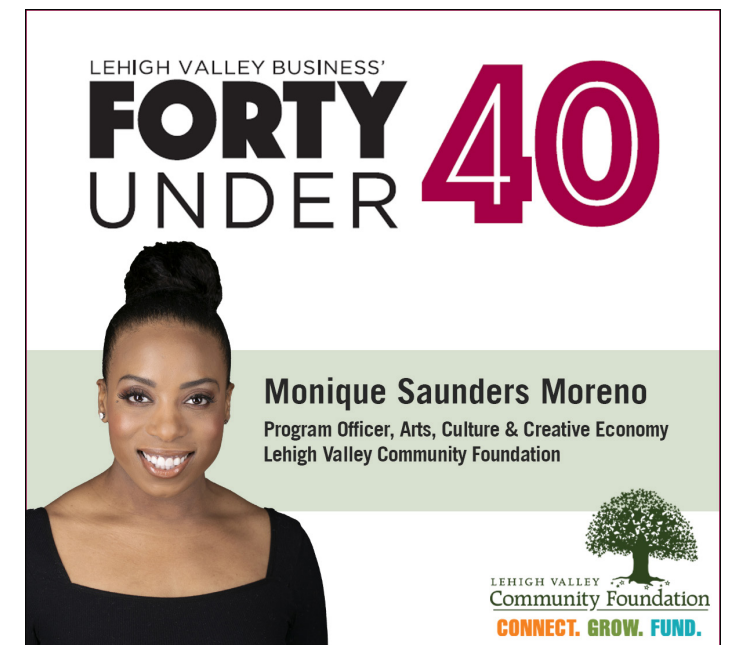
Her entire staff supported her nomination. Her leadership style is empowering, bold, strategic, and thoughtful. She exemplifies what it means to lead with curiosity and intellect. She’s a values-based leader who sees the potential and leadership in each person.

Monique Saunders Moreno Named to “Forty Under 40” by Lehigh Valley Business

Lehigh Valley Business named **Monique Saunders Moreno**, Program Officer for Arts, Culture & Creative Economy at the Community Foundation, as a 2024 “Forty Under 40” honoree. The honor recognizes young professionals for career success and exceptional community impact.

Since joining the Foundation in 2020, Monique has played a key role in grant distribution for the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) Partners in the Arts program, supporting creative projects in Carbon, Monroe, Lehigh, and Northampton counties. Previously, she served as Assistant Director of Community Investments, shaping grant strategies and leading community initiatives.

“Over the past four years, Monique has greatly contributed to the Community Investment team’s work, enhancing the overall culture of the Foundation,” said **Megan Briggs**, LVCF’s Vice President of Community Investments. “She has led grant



cycles, developed key relationships, streamlined processes, and managed complex logistics for our CORE Fellowship and our partnership with the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.”



Congratulations to Humanitarian Social Innovations for their anniversary celebration in February 2024 at Lehigh University. LVCF's **Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA, CAP®**, President and CEO spoke about the Community Foundation as part of the program. **Carrie Nedick, CAP®** (top photo, l.) was networking with nonprofit leaders.



It was a great night at the FREDDY© awards in 2024 at the State Theatre in Easton. LVCF's **Erika Riddle Petrozelli** (r.) presented the award for Outstanding Performance by a Featured Dance. LVCF was proud to sponsor the event again this year that celebrates the many talented students and promotes the arts in the Lehigh Valley.



LVCF's **Monique Saunders Moreno**, Program Officer, Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy, joined **Holly Fitzpatrick**, Grants Manager, worked the LVCF table promoting scholarship opportunities to the students at Thrive Hub Career Conference at Muhlenberg College. Monique also spoke at the event to a group of students about career paths.



LVCF's **Megan Briggs** attended the Third Street Alliance for Women & Children roundtable discussion & ribbon cutting in celebration of their Pool-to-School Learning Center Expansion along with **Congresswoman Susan Wild** and **Easton Mayor Sal Panto**. The Community Foundation helped support the project through a youth & families grant in 2022-23.



LVCF and Pinebrook Family Answers-Unconditional Child Care Program held an Early Childhood Care Happy Hour event at Sports and Social Allentown earlier this month for colleagues working in the sector to connect and celebrate the work they do. The Program provides services to child care centers and families to be successful in the early childhood classroom.



LVCF's **Monique Saunders Moreno** and **Carrie Krug Nedick** were among the 700 women attending the Lehigh Valley Women's Summit held by the Women's Business Council of the Chamber, Cedar Crest College, and United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley at Wind Creek in Bethlehem



Monique Saunders Moreno (c.) with the Moravian University's Inaugural RISE Teamwork & Leadership Summit where students presented their Survey and Capacity Building Model for the Arts Project prepared for the LVCF under the supervision of Professor **Robert Brill, Ph.D.** (r.)



Megan Beste, **Erika Riddle Petrozelli** (m.) with LINC Executive Director **Katelyn Mack** at LINC's Annual Meeting at VentureX.



The **LVCF Team** enjoyed an afternoon out at Split Pine Axe Throwing after another Foundant Friday—days during fall 2023 spent implementing the new back end data system.



Erika Riddle Petrozelli and **Megan Briggs** at the Council on Foundations' Building Together24 conference in Chicago.



The Power of Philanthropy

"Philanthropy is the catalyst that transforms individual generosity into community impact, and through the power of storytelling and engagement, we amplify every act of giving to inspire even greater change within our community."

Michael Wilson, Director of Communications

PNC Institutional Asset Management Group (IAM) selected as Outsourced Chief Investment Officer

During FY24, the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation selected PNC Institutional Asset Management Group (IAM) as its Outsourced Chief Investment Officer (OCIO) for two of the Foundation's portfolios. This decision followed a rigorous evaluation process led by LVCF's ad hoc Investment RFP Committee, which concluded that PNC IAM's expertise and capabilities aligned most closely with LVCF's mission and goals.

