Why I Give

Robert and Susan Gadomski

“Give time, treasure, or talent to keep our community a wonderful place to live”

Our parents raised us to participate in charities, assume leadership roles, and, when possible, contribute money. At Air Products, I was asked to contribute to United Way from my earliest days of employment. From those early days in the Lehigh Valley I got energized to help organizations. I had used the Fidelity Gift Fund for years and felt the Community Foundation could do the job as well and that a portion of fees would be used right here in the Lehigh Valley.

We principally use our fund to gift to the United Way. Historically, a large part of the gift is donor designated to about 20-25 Lehigh Valley institutions. In recent years, our gifts are centered on the “Leader In Me” elementary school program to help every student achieve their goals.

Susan and I and our families are truly blessed in so many ways. We feel a duty to give back with our time, our talent, and, yes, our treasure. - Bob Gadomski

Chuck and Cindy Yeoman

“We have always looked up to the folks that were able to give back to the community and when we were able to it seemed like we had a responsibility to do so.”

We have not always been in a position to give back to the community financially. When we started our family we were helped by our family, friends and the community during some difficult times. We have never forgotten that. Together we worked very hard in our respective careers and have raised a family and put both our boys through college. Now we are in a position to give back. It’s rewarding to see our contributions used to help the young and future artists.

We decided on a fund at the Community Foundation because we plan on supporting local organizations and felt it best to deal with an organization that is place-based in the Lehigh Valley. We currently support The Levitt Pavilion SteelStacks, ArtsQuest, The Wounded Warrior Project, Minsi Trails Council of the Boy Scouts, and Pocono Wildlife & Rehabilitation. - Chuck Yeoman

IN THE NEWS

Health Equity Summit: Census 2020 Examines Critical Actions Needed to Ensure a Complete Count

The Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley and LVCF partnered to host the 2019 Health Equity Summit: Census 2020 that was attended by over 120 representatives from nonprofit organizations, governmental agencies, and others. Learn more...

The half-day summit focused on the importance of the census and the link between hard-to-count communities and health equity in the Lehigh Valley.

LVCF Sponsors National Philanthropy Day Awards Breakfast

LVCF President and CEO Bernie Story served as MC for the Association of Fundraising Professionals (Eastern Pa. Chapter) National Philanthropy Day Awards Breakfast. LVCF was the premiere sponsor for the fifth year and recognized LVCF Board member Matt Sorrentino, Esq., as a 2019 Distinguished Honoree. See Photos
We each have strongly-held values when it comes to serving the world around us. Both Lehigh Valley transplants, we each have developed strong ties to the community. Dennis’ commitment to service stems from his career in the military and as he continues to serve as a leader in his civilian life, both as a father and as an involved member in the Boy Scouts and passionate advocate for Lehigh Valley Reilly Children’s Hospital.

Katie’s philanthropic values have been rooted since youth, observing her parents generously give of their time and resources. Upon arriving to the Lehigh Valley, Katie has enjoyed opportunities to support and serve others through her involvement with Valley Youth House, youth athletics, and Jordan U.C.C.

As Certified Financial Planners™, we regularly advise client families on their philanthropy and charitable giving goals. It was through our involvement with the Estate Planning Council of the Lehigh Valley that we came to know of the Community Foundation. When we set out to build our firm, we prioritized community giving as a core value. Seeing the LVCF as an excellent partner, we chose to establish the Morton Brown Family Wealth Fund as the conduit through which we could, at the firm-level, give back to the community we serve.

As a firm, we wanted to demonstrate our commitment to the community around us through both our giving and our partnerships. We support organizations that our employees are passionate about, organizations near and dear to our clients as we help celebrate their milestones, and organizations that help support our most vulnerable neighbors.

This sense of finding community has been an underpinning for Morton Brown Family Wealth, so much so that it was the first thing we committed to on paper when designing our firm. Even before we had a name selected, we had a Vision Statement: To build a community of clients and professionals leading purposeful lives through the stewardship of wealth. We reflect upon that vision statement, often. We are humbled and encouraged to bear witness to our growing community and to be an integral part of that process.

- Katie Brown and Dennis Morton

Why We Give to the Community...

“Helping organizations in the Lehigh Valley makes it a great place to live and I trust that LVCF will make best use of my funds and have the greatest impact.”

Tom Campbell, Chair, LVCF Board of Governors

“I give back to the community to help make it a place where we all want to live.”

Elizabeth Marcon, LVCF Board of Governors

“I give because I believe that we all have an obligation to help others in need. Secondly, it makes me feel good. Giving truly creates a win-win situation.”

Geoff Borda, LVCF Board of Governors

In a rapidly changing world, it is easy to lose sight of those things that are truly lasting and immutable: love, compassion, creativity, and the commitments of the mind and heart. Philanthropy enables all of those virtues to go on forever, making a positive impact on the world at all times, in all ways.

It will be some time—I hope!—before my charitable fund will be created by my bequest to LVCF. But even now, when I see the important and inspiring work being done by the organizations that will receive grants from my fund, I get a glimmer—and a warm satisfaction—of knowing that I will be part of that ongoing work and service, not for a few years or even a few decades, but for ‘forever.’

Carol Dean Henn
Former Executive Director, LVCF