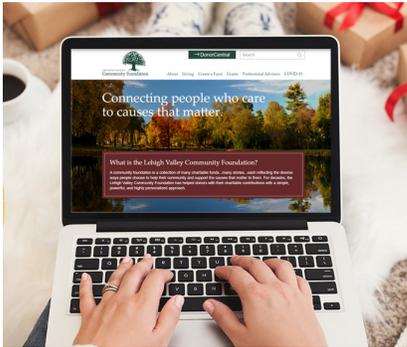


# CAUSE CONNECTION

Connecting people who care to causes that matter

## It's That Time Again for Year-end Giving Tips



Now is a great time for giving, and this year our community needs you now more than ever. When you make a donation by December 31, 2020 to the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, you aren't just giving money—you're making a difference in our community. Here are some things to consider for your year-end giving.

### Take advantage of CARES Act tax advantages for 2020

Consider a \$300 year-end donation to Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, either through your Fund or as an unrestricted gift to the Foundation. Through the CARES Act, taxpayers who do not itemize can claim an above-the-line charitable deduction up to \$300.



The CARES act also temporarily suspends or increases certain percentage limitations for cash charitable contributions made during 2020. For taxpayers who itemize deductions, cash contributions made during 2020 will not be subject to Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) limitations. Prior to tax year 2020, an individual's charitable contributions made in cash were limited to 60% of their AGI.

### Make a tax-free distribution from your IRA

If you are receiving taxable income from retirement plan assets or life insurance policies, there are a number of tax-advantaged ways to make these assets work for you and the causes you support. For example, donors age 70 1/2 or older may be eligible to donate up to \$100,000 from their IRA without counting the distribution as income.

### Give now-Decide later with a Donor-Advised Fund

**DONOR  
ADVISED  
FUNDS**

This is a great way to claim a tax deduction now for supporting your favorite charities in the future. Donor-advised funds can be created quickly and easily with a gift of \$5,000 or more. And, with a gift of appreciated stock or mutual funds, you avoid paying capital gains tax on the sale of the stock and receive an immediate charitable income tax deduction for the full value of the asset.

## IN THE NEWS

### LVCF Welcomes New Members to the Board of Governors

LVCF recently named Monica Brooks, manager, Diversity & Inclusion for PPL Electric Utilities, to its Board of Governors. Brooks will serve on the Community Foundation's Community Relations Committee.



Brooks is responsible for promoting and developing training, coaching, and/or mentorship programs to enhance PPL employee understanding on inclusion issues. With experience working across multiple industries and in a variety of demographics, Brooks has a proven career and expertise in organizational change, improving workplace culture, diversity, and leadership credibility.

LVCF recently named Thomas Groves, founder, president, and partner at Equinox Benefits Consulting in Emmaus, Pa., to its Board of Governors.



Groves will serve on the Community Foundation's Finance Committee.

Groves has over twenty years of industry experience, including working for the large insurance carrier, Highmark Blue Shield. He started Equinox Benefits Consulting (The Equinox Agency) in 2004, and is an expert in negotiation, self-funding, and employee engagement.

# COVID-19 | COMMUNITY RESPONSE FUND

Greater Lehigh Valley

## The COVID-19 Community Response Fund Honored with National Philanthropy Day Award

LVCF and the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley recently accepted the 2020 Outstanding Community Champion Award on behalf of the COVID-19 Community Response Fund from the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Eastern PA Chapter. We are so proud to be representing you, our donors, in receiving this truly wonderful recognition of the quick mobilization and extensive work completed in response to the pandemic. See the video of the virtual award presentation at: <https://youtu.be/O0lXjNW5ZmY>. Below outlines some highlights of the Fund.

### April 2020

The regional partnership of funders distributed over \$320,000 to 43 nonprofits providing food, shelter, healthcare, income supports, and other essentials to our neighbors who live paycheck to paycheck, who are elderly, who have disabilities, or who are youth, among other vulnerable or marginalized populations in our community. The organizations included a mix of those who focus on one service and those who offer multiple services. More than half of the funding went to “small” organizations who cannot always access other supports (e.g. federal stimulus), including grass-roots organizations who are the trusted providers and messengers in deeply impacted neighborhoods. LVCF contributed \$50,000 to the fund.



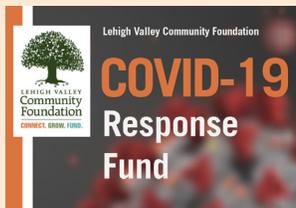
### May 2020

The regional partnership of funders distributed \$120,000 to 18 Lehigh Valley nonprofits. While food and housing access and income supports remained a top priority, special consideration was given to organizations that focus on mental health or substance use, as well as organizations led by people of color. In this round, grant amounts ranged from \$2,500 to \$15,000 with almost \$50,000 in total directed to organizations providing healthcare services such as mental health. LVCF contributed \$30,000.



### November 2020

The Community Foundation expects to distribute nearly \$20,000 in final relief grants in support of childcare and family support services. We extend our sincerest gratitude to you, our donors, for contributing to these efforts and moving our work forward.



## Year-end Giving Tips

(Continued)

**DAFs and Bundling:** Some donors are opting to bundle or “pre-fund” their giving. This means donating two, three, or more years’ worth of giving at one time into a DAF, claiming the charitable deduction that year, and then waiting to donate again while claiming the standard deduction. A DAF gives you the option to bundle the donation to your DAF that first year, and then continue to support your favorite causes in future years from the DAF.

### Give early and complete your gift by December 31

A gift by check is complete when mailed (postmarked) to the charitable recipient, even if not cashed until the following year. Gifts by credit card are complete when your credit card account is charged. Gifts of stock and real estate are more complex; don’t wait until late December to make these gifts as it may be too late to make the necessary arrangements.

### Let the Community Foundation do the work

Working with the Community Foundation gives you access to our extensive knowledge of the local nonprofit community and the broad charitable needs of our region—so you can stay informed about the organizations you support and the effect your giving will have on the future of our community.

We look forward to hearing from you and helping you through your philanthropic needs. Contact Erika Riddle Petrozelli with questions about how and when to give to a charitable fund at LVCF [erika@lvcfoundation.org](mailto:erika@lvcfoundation.org)