The committee, chaired by **Denise Blew**, former LVCF board and finance committee member, carefully reviewed proposals from several esteemed firms, conducted interviews and other due diligence measures before recommending PNC IAM. The committee was composed of LVCF board members, staff, and outside financial experts. "We were impressed by PNC IAM's people, services, and technological capabilities, recognizing the value they will bring to LVCF's work and asset growth initiatives," Blew noted. "We are excited about the possibilities this collaboration brings and believe it will contribute positively to our investment outcomes and overall success. I thank the committee members for their commitment, insight, and expertise in guiding the Foundation through this very important process."

"In 2023, we made the decision to transition to a new OCIO as part of our ongoing commitment to enhancing our investment strategy and ensuring alignment with our organizational goals," explained **Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA, CAP®**, President and CEO of the Community Foundation. "The Foundation conducts periodic reviews and evaluations of our investment program as part of our fiduciary responsibility and commitment to sound governance practices. This includes a thorough assessment of our investment strategy, performance, and investment partners. The decision to open the process reflects our evolving needs and strategic direction."



"PNC IAM comes highly recommended by other community foundations where they have demonstrated exceptional service and support," noted **Trisha Higgins, CPA**, Executive Vice President, and CFO of the Foundation who served on the committee. "Their understanding of community foundation dynamics and commitment to assisting organizations like LVCF manage its assets were particularly noteworthy. We were also impressed with PNC IAM's cutting-edge technology solutions that will enhance LVCF's operational efficiency by ensuring smooth processes."

About PNC Institutional Asset Management Group

PNC Institutional Asset Management Group provides comprehensive investment solutions tailored to the unique needs of institutional clients. With a focus on innovation, integrity, and client service excellence, PNC IAM helps organizations achieve their financial goals and make a meaningful impact in their communities.



The Power of Philanthropy

"Philanthropy has a significant influence on the economy, locally and globally. It stimulates growth, supports innovation, and helps address societal needs. It strengthens community connection and is transformational for both those who give and those who receive. The ripple effect is inspiring."

Trisha R. Higgins, CPA Executive Vice President and CFO

Robyn Weaver Named Program Officer, Capacity Building at LVCF

Robyn Weaver joined the staff in June 2024 as Program Officer, Capacity Building. Her primary responsibilities include implementation and co-facilitation of CORE Fellowship and identifying regional nonprofit capacity building needs and solutions.

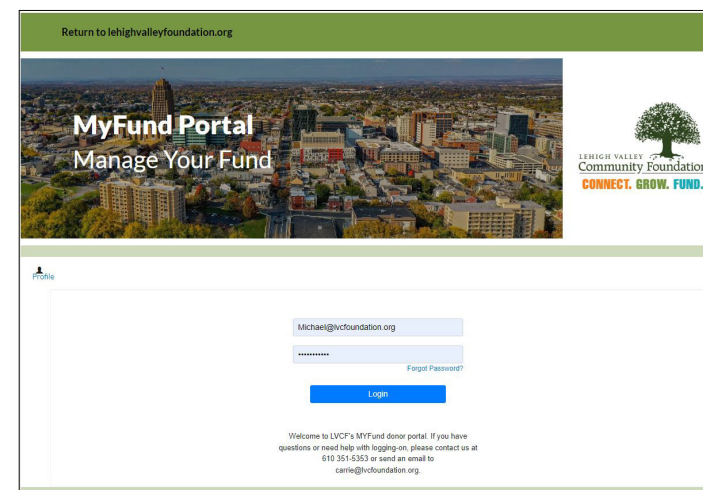


Prior to joining the Foundation, Robyn has held various roles in racial equity and social justice centered capacity building and nonprofit programming including serving as Equity Officer for Pocono Mountains United Way and as Program Manager for Racial and Ethnic Justice at Community Action Lehigh Valley. She has also engaged with local and regional nonprofits providing contracted services including facilitation of We Interrupted, a white-affinity group with Promise Neighborhoods Lehigh Valley and developing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion learning modules for Community Action Association of Pennsylvania. Robyn currently serves as Board Chair for the YWCA of Bethlehem.

A Lehigh Valley native, Robyn's journey took her from Philadelphia to Virginia and Oregon before returning to Allentown to complete her Bachelor and Master of Social Work at Kutztown University. She also holds graduate certificates in Leadership and Management, Community Development, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion from Kutztown and Cornell University.



Erika Riddle Petrozelli contributed a WFMZ 69 News segment with reporter **Bo Koltnow** highlighting the importance of #GivingTuesday that supports local nonprofits. The story also included interviews with Cohesion Network, and the Bethlehem Emergency Shelter. See it online - [click here](#).



LVCF Launches MyFund: A New Era of Fundholder Access and Efficiency

LVCF successfully launched MyFund, a state-of-the-art online portal, in the fall of 2023 as part of a major technological upgrade to enhance the experience of fundholders and donors. This new platform was the forward-facing component of Foundant Technologies' CommunitySuite (CSuite), a comprehensive back-end database and accounting system designed to improve efficiency and user accessibility.

Throughout the summer and early fall of 2023, LVCF's team worked diligently to implement the new system. The MyFund portal replaced the DonorCentral platform, offering fundholders a more streamlined, user-friendly way to manage their charitable funds, request grants, and track contributions. To ensure a smooth transition, LVCF provided fundholders with step-by-step instructions, a user-friendly instructional video, and a range of support materials.

299
As of 6/30/24

Lehigh Valley Community Foundation houses a variety of funds to meet the philanthropic needs of its donors, fundholders, and the community, which include:

- Agency Funds
- Area-of-Interest Funds
- Community Endowment Funds
- Community Investment Funds
- Designated Funds
- Donor-Advised Funds
- Scholarship & Award Funds

Agency Funds | Focusing on the Nonprofit Mission

Establishing an agency fund allows a nonprofit to focus on its mission while benefiting from the operational efficiencies, oversight and visibility that LVCF offers.

