

Lehigh Valley Community Foundation

2020-21 PHILANTHROPIC REPORT



Centering Equity in the Nonprofit Sector



CONNECT. GROW. FUND.



Centering Equity in the Nonprofit Sector

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LVCF Fast Facts 2020-21

Assets Reached

\$80+
Million

Added 14 New Funds

266
Total Funds

Grants to the Community

\$5.6
Million

Gifts Totaling

\$13.3
Million

Issued

753
Grants

Supporting More Than

350
Nonprofits

Message from the Board Chair, President, and CEO



As we close the chapter on another fiscal year, 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. This past year, fundholders granted over \$5.6 million to nonprofits addressing a wide spectrum of community needs. 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 more impactful grants from our over 260 charitable funds. Time and time again our donors step up to the plate and hit it out of the park – thank you!

LVCf's 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. We are engaged in the nonprofit community more deeply than ever, building new community partners and deepening existing relationships. In 2020-21, we truly began centering equity in the Lehigh Valley's nonprofit sector. Through this work we focused our third year of the capacity building program on organizations with leaders who are Black, Indigenous,

or People of Color (BIPOC). See Page 10 for more information on our approach. We also partnered with Faces International and the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley to implement Project Equity (see page 8). We're working with stakeholders in the region to create a common vision, values, and strategies for redesigning an equitable and sustainable nonprofit sector.

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. We are excited about our role in nurturing place-based philanthropy.

There is 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 Bernie Story, supported by the Board of Governors.

We have so much to be thankful for in 2020-21 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 and its making a difference in people's lives.



Sandra L. Bodnyk
Chair, Board of Governors



Bernard J. Story
President



Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA
Chief Executive Officer



“Erika Riddle Petrozelli is uniquely qualified and fully prepared to continue the Community Foundation’s upward trajectory”

A Time of Transition in Leadership

Erika Riddle Petrozelli Named President and CEO

Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA, succeeded Bernie J. Story as Chief Executive Officer on January 1, 2021, as part of a planned transition that saw Bernie continue to serve as President until June 30, 2021, after which he served as a Philanthropic Advisor at the Foundation. She assumed the reins of President and CEO on July 1, 2021.

Erika joined the Community Foundation in 2014 as Director of Donor Services with a focus on maintaining and expanding philanthropic relationships of the Foundation. During 2020, she has served as Vice President of Philanthropy, contributing to strategic decisions and community leadership activities, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Certified Public Accountant, she provides professional knowledge

and advice about charitable giving to a wide range of Lehigh Valley residents, from individuals and families to their trusted advisors and local businesses.

“Erika is a tremendous asset to the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, and we are fortunate that she has succeeded me as President and CEO. She has all of the necessary skills to make the Foundation even more impactful over the next decade and beyond,” said **Bernie Story**. “She is a true professional with proven potential to become an a recognized community leader in a very short time.”

“It has been an absolute joy working to support the Lehigh Valley’s wonderful nonprofit organizations as the CEO of the Valley’s Community Foundation,” said Story. “I have been so fortunate to have

been surrounded by an outstanding cast of colleagues on our board of governors and our staff.”

“The Board of Governors of the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation is indebted to Bernie Story for his leadership, enthusiasm, and dedication,” said **Tom Campbell**, Chair of the Board of Governors during the time of the leadership transition. “During his tenure, the Community Foundation has achieved unprecedented growth in both funding for the entire Lehigh Valley and the expansion of the variety of organizations and causes supported.”

“We are equally excited to have a seamless transition to our next chapter. Erika Riddle Petrozelli is uniquely qualified and fully prepared to continue the foundation’s upward trajectory,” Campbell continued.

Get to Know Erika Riddle Petrozelli

NYC Financial Experience

Prior to joining the Foundation, Erika was Vice President of Investor Relations at Magnitude Capital, LLC, a fund of hedge funds based in New York City. In this role, she was responsible for client service and content management for the firm's global investor base. Prior to joining Magnitude, Erika was a Senior Audit Associate in the Banking and Capital Markets sector at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

A Thought Leader

Erika has had several thought pieces and op-eds published in local publications including *Network Magazine*, *Lehigh Valley Business*, and *The Express-Times*. She has contributed to news stories in *The Morning Call*, and has appeared on television broadcasts including WLVT PBS39, WFMZ 69 News, WBPH TV-60, and on radio programs at WDIY 88.1 FM. She was named to Lehigh Valley Business's "Forty Under 40" group for 2019.

