



# CAUSE CONNECTION

Connecting people who care to causes that matter

## We Are Your Foundation in the Community

The Community Foundation is the only one of its kind in our region, and no national giving platform is present in our community like we are. In Fiscal Year 2018, we distributed an astounding \$4 million to more than 300 nonprofits right here in the Lehigh Valley, thanks to the generosity of our fundholders. They have chosen the Community Foundation as a place to conduct their philanthropy, directly supporting nonprofits in our community through grants from their charitable funds. The community support does not stop here, however; our fundholders also support the work of the Community Foundation through the service fees charged to the funds. How does this work?

### Value beyond Service

Donors and their advisors are often aware of the important administrative services we provide to our funds, such as fund accounting, gift processing, distribution of grant checks and letters, fiduciary oversight, IRS reporting, endowment management, and many other necessary activities. We also provide community knowledge, investment options, and charitable giving expertise to those who are interested. Fund fees support the people and infrastructure that make these services happen.

### Community Knowledge & Leadership

Donors are also pleasantly surprised to learn about the work that the Community Foundation does beyond charitable fund support—that is, our community presence, thought leadership, and discretionary grants strategies. Foundation staff hold dozens of meetings with nonprofits and community leaders each year, striving to learn about regional needs, funding gaps, giving trends, and other knowledge that will make us—and you—a better grantmaker.

**“We reposition our grants strategies—about \$500,000 of Foundation-directed or “discretionary” dollars annually—to leverage our community knowledge. Yes, our fundholders contribute to this work!” - Erika Riddle Petrozelli**

A recent example of this work was the hugely successful yearlong celebration of our 50th anniversary and our “Be the Spark” grantmaking campaign, where we focused \$300,000 in grants on six important and often underfunded community issues. We brought donor awareness and Foundation grants to issues ranging from human trafficking to the environment. As this celebration came to a close last year, the Community Foundation announced new strategies supported by new data and findings. The current platform includes (1) an investment in the future of the nonprofit sector; (2) an investment in the “now”; and (3) an issue-based approach.

In the next issue of this newsletter, we will dive into these strategies to share with you what we are doing and what we have found. We have heard such positive feedback from nonprofits about our leadership in this area. And we have you, our fundholders, to thank for the support.

Learn More | Contact me with questions and/or your feedback.



**Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA**  
Director of Donor Services

[erika@lvcfoundation.org](mailto:erika@lvcfoundation.org)  
610 351-5353 Ext. 13  
[www.lvcfoundation.org](http://www.lvcfoundation.org)

## IN THE NEWS

### Area Nonprofits Receive \$75,000 in Grants from Igniting Change Fund

LVCF recently issued \$75,000 in grants from its 2018-19 Igniting Change Fund to



provide additional resources to expand on the important work the Foundation began during its 50th Anniversary year of Spark grantmaking in 2017. “We focused our efforts on supporting organizations that use a comprehensive approach in the delivery of services for vulnerable populations,” said **Megan Briggs**, LVCF’s director of community investments. [Learn more...](#)

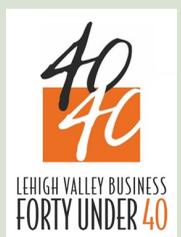
### Kerry Wrobel Named to LVCF Board

**Kerry A. Wrobel** was recently named to the LVCF Board of Governors. Wrobel is president of Lehigh Valley Industrial Park Inc. (LVIP), a private non-profit economic development corporation. He serves on LVCF’s Community Investments Committee and Finance Committee. [Learn more...](#)



### Erika Riddle Petrozelli Named to “Forty under 40” by Lehigh Valley Business

*Lehigh Valley Business* named **Erika Riddle Petrozelli**, director of donor services at LVCF, as one of the 40 young professionals from the greater Lehigh Valley selected as a “Forty Under 40” honoree for 2019. [Learn more...](#)



# Have you logged on to DonorCentral?

LVCF recently implemented DonorCentral by Blackbaud, our new online fund management system that allows fundholders to have access to both current and historical information about their funds at any time and from any device. This valuable new tool provides fundholders with the ability to access information about the activity of their funds from fund inception. Additionally, those with donor-advised funds now submit grant recommendations through the system. Visit [www.lvcfoundation.org](http://www.lvcfoundation.org) and click on the DonorCentral tab.



Welcome to LVCF DonorCentral!

## Highlights of DonorCentral

- Includes comprehensive information about gifts to and grants from an individual fund. Users have the ability to filter the data for date ranges or particular organizations.
- Prominently displays the current fund value. The month-end value is updated to include investment performance, if applicable, by the middle of the following month.
- Posts a history of semi-annual fund statements for viewing or downloading at any time.
- Exports historical data into Excel to enable users to personally organize and review the data offline.
- Displays data in visually-pleasing charts in a user-friendly view.
- Easily communicates community needs, issues and impact opportunities and other information that LVCF feels is important for you to hear. Information 'cards' can be found at the bottom of the home page. Check back regularly for updates!
- Submits grant recommendations from donor-advised funds directly into our accounting system in a simplified and efficient way. The system sends an e-mail to the advisor when a recommendation has been received and when it has been approved. Advisors can also view the status at any time.

### DonorCentral Tip

If you feel as though DonorCentral does not seem to be working to its full capacity or are experiencing difficulty with any of the site's functionality, we recommend first clearing cookies for the website in your Internet browser. Please contact us for assistance at any time!

## With the implementation of DonorCentral, we have made some important changes...

1

### Joint Access

For those funds with more than one family member as the establishing donor, we have granted full DonorCentral access to all individuals. Contact us at any time if you wish to decline this option and designate just one individual.

2

### Donor Information to Grantees

Going forward, we will share your name and address with grantees when a grant is made from your fund unless you request otherwise. Please contact us if you wish to decline this option. Please note that donor-advised funds can elect on a grant-by-grant basis whether you want your information to be shared.

3

### Gift Amount Transparency

Several of our funds receive gifts from donors other than the fundholder. On DonorCentral you will see donor names, addresses, and gift amounts so you can personally thank your supporters as you wish.

Contact us if you would like a tutorial of this powerful and convenient new system!



**Trisha R. Higgins, CPA**  
Vice President and CFO  
[trisha@lvcfoundation.org](mailto:trisha@lvcfoundation.org)  
610 351-5353 Ext. 15  
[www.lvcfoundation.org](http://www.lvcfoundation.org)



**Ashton Galasso**  
Assistant Director of Operations  
[ashton@lvcfoundation.org](mailto:ashton@lvcfoundation.org)  
610 351-5353 Ext. 21  
[www.lvcfoundation.org](http://www.lvcfoundation.org)

## Lehigh Valley Community Foundation

Confirmed in  
Compliance with  
National Standards  
for U.S. Community  
Foundations



excellence. Accountability. Impact.™