- Allentown Band, Inc. Endowment Fund
- Allentown Symphony Association Funds
Allentown Symphony Association Endowment Fund | William J. Fenza Memorial Fund
- Bach Choir of Bethlehem Funds
General Endowment | Charles & Louise Hoffman Fund
- Bethlehem AAUW Fund
- Boys & Girls Club of Bethlehem Restricted Endowment #2
- Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center Fund
- Burnside Plantation Fund
- Bucks County Free Library Endowment Fund
- City of Easton Sports & Recreation Fund
- Family Connection of Easton Fund
- Junior League of the Lehigh Valley Agency Endowment Fund
- Latino Leadership Alliance Scholarship Fund
- Lehigh Valley Child Care Endowment Fund
- Lower Macungie Township Fund
- Hunter Meckes Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Endowment Fund of Meals on Wheels of The Greater Lehigh Valley
- New Bethany Endowment Funds:
General Endowment | Robinson Fund | Quasi-Endowment Fund
- Pediatric Cancer Foundation of the Lehigh Valley Fund
- David Rabaut United Way Fund for Neighborhoods
- ShareCare Fund
- Sights for Hope Endowment Fund
- United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley Funds
General Endowment | The Thun Fund
- Endowment Fund to Further the Mission of Valley Youth House
- Victory House of Lehigh Valley Endowment Fund
- WDIY Public Radio Fund
- WDIY Endowment Fund



Area-of-Interest Funds | Choosing a Cause

An area-of-interest fund supports programs & initiatives that tackle issues of the donors' choosing such as the environment, camperships, youth and families, and many others.

Foundation-directed area-of-interest funds awards grants based on LVCF's own community research to identify charitable programs in the specified area-of-interest

Donor-directed area-of-interest funds awards grants based on the recommendations of a community committee that oversees a specific initiative.

Foundation-directed area-of-interest funds

- Frances L. Barnard Fund for Children
- Walter & Alma Bastian Fund
- Barbara & Maxwell Davison Fund for Alzheimer's Care
- The Edward & Inez Donley Fund
- Frederickson Family Fund
- Richard E. Gasser Fund
- Barry M. and Diane E. Kessler Fund for Social Justice
- Lehigh River Fund
- Erwin J. & Gertrude K. Neusch Fund
- Janis & Paul Gross Fund for Youth and Families
- Outdoor Recreation Fund for Youth
- Robert D. & Gwendolyn-Jane Romeril
Campership Fund
- Margaret Haas Rotunno Memorial Fund for
Local No Kill Shelters
- William C. Rybak Fund for Persons with Disabilities
- Leonard A. Wenzel Memorial Fund for South Bethlehem
- Gene & Joan Witiak Fund

Donor-directed area-of-interest funds

- Any Given Child Bethlehem Fund
- Canary Studio Fund
- City of Bethlehem Celebration Fund
- Downtown Allentown Community
Development Initiative
- Every 15 Minutes Fund
- Sylvia Fenstermacher Lawler Foundation
for the Arts Fund
- The Galaxy Fund
- Lehigh County Medical Society Education Fund
- Lehigh Valley Homeless Veterans Fund
- Northampton County Bar Association Charitable Fund
- PPL Operation HELP Fund
- Saucon Sanctuary Fund

Community Endowment Funds | Responding to Community Needs

The flexibility of unrestricted giving enables the Community Foundation to respond to the community's most pressing needs.

- Adams Final Fund
- Rolland L. Adams Fund
- Rolland L. & Pauline H. Adams Fund
- Aaron Burr Baldree Fund
- Madeline S. & Frank R. Barnako Fund
- Clayton W. & Helen H. Bernhardt Fund
- Bethlehem 225th Anniversary Fund
- Buckley Family Fund
- Dorothy & Joseph Conroy Fund
- Helen Adams DeRiemer Fund
- Globe Times/WGPA Charities Fund
- Carol Dean Henn Community Fund
- Kutteroff Family Fund
- The Lambert Durham Family Fund
- Forever Lehigh Valley Fund
- Frank L. Marcon Fund
- Horace R. Miller Fund
- Perna Family Fund
- Albert M. Reed Fund
- Katharine March & Stanley J. Thomas
Memorial Fund
- Bernard J. Story Fund



Building Futures: New Bethany’s Endowment Partnership with LVCF

Since its founding, New Bethany has been a pillar of support for those in need in the Lehigh Valley, providing services that address housing insecurity, food scarcity, and other urgent community needs. This impactful organization has partnered with the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation (LVCF) to ensure its mission remains sustainable for years to come through the establishment of three endowment funds.

Planning for the Future

In 2020, New Bethany received a generous \$400,000 bequest. Coupled with an influx of pandemic-related donations exceeding their operating budget by \$700,000, their leadership made a strategic decision: secure their future by investing a portion of these funds in an endowment with LVCF. As Executive Director **Marc Rittle** explained, “We didn’t want to just put it in a bank account. We wanted to plan for the future and emergencies.”



This foresight, encouraged by their board president, **Mike Fischer**—himself a fund holder at LVCF—enabled New Bethany to benefit from the Foundation’s expertly managed

resources. “The Community Foundation offers a secure structure, and their investment portfolio ensures steady growth while giving us access to funds when needed through board approval,” Marc noted.

The endowment fund’s impact has already been significant. In 2024, as individual giving declined and capital costs increased post-pandemic, the fund provided a lifeline. For example, when New Bethany reopened its Southside Drop-in Center after three years of curbside service, they faced unanticipated expenses like furniture replacement, appliance repairs, and dining room renovations. Thanks to the endowment, they had the resources to refresh their space and welcome their community back indoors. Additionally, New Bethany has used interest from the fund to jumpstart a capital campaign aimed at expanding their services—a testament to their strategic use of endowment funds as both a safety net and seed money for growth.

The Role of Endowment in Sustainability

New Bethany’s partnership with LVCF dates back to the early 1990s, when they established their first \$100,000 endowment. Over 30 years later, that fund continues to provide annual distributions while maintaining its principal—a powerful example of the long-term sustainability

an endowment can offer. Today, with three endowments under LVCF’s stewardship, New Bethany has clear goals for the future: maintaining fund stability, leveraging funds for special projects, and ensuring a safety net for emergencies. “We only want to use the fund when we can plan to pay it back,” Marc emphasized.