Erika was selected for a 2018-19 Rider-Pool Foundation Collective Impact Fellowship, an intensive, nine-month Fellowship program

that trains and equips non-profit leaders to address complex community needs and develop stronger cross-sector partnerships. In 2016, Erika completed the Leadership Lehigh Valley program at Northampton Community College. She was recently named Vice Chair of the Board of the Pennsylvania Community Foundation Association, an alliance of 31 community foundations across the state.

Community-Minded

Erika is a member of the Board of Managers of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem (2018 – Current) and Vice-Chair, Board of Directors, Estate Planning Council of the Lehigh Valley (2017-Current). In addition, she is a member of the Junior League (2010 – Current), previously in New York City and currently in the Lehigh Valley.

Locally Educated at LU

A Bethlehem native, she graduated from Lehigh University, majoring in accounting. Erika was awarded the President's Scholarship and went on to earn a Masters degree in Accounting and Information Analysis from Lehigh.



Thank You Bernie...

Bernie Story began his tenure as President and CEO with the Community Foundation in 2012. Under his leadership, the Foundation's total assets grew by nearly 90 percent, from \$33 million to over \$60 million. In addition, the number of charitable funds held at the Foundation grew by over 60 percent, from 160 funds to over 260 funds.

Most notable, the annual grants made by the Foundation grew from just over \$1 million to nearly \$7 million, making the Community Foundation one of the largest funders of nonprofit organizations in the Lehigh Valley. Story joined the Foundation after 32 years in higher education administration.

Bernie continues to support the work of the Foundation as Philanthropic Advisor. In that role, he maintains important community relationships for the Foundation. "I have loved every minute of my work at the Foundation and I know it is well-positioned to continue to grow in support of the Lehigh Valley community. I look forward to my continued involvement in support of the Community Foundation's mission to improve the quality of life for all those in the Lehigh Valley," he said.



PROJECT EQUITY

REDESIGNING THE LV NONPROFIT SECTOR

Centering Equity in the Nonprofit Sector

Reimagining the Nonprofit Sector | Project Equity

The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation and United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley partnered with Faces International to create a new initiative that brought together nonprofit stakeholders in the region to create a common vision, values, and strategies for redesigning an equitable and sustainable nonprofit sector. “Project Equity: Redesigning the Lehigh Valley Nonprofit Sector” launched in 2020 during a time when COVID-19, an economic downturn and heightened national conversations about racial inequities converged. The project website: projectequitylv.com and a video helped to raise awareness about the project.

“The underlying principle of Project Equity is the concept of ‘co-design’ which is when an organization and its stakeholders work together



to design or rethink a service,” explained **Megan Briggs**, Director of Community Investments at Lehigh Valley Community Foundation. “We invited the people most affected by COVID-19 and systemic inequities

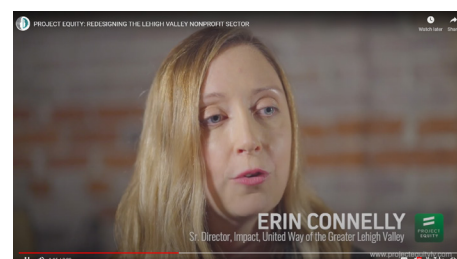
into the problem-solving and decision-making space to co-design strategies to address how the nonprofit sector can rebuild in a way that focuses on equity and sustainability,” she noted.

“This approach goes beyond creating a diversity plan or initiative where leadership overlays elements of diversity and inclusion overtop systemic inequities,” said **Tyrone Russell**, Chief Executive Officer of Faces International.



“We had the right people around the table. Together, they dug into the core of our nonprofit sector and pulled out a framework that inextricably connects missions to processes, donors to our neighbors, and equity to sustainability.”

The COVID-19 pandemic, economic downturn, and the heightened national consciousness on racial disparities has laid bare the systemic racism and historic disinvestment in our communities, as well as the stark inequities in our society.



“The nonprofit sector is serving a vital need during this crisis, but is being stretched in many ways,” said **Erin Connelly**, Senior Director of Impact, United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley. “We need to operate differently to serve our community and rebuild in a way that focuses on equity and sustainability. Now is the time to ask how the Lehigh Valley nonprofit community could build an equitable, sustainable nonprofit sector together. It is with that vision that launched Project Equity.”

Kevin Greene, Chief Operations Officer at Faces added, “Equity is not about taking away what you have. It is about extending the table so we have the voices and expertise we need to achieve success.”



