



CAUSE CONNECTION

Connecting people who care to causes that matter

The Season of Gratitude | We Say “Thank You” Donors and Fundholders

As we enter this season of gratitude, we write to you with our many thanks for your contributions to our community. It has been another tumultuous year of uncertainty amid certain change, but we weathered the storm and proved our resiliency, yet again. Through November 30th our fundholders granted over \$5.2 million to nonprofits addressing a wide spectrum of community needs – wow! It is through your generosity that food pantries continued to provide healthy meals; transportation was available to those seeking opioid addiction treatment; theaters opened their doors to patrons once again; and many, many more impactful grants from our over 280 charitable funds. Thank you!

Our work does not end when the check is written. Our role as a trusted community partner, advisor and leader came into focus during the early days of the pandemic. We continue to embrace this work for the long-term, across all teams and initiatives.

For example, we are engaged in the nonprofit community more deeply than ever, and we have new community partners to advance our **leadership grant strategies**, such as new partnerships with the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. More to come on these focus areas in a future issue.

We have also launched a new donor support platform to engage the next generation of philanthropists and to share our

grantmaking expertise with families who want to make more of an impact in the Lehigh Valley. Some of you may know this effort as our **EverGreen Funds**. Stay tuned for more information or contact Carrie Krug Nedick, Director of Donor Services, email carrie@lvcfoundation.org to learn more!

We have a lot of really good stuff happening, and we are so fortunate to have reached this point of visibility, credibility, and strength. I hope it's obvious that the Community Foundation continues to fire on all cylinders with a wonderful, highly effective team in place, thanks to the vision and leadership of my predecessor, Bernie Story who was recently honored with a [Vision in Philanthropy Award](#). In addition, The

[Bernard J. Story Fund](#) has been established that will provide annual unrestricted support for the Foundation.

We have so much to be thankful for this year-end, including your continued support of our work and our region. Our work continues – all of our contributions, no matter how big or small. Our community counts on it.

Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA
President and CEO
Erika@lvcfoundation.org



Things to Consider for Your Year-End Giving

As 2021 comes to an end, we are here to help you accomplish your year-end charitable giving goals. Here are a few things to consider now, or anytime, when it comes to your philanthropy.

Cryptocurrency

The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation now accepts cryptocurrency donations! Through our digital wallet, you can securely transfer cryptocurrency to a charitable fund at the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation. Learn more at www.lvcfoundation.org.



Getting Serious About Planned Giving



Now is a great time to assess your estate planning as uncertainty around income tax reform extends to the estate tax landscape. Charitable gifts can be used to help manage taxes, shift assets, and transfer wealth— while making a significant contribution to charitable organizations. The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation can be a partner in planning your philanthropic legacy.

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Things to Consider for Your Year-End Giving

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“Bunching” your Philanthropic Gifts

DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

A Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) is an account or fund that a donor creates at a sponsoring organization that is itself a qualified charity. The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation offers Donor-Advised Funds with a minimum establishing gift of just \$5,000. Donors who have an unusually high income or gains this year can bunch multiple future gifts into a single year to increase the tax benefit of the charitable contributions.

For example, open a Donor-Advised fund for \$25,000, receive the tax benefit in this tax year for the full amount, and then plan your giving for the next 3-5 years. Donors can grant the dollars in their fund to nonprofit organizations at the time that they choose in order to maintain a similar level of giving and timing as in previous years.

Giving Appreciated Stock

Giving stock remains one of the easiest ways to give. If you have held appreciated stock for more than a year, you can take a charitable tax deduction for the fair market value of the stock, and neither you nor the community foundation will pay capital gains taxes upon the sale. We can facilitate the conversion of your gifts of stock into charitable dollars, and help distribute it to multiple nonprofit organizations on your behalf.



Giving from Your IRA



While the consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 extended certain tax breaks, it did not extend the waiver of required minimum distributions (RMDs) from retirement accounts. That means, unlike last year, RMDs must be made in 2021. For donors taking the standard deduction, a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is an attractive option. Individuals over age 70 ½ can donate up to \$100,000 from their IRA. This satisfies the RMD requirement. Not all fund types can accept this type of gift, so contact us for information.

Give Unrestricted

Unrestricted gifts and grants to nonprofit organizations allow the organization to decide where the need is greatest. Nonprofits are experts at serving their own mission. General operating support allows for flexibility and capacity building initiatives that strengthen the organization from the inside out. The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation supports nonprofits with unrestricted grants and also, as a nonprofit, accepts unrestricted gifts to support our own community leadership initiatives and operations.

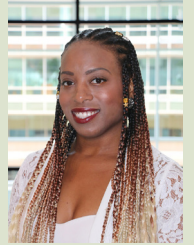


Learn More | Contact Carrie Krug Nedick, LVCF Director of Donor Services
610 351-5353 Ext. 10 | carrie@lvcfoundation.org

IN THE NEWS

Monique Moreno Promoted to Program Associate at the Community Foundation

Monique Moreno was recently promoted to Program Associate, a new full-time position at the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation.



She assists the Director of Community Investments in managing the community investments functions of the Foundation, which includes crafting grantmaking strategies, implementing grant cycles, and providing community leadership.

Monique is now the point of contact for Arts, Culture, Creative Economy, one of the Foundation's main focus areas in Foundation-directed grantmaking, which is funded through the Pennsylvania Council of Arts, Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts program.

LVCF now accepts gifts of cryptocurrency through our digital wallet!

We processed several gifts of this type this year, and we are ready to serve those donors who wish to explore donating more complex assets. Contact erika@lvcfoundation.org to learn more!