A Message to Donors

Marc urges others to consider the benefits of endowments for nonprofit sustainability. “If you’re fortunate enough to receive a large bequest or want to build savings, reach out to the Community Foundation. Their expertise in investments and nonprofits is invaluable,” he said. He also highlighted the organic exposure New Bethany gains from being connected to LVCF’s vast network of donors and supporters.



Shared Leadership

Carrie Krug Nedick, CAP®, a valued member of the LVCF team and a board member of New Bethany, serves as a bridge between the two organizations, strengthening their collaboration. Her dual role underscores the power of partnership in driving meaningful change in the community.

Ongoing Need for Support

While New Bethany’s endowments are a critical tool for sustainability, Marc reminds the community that they still depend on regular support. “Endowments are not a surplus—they’re a tool. We rely on donors to continue their support so we can meet the ongoing needs of our community.”

A Shared Vision for Impact

Through its partnership with the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, New Bethany exemplifies how strategic planning, community collaboration, and sound financial stewardship can create a brighter, more sustainable future for nonprofits and the communities they serve.



THE MISSION | New Bethany

New Bethany offers hope and support to people who experience poverty, hunger, and homelessness. We believe that all people, regardless of circumstances, should be treated with dignity and care without judgment. No one who seeks help is turned away.

We continually strive to build a community of hope and support for those who seek help and for those who desire to make a difference in the Lehigh Valley. We address immediate needs such as food and basic hygiene, provide short-term housing solutions, and encourage long-term change that will lift individuals out of poverty through housing, case management, and employment assistance. We welcome dedicated staff, volunteers, and donors who recognize that they have an important role to play in building a community that can make a difference. Learn more: newbethany.org/



Community Investment Funds | Meeting Changing Needs

Community Investment Funds for discretionary grantmaking make sure the needs of tomorrow’s Lehigh Valley are met. Donors rely on the deep community knowledge & experience of the Community Foundation to support the effective work of nonprofits throughout the region, forever.

- 250th Book Fund
- E. Spencer & Nellie C. Addison Fund
- Margaret Ann Bachert Fund
- Randy H. & Ramona A. Bruch Fund
- John L. Daniel and Carol Daniel Holben Fund
- Lucille F. Driver Fund
- Donald & Alice Farquharson Fund
- Ben Franklin Trust Fund
- Eugene G. Grace, Jr. Fund
- Greene Family Fund
- Deborah S. Haight Fund
- Betsy & Jack Jordan Fund
- Lehigh Valley Helping Hand Fund
- Martina M. Malone Fund
- The Pine Fund
- Anthony J. Ruggiero Fund
- Michael C. Schrader Fund

Designated Funds | Defining Your Giving

Donors name specific nonprofits to receive grants, and LVCF will make those grants over time. It is the most common way to preserve an individual’s charitable legacy.

- William B. & Elizabeth Behr Agocs Geophysical Research Fund
- Allentown Art Museum Fund (established by the Century Fund)
- Allentown Symphony Association Fund (established by the Century Fund)
- American Red Cross – Lehigh Valley Chapter Fund
- Clayton W. & Helen H. Bernhardt/V.J. Pazzetti, Jr. Fund
- Bethlehem Educational Scholastic Trust (B.E.S.T.) Fund
- Benjamin C. Boylston-Kemerer Museum Fund
- Benjamin C. & Eleanor A. Boylston Fund for the Lehigh Valley Chapter, American Red Cross
- H. Bridges & Lucile P. Boylston Fund
- Boys & Girls Club of Bethlehem Restricted Endowment #1
- Center for Faith & Justice Fund
- Camp Compass Fund
- Patrick J. & Christine Connell Fund
- Marjorie S. & Joseph E. Correll Fund
- John L. Daniel and Carol Holben Daniel Fund
- Leonard R. Dimmick Fund for Burnside Plantation
- Equi-librium Therapeutic Horsemanship Fund
- Fowler Family Fund
- Joseph R. Gagnier Memorial Fund
- Marion Brown Grace Memorial Fund
- Tore & Charlotte Hartmann-Hansen Fund for the Bethlehem Morning Star Rotary Charitable Organization
- Nancy S. & Charles E. Keenan Endowment Fund
- Lifepath Employee Award Fund
- Luther J. Hottle Fund
- Nancy S. & Charles E. Keenan Endowment Fund
- Kenneth & Elizabeth Kressler Fund
- Deborah A. Libricz Memorial Fund
- Link Designated Family Fund
- Magee Family Fund
- Charles & Ruth Marcon United Way Fund
- Mary & Jack McNairy Fund
- Dr. Russell E. Morgan, Sr. Fund
- Peter Pagotto, Elizabeth A. Pagotto, and Family Fund
- Delphine Quinn Perpetual Fund
- Raymond-Cryder Designated Fund
- Albert M. Reed Fund
- Safe Start Fund
- Arthur E. Schaeffer Trust Fund
- Shoemaker-Bond Home Association, Inc. Fund
- Walter N. and Mildred F. Trbovic Endowment Fund
- Theatre Organ Arts Fund
- Thun Fund
- Charles Versaggi Futures Designated Fund
- George T. Walker Charitable Fund
- Warren W. York Fund To Benefit the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley

Donor-Advised Funds | Remaining Deeply Involved in Your Giving

A donor-advised fund permits donors to recommend grants from their fund and to vary those recommendations and change their charitable priorities as they wish. LVCF offers personalized service and deep community knowledge – a true partner in philanthropy.

- Michael & Lynn Abgott Fund
- The AEP Fund
- Alan & Marsha Abraham Fund
- Arbor Insurance Group Community Fund
- Avalon Fund
- Barnette Fund
- Peter Barter and Linda Bartera Fund
- Bethlehem Rotary Club Fund
- Eric B. & Denise M. Blew Fund
- The Brown Family Care Fund
- Borda Family Fund
- Geoff & Wenda Boyer Fund
- Buckno Lisicky Charitable Fund
- Building Fund
- Burdette Family Fund
- Dr. Lisa S. Bunin Foundation Fund
- Ian & Patty Carlis Fund
- Mike Caruso Foundation Fund
- Geoff Chenworth Memorial Fund
- Cinquino Community Fund
- Client 1st Foundation Fund
- Karen & Peter Cooper Fund
- Cornerstone Cares Fund
- Peg DeAngelo Memorial Fund
- Anthony Michael Durman Foundation Fund
- Grace Kathryn & Jeffrey P. Feather Fund
- Ferrio Fund
- Trisha & John Fistner Giving Fund
- Fleming Foundation Fund
- W. Beall & Marlene O. Fowler Fund
- Beall Fowler Family Fund
- Fred Fund
- Gadomski Foundation Fund
- Denise C. Garrity/Compass Point Foundation Fund
- Stephen & Joyce Gehringer Charitable Family Fund
- Grifo Family Fund
- Dolly Haltzman Foundation for the Arts Fund
- Thomas Hartzell & Jean Larkin Fund
- Heydt Family Fund
- Ray & Donna Holton Charitable Fund
- Hutchinson 3-H Fund
- Joan A. Kraft & R. Wayne Kraft Memorial Fund
- William and Constance Kreitz Fund
- Link Family Donor Advised Fund
- Lucky7 Fund
- Lyons-Shields Fund
- Steven W. Kraft and Margot R. K. Hillman Fund
- William & Carol Kreitz Fund
- Kressler, Wolff & Miller Fund
- Lehigh County Lawyers’ Charitable Fund
- Robert H. & Jean C. Littner Fund
- MAK Fund
- L. Charles & Ruth H. Marcon Fund
- Dr. Richard D. Martin Memorial Fund
- McNairy Fund
- Cindy Miles Adaptive Fund
- The Morton Brown Family Wealth Fund
- Mulligan Family Fund
- myHR Partner, Inc. Fund
- Nanovic Family Fund
- Olexa Family Foundation Fund
- David and Carol Osborn Family Fund
- Chris and Pam Page Charitable Fund
- Tyler and Jenna Papaz Fund



The Power of Philanthropy

“Family philanthropy unites generations in a shared purpose, transforming collective values into lasting impact. It’s a powerful way to honor the past, enrich the present, and inspire the future.”

Maureen Connolley Wendling, Director of Donor Initiatives

Donor-Advised Funds (continued)

- Ronald R. Perin Fund
- Angela René Pessina Foundation Fund
- Matthew & Erika Petrozelli Fund
- Pharo Family Fund
- Jack Pressmann Memorial Fund
- Lynn Ratzell Fund
- Raymond–Cryder Donor Advised Fund
- Patrick J. Reid Fund
- J.B. & Kathleen Reilly Fund
- John G. Reilly Fund
- Reilly-Taykowski Family Fund
- Tricia B. Reilly Fund
- Jonathan Ringer Foundation Fund
- Bonnie & Joel Ronco Fund
- St. Luke’s Hospital Medical Staff Fund
- Justin Sheftel Memorial Fund
- Star Foundation Fund
- Stershic Family Fund
- The Stinner Family Fund
- Glenn M. Taggart Family Foundation Fund
- Jack & Ann Follett-Terres Fund for Compassionate Care
- The Torrey Family Fund
- Donald H. & Mary R. Trautlein Fund
- Two Tunics Fund
- Tuskes Fund
- Charles Versaggi Future Fund
- John & Chrissie Wagner Fund
- Weigard Family Fund
- First Commonwealth FCU WE Thrive® LV Foundation Fund
- Wombat Fund
- Betty & Scotty Wood Memorial Fund
- Ilene & Robert Wood Striving to Make a Difference Fund
- Stella C. Yee Memorial Fund
- James and Naomi Yervey Fund
- Yeoman Family Fund
- Ryan J. Zawada Memorial Fund

Scholarship & Award Funds | Further Education

These funds allow donors to invest in the future by helping deserving students pursue higher education. Students benefit from the financial assistance as well as the academic recognition of being a scholarship recipient.

- Elizabeth Behr Agocs Scholarship Fund
- Ann C. Bernard Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Bethlehem Educational Scholastic Trust (B.E.S.T.) Fund*
- Bethlehem & Morning Star Rotary Clubs Scholarship Fund in Remembrance of Stephen P. Godbolt
- Debra “Frau” Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Buckno Lisicky Scholarship Fund
- Andrew Budraitis Foundation Scholarship Fund
- Reverend Douglas Caldwell Fund for Nursing Excellence
- Truman L. Frey, Jr. Scholarship Fund
- Beall Fowler Scholarship Fund for Northampton Community College
- Frederick W. Hahn Scholarship Fund
- Hanover Township Memorial Golf Tournament Scholarship Fund
- Carol (Rodgers) Jaffe & Donald Jaffe Scholarship Fund
- Gary D. Martz Class of 1974 Scholarship Fund
- Damian C. Mele Scholarship Fund
- Stephanie Olexa and Seth Weber Scholarship Fund
- Parkland High School Class of 1961 Scholarship Fund
- Miss Pennsylvania Scholarship Fund
- Dr. Joseph A. Perna & Hilda Ramos Perna Memorial Scholarship Fund
- William and Jamie Soukup Reid Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Frances Sadler Award Fund*
- Arthur E. & Myrl G. Schaeffer Scholarship Fund
- Anthony Severo Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Justin Sheftel Scholarship Fund
- Bob Swick Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Catherine Hilaire Thompson Nursing Scholarship Fund
- Sue Ratzell Scholarship Fund for Nursing
- Tuskes Family Scholarship Fund
- Edwin F. Van Billiard Scholarship Fund
- Betty Williams Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Wilson High School 2006 Football Champions Scholarship Fund
- Woman’s Club of Bethlehem Fund
- Paige Reid Whitten Legacy Fund*

*Award Funds

New Charitable Funds in 2023-24

Area-of-Interest Funds

- Canary Studio Fund
- Sylvia Fenstermacher Lawler Foundation for the Arts Fund
- Frederickson Family Fund

Designated Funds

- Walter N. and Mildred F. Trbovic Endowment Fund
- Charles Versaggi Futures Designated Fund

Donor-Advised Funds

- Ferrio Fund
- Chris and Pam Page Charitable Fund

Scholarship and Award Funds

- Paige Reid Whitten Legacy Fund
- Parkland High School Class of 1961 Scholarship Fund

WELCOME TO THE LVCF FAMILY



The Power of Philanthropy

“Local charitable giving has the power to transform communities by addressing immediate needs and building a foundation for lasting impact. It’s a collective investment in the well-being and future of this place that we love and call home: our Lehigh Valley.”

Carrie Krug Nedick, CAP®, Director of Donor Services

\$7.2+ Million in Gifts

1,143 Total # of Gifts

787 Individual Donors



Rolland Adams Society

The Rolland L. Adams Society is the Foundation's leadership giving society that recognizes and honors the generosity of our donors.

Sponsors

- Norris McLaughlin P.A.
- Alvin H. Butz Construction Managers
- Judith A. Harris, Esq.
- Lambert Durham Family Fund
- Lehigh Valley Grant Services, LLC.

In-Kind Gifts

- Advanced Cleaning Solutions
- Plants Alive, Inc.
- Quality Service Marketing, Inc.

The Legacy Society recognizes and honors these donors who have made deferred gifts through their will or other planned gifts through the Community Foundation. We are grateful for their generosity and philanthropic vision and are pleased to honor and recognize them.



For Our Donors/Fundholders

We are a leader in charitable giving in the Lehigh Valley, receiving support from donors, managing funds to grow over time, and making high-impact grants to local nonprofits. We connect people like you with the causes you care about most.

Make Your Giving Local

LVCF is here to serve the Lehigh Valley and all its people. Our knowledge of local issues and organizations and our connections across the region make us a perfect choice for donors who want to make a difference right here.

Maximize Your Impact

Drawing on our deep knowledge of the region and its nonprofits, our team can help you identify organizations whose missions align most directly with your interests. We will assist you in ensuring that you make your gifts in the way that yields the greatest tax advantage and impact.

Make Your Giving Easy

Making charitable gifts can be a joy but handling the administrative details and tax implications can be complicated. For those considering starting a private foundation (or already have), we offer the EverGreen Fund an alternative that saves you the expense, effort, and complication of establishing/operating your own foundation.

Ensure Your Legacy

We are the ideal partner for donors who are also committed to long-term impact—who want their generosity to continue to do good after they are gone. We will understand your wishes and manage your funds accordingly.

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- Dr. William B. Agocs*
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- Dr. Leonard A. Wenzel*
- Robert C. Wood*
- Mary Youtz

*Denotes deceased members who are now 'ad astra'...among the stars.

If you have included the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation in your will or other planned gifts and wish it to be recognized in the Legacy Society, please contact Maureen Connolley Wendling, Director of Donor Initiatives, at (610) 351-5353 or email: Maureen@lvcfoundation.org



Linda and Elliot Sheftel
A Life Remembered: Justin’s Enduring Impact through Scholarship and Awareness

Vacationing with friends in Ocean City, Maryland, **Justin Sheftel**, age 18, ran across the intersection of 77th Street and Coastal Highway around midnight. He never made it across the street. **Ben Walters**, also age 18, was speeding down Coastal Highway when he noticed people moving. The next thing he knew he heard something hit his windshield and he panicked. Not certain of what had happened, Ben drove on. Later, after he and his friends saw the blood and damage on his car, Ben returned to the scene of the accident, telling police that he was the driver. His blood alcohol level was 0.16, two times the legal limit.

“When something like that happens,” says Justin’s mother, **Linda**, “you’re not thinking clearly. But you know instinctively that you

have to keep going, you have to keep busy. When grief comes over you like that, you’ll do anything to keep from going into a dark place.”

Linda and Elliot Sheftel knew that they wanted and needed to memorialize their son. They also knew that they had to do something with the many gifts that had been given in memory of Justin. Those gifts became a charitable fund at the Community Foundation with the knowledge that the philanthropic purpose of the fund could be defined specifically at a later date. “Establishing the fund was part of keeping busy,” Linda states, “it helps you to move forward when you’re grieving. We didn’t want to forget about Justin. We wanted people to remember him and we wanted to find a nice way to do it.”

The Justin Sheftel Memorial Fund’s original intention was to provide scholarships to seniors at Parkland High School. Today, there are two funds – a donor-advised fund that provides grants to nonprofit organizations and a scholarship fund that provides awards and scholarships to students. Support



for the funds comes from an event tailored for Justin Sheftel – the annual Memorial Softball Tournament. The Sheftels have awarded scholarships and funding for area nonprofits totaling more than \$670,000 since it’s inception. Recent nonprofits receiving grants include Community Bike Works, The Allentown DRIVE, First Tee, and the Miracle League of the Lehigh Valley.



The Mission | To celebrate Justin by providing athletic and educational opportunities for underserved youth in the greater Lehigh Valley.

In 2025, the 21st annual Justin Sheftel Memorial Softball Tournament will be held on June 14. It is an event whose energy surprises even Linda. “We’ve had wonderful community support and involvement,” she says, “for many years Steve Carlton was part of tournament, it’s very exciting to have him participate.

In addition to the tournament, Linda educates teenagers about the devastating effects of underage drinking and drunk driving on drivers, victims, and their families. Over the years, Linda, Ben Walters, and Ben’s mother, Cynthia, presented talks to students in high schools in Pennsylvania and Maryland. More than 120 school presentations have been completed since that first year.

“Justin was an unassuming kid,” Linda recalls. “He was quiet, but he had a sense of humor and was funny. He took honors classes, but even if he knew the answer to a question he wouldn’t raise his hand. He didn’t want to dominate. He was a good student and looking forward to attending Washington University in St. Louis, where he was hoping to play baseball.”

Learn more at: <https://justinsheftel.com/>

2023-24 Justin Sheftel Memorial Scholarship Award Recipients

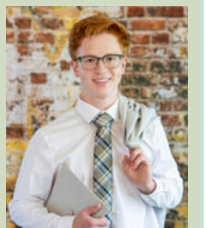
Meghan Edinger – William Allen High School

Meghan is attending West Chester University with a focus on secondary English education. She is pursuing credentials through teacher organizations like SPSEA and Kappa Delta Pi, the national honor society for educators. Her passion for music is being continued through participation in one of WCU’s many music clubs. After graduation, her plans include a return to William Allen to teach and coach future Allen High Canaries, striving to honor Justin’s memory through ongoing activities.



Andrew Hill – Parkland High School

Andrew is attending the University of Pittsburgh with studies focused on environmental science. He is actively involved in multiple sustainability clubs and volunteer organizations on campus. He is preparing for graduate research focused on climate change and declining biodiversity. His ultimate goal is to use education and abilities to give back to the environment and the community.



Michael Dwornicki – Dieruff High School

Michael is attending Lehigh University to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Integrated Business and Engineering with a major in Bioengineering. He is making efforts to serving both the school community and the greater Lehigh Valley community. As the second in the family to pursue a college degree, he plans on working toward earning a master’s degree as well. The goal is to enter the pharmaceutical industry to drive new innovations in medicine, with aspirations to honor Justin Sheftel’s legacy through post-graduate work.





Donor-Directed Grantmaking

Through individual donor-directed funds, LVCF makes grants to meet a wide range of needs. Donor-directed funds include donor-advised funds, designated funds, scholarship funds, award funds, and certain area-of-interest funds. To see the full list of current funds of the Community Foundation [click here](#).

Foundation-Directed Grantmaking & Community Leadership

LVCF integrates Community Leadership into our foundation-directed grantmaking approach. In the community foundation sector, Community Leadership is defined as creating a better future for all by addressing critical challenges and seizing opportunities. This means inclusively uniting people, institutions, and resources to achieve meaningful, widely shared, and lasting results. Gifts to the [Community Investment Funds](#) and the [Lehigh Valley Forever Fund](#) generate the unrestricted dollars that make this work possible.

This approach reflects our commitment to addressing significant community needs while remaining flexible to adapt over time. For instance, in FY 2023, our youth and family grantmaking evolved to prioritize early childhood education and care in FY 2024. This ongoing adjustment ensures our grantmaking aligns with what we learn, emerging community needs in the Lehigh Valley, and donor interests.

In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Community Foundation continued to focus its foundation-directed grantmaking on three major areas: capacity building, early childhood education, and arts, culture, and the creative economy.

While the Leadership Grantmaking platform emphasizes these key areas, we remain dedicated to supporting other donor-defined priorities and responding to broader community challenges. These efforts underscore our commitment to creating lasting impact and addressing the diverse needs of the region (see [Support Grantmaking](#)).



The Power of Philanthropy

“Philanthropy empowers us to envision a just, vibrant world, test innovative solutions, and align our values with our communities. It connects resources to meaningful efforts, embodying the potential for a more generous, loving society.”

Megan Briggs, Vice President of Community Investments



The Power of Philanthropy

“With intention grounded in connection to those we serve, we work to foster deep and trusting relationships with our community partners. Through these connections, we empower ourselves to identify and support the capacity-building needs of the diverse nonprofits serving the Lehigh Valley community.”

Robyn Weaver, Program Officer, Capacity Building

Foundation-Directed Leadership Grantmaking Goals



Capacity Building

Foster inclusive leadership and develop equitable organizations in the Lehigh Valley



Early Childhood Education

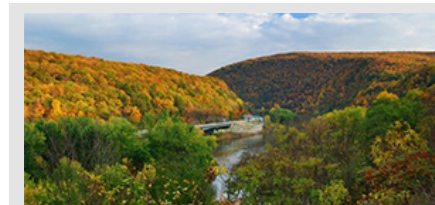
Ensure high-quality, accessible childcare for all Lehigh Valley families



Arts, Culture & Creative Economy

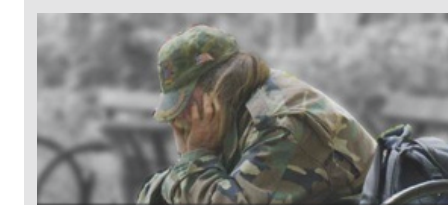
Be a resource to the Lehigh Valley arts, culture, and creative economies

Foundation-Directed Support Grantmaking Highlights



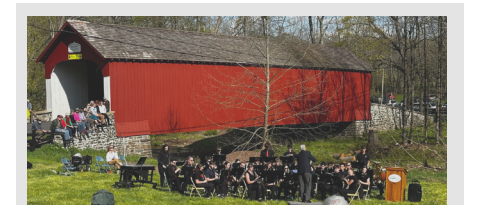
George T. Walker Charitable Fund

\$416,200 in grant funding was distributed to seven nonprofit organizations who are the named beneficiaries of the fund.



Lehigh Valley Homeless Veterans Fund

LVCF funding helps support three Lehigh Valley area nonprofits providing wrap-around services for homeless veterans.



Upper Bucks Community Fund at LVCF

\$34,450 in grants from the Richard E. Gasser Fund and Erwin J. and Gertrude K. Neusch Fund supported a variety of projects in the Upper Bucks area.

B.E.S.T. Awards 2023-24

The Bethlehem Educational Scholastic Trust (B.E.S.T.) Awards recognize excellence in teaching by educators who work in the Bethlehem Area School District (BASD). [Learn more...](#)

The Seymour and Sophie Haber Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Elementary Level

Connie VanBlargan, William Penn Elementary

The Bernie Cohen Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Middle School Level

Phillip Ciccarone, Nitschman Middle School

The Anthony Ruggiero Award for Excellence in Teaching at the High School Level

Jane Prodes, Liberty High School



Frances Sadler Award for Nursing

The Frances Sadler Award for Nursing celebrates first-year nurses, with a B.S.N., who are working in the Lehigh Valley. Preference is given to those with experience in women's health care, a strong academic record, and demonstrated financial need. [Learn more...](#)

Paige Reid Whitten Award for Writing

The Paige Reid Whitten Legacy Fund at the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation supports the Paige Reid Whitten Award for Writing, given to a graduating senior at Mills E. Godwin High School. The school's English Department selects the recipient based on departmental criteria for the best written work. The award includes \$1,000, [Learn more: Paige Reid Whitten Legacy Fund](#)



Scholarships & Awards

The majority of the Foundation's scholarships are administered through high schools, colleges and local organizations.

Scholarships for high school graduates pursuing a post-secondary education are:

Bethlehem Area School District

Debra 'Frau' Brown Memorial Scholarship
Truman L. Frey, Jr. Scholarship
Bob Swick Memorial Scholarship
Betty Williams Memorial Scholarship

Bethlehem Area School District and Bethlehem Catholic High School

Senior Woman's Club of Bethlehem Scholarship

Bethlehem Catholic High School

Catherine Hilaire Thompson Nursing Scholarship

Bethlehem & Morning Star Rotary Club Scholarship Fund in Remembrance of Stephen P. Godbolt

Boys and Girls Club of Bethlehem

Edwin F. Van Billiard Scholarship

Dieruff High School

Justin Sheftel Scholarship

Fleetwood Area High School

Arthur E. & Myrl G. Schaeffer Scholarship

Hanover Township Memorial Golf Tournament Scholarship

Liberty High School

Gene Buckno Memorial Scholarship (For Accounting)

Lehigh Area High School

Damian C. Mele Memorial Scholarship

Nazareth High School

Bob Swick Memorial Scholarship

Northern Lehigh High School

Ann C. Bernard Memorial Scholarship

Notre Dame High School

Tuskes Family Scholarships

Parkland High School

Class of 1961 Scholarship
Frederick W. Hahn Memorial Scholarship
Gary D. Martz Class of 1974 Scholarship
Anthony Severo Memorial Scholarship
Justin Sheftel Scholarship

Phillipsburg High School

William & Jamie Soukup Reid Memorial Scholarship

Wilson High School

Wilson High School 2006 Football Champions Scholarship

William Allen High School

Justin Sheftel Scholarship

Scholarships for Contestants in HS or College in Lehigh, Northampton, and Bucks Counties:

Miss Pennsylvania Scholarship

Scholarships for Students & Veterans Pursuing a STEM Education at a Lehigh Valley College or University:

Andrew Budraitis Foundation Scholarship

Scholarships for students attending the following post-secondary institutions are:

Case Western Reserve University

Dr. Joseph Perna & Hilda Perna Memorial Scholarship

DeSales University, Department of Nursing & Health

Sue Ratzell Scholarship for Nursing

The Juilliard School

Raymond-Cryder Scholarship

Moravian Univ. & St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing

Reverend Douglas Caldwell Nursing Scholarship

Northampton Community College

Beall Fowler Northampton Promise Scholarship

Simmons College, School of Nursing & Health Sciences

Carol (Rodgers) Jaffe & Donald Jaffe Scholarship

St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing

Elizabeth Behr Agocs Scholarship

West Chester University

Raymond-Cryder Scholarship

College/University Located in Lehigh, Northampton, Carbon, and Monroe Counties

Buckno Lisicky Scholarship (For Accounting)

Stephanie Olexa and Seth Weber Scholarships

LVCF administers an application process for two annual scholarships for high school seniors attending public, private or charter high schools in Lehigh, Northampton and Bucks counties.

Stephanie Olexa and Seth Weber Scholarship for Criminal Justice- Awarded to a HS senior who will be majoring in criminal justice or law enforcement at an accredited institution for post-secondary education.



The Stephanie Olexa and Seth Weber Scholarship for the Life Sciences- Awarded to a HS senior who will be majoring in the life sciences at an accredited institution for post-secondary education. [Learn more...](#)



The Power of Philanthropy


"Through the power of philanthropy, we work with area schools and community partners to connect high school and college students with scholarship opportunities. These scholarships not only support education but also honor beloved community members, creating a legacy of hope and achievement."


Holly Fitzpatrick, Grants Manager


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Holly Fitzpatrick
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Amy Sams
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Jihan Solomon
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Robyn Weaver
 Program Officer, Capacity Building



Maureen Connolley Wendling
 Director of Donor Initiatives



Michael Wilson
 Director of Communications

LVCF Staff as of 07/01/2024



Mission

The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation promotes philanthropy in order to improve the quality of life in our region, encourage collaboration among area philanthropists, and to serve as a source of information and expertise regarding charitable giving.

LVCF Values

At the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, our work is guided by core values that are applied internally, with our own staff, Board, and volunteers, and externally, with our donors, nonprofit partners, stakeholders and community. We are committed to building connections, expanding opportunities, upholding integrity, and fostering learning so we can be a transformational leader creating a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

Connection

We recognize the power of meaningful relationships as the foundation of a vibrant, resilient community.

Opportunity

We support pathways for individuals to achieve their full potential and build thriving communities.

Integrity

We act with honesty, transparency, and accountability to steward the resources entrusted to us and to maintain the relationships we have built.

Learning

We foster an environment of shared learning, fresh perspectives, and innovation to ensure that our work continually evolves to meet challenges and embrace opportunities.

Lehigh Valley Community Foundation

840 W. Hamilton Street, Suite 310, Allentown, PA 18101

Phone: (610) 351-5353 Fax: (610) 351-9353

Visit us online | www.lvcfoundation.org



The official registration and financial information of the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling, toll free, within Pennsylvania 800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.