“The outcome of Project Equity is enabling the nonprofit sector to rethink how we are operating, imagine better alternatives, and co-create strategies to make those alternatives come to life.” Briggs explained further. “The project worked to center the community’s expertise and create a unified voice around the vision, values, and strategies in rebuilding from COVID-19. Through the process, we built and deepened relationships and seeded new partnerships among Lehigh Valley nonprofit leaders serving BIPOC communities.”

The project was initiated through the Strategic Response Team, a collaborative that began to meet to align and coordinate initial response and recovery efforts in the Greater Lehigh Valley. Project Equity is supported by a grant from the United Philanthropy Forum’s Momentum Fund, as well as donor contributions supporting COVID-19 relief efforts.



Lehigh Valley Community Foundation and United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley (UWGLV) received a \$65,000 grant from the newly-formed Momentum Fund to support collaborative relief work with community-run organizations actively mitigating the pandemic’s impact with an explicit focus on social justice.

The grant was one of 129 grants, totaling \$8.5 million, awarded by United Philanthropy Forum’s Momentum Fund to 501(c)(3) organizations around the country managing COVID-19 relief funds that provide grants and other forms of direct support to community-run organizations working with communities of color, historically marginalized populations, and other groups being disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

“This grant helped deepen our understanding of the impact of systemic racism and COVID-19 on the BIPOC community in the Lehigh Valley,” said Megan Briggs, Director of Community Investments, Lehigh Valley Community Foundation. “By centering our efforts through the lens of racial equity and being more intentional in this work, it is informing our strategies that address racial disparities.”

The Momentum Fund grant powered the ongoing work of the Greater Lehigh Valley COVID-19 Community Response Fund, a partnership of 23 funders including LVCF and UWGLV. With an explicit focus on racial equity, the Community Response Fund provides a rapid, informed and coordinated approach to assessing community need and getting dollars where they are most useful.



Project Equity included four distinct phases to ensure the initiative remains centered on equity and is a thorough and complete process. Consultants [TCCGroup](#) provided data and evaluation support.

Phase One - Community-wide Launch

The project began with the creation of a “Design Team” made up of nonprofit and community representatives who received a grant to their respective organizations in recognition of their time.

Phase Two - Learn and Discover

Design Team participants engaged in intensive dialogue about their experience in the nonprofit space. The team worked to understand what our community and sector has experienced as the COVID-19 pandemic, racial injustice, and an economic downturn converge.

Phase Three - Community Co-designing

The project began with a focus on developing a framework, and shifted to understanding that ultimately, the vision is about transforming ‘ways of being,’ not about assuming that there exists a checklist, or simple strategies that could be institutionalized to address the inequities that we are facing in the Lehigh Valley. During Phase three, intensive dialogue continued leading to a deeper shared understanding and shared value systems. Relationships were formed or deepened across racial and other differences.

Phase Four – Share and Act

A new core planning team was created to bring new voices into leadership roles to drive the next steps in continuing the work.





Centering Equity in the Nonprofit Sector

Applying an Equity Lens to Capacity Building

With a focus on creating a more equitable nonprofit sector in the Lehigh Valley, the Community Foundation awarded 2020-2021 Nonprofit Effectiveness grants to nine area nonprofits led by a diverse group of leaders. These nonprofit leaders participated as a co-hort in the Foundation's year-long program designed to build organizational capacity.

The Foundation launched the Nonprofit Effectiveness Program as a pilot in 2018 to provide targeted support to assist in strengthening nonprofit effectiveness in a variety of ways, partnering with nonprofits to build their internal infrastructure so that they may enhance their impact. The model included not only grant funding for a capacity-building project, but also offered grantees a Community of Practice, a space for cohort-based organizational development sessions and peer-to-peer engagement.

This year's program builds upon the lessons learned from two full funding cycles in which the Community Foundation had distributed \$240,000 in grants to support the initiative, along with additional investments

in bringing in expert consultants to provide cohort-based professional facilitation. LVCF also has partnered with Two Rivers Health and Wellness Foundation in delivering this model to selected Two Rivers Health and Wellness Foundation grantees both in the 2019-2020 cycle and in the 2020-2021 cycle.

In 2021, LVCF funded a new cohort of organizations that are led by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and that serve Lehigh Valley's Black and Brown communities.

"The Foundation is supporting building the capacity of these organizations due to historical lack of funding to BIPOC-led organizations and the demonstrated impact of these organizations," said **Megan Briggs**, director of community investments. "Targeted funding for organizational capacity-building is necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability of these important organizations. We are so pleased to be partnering with this truly powerful group of nonprofits this year." The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation initiated

this grant opportunity in recognition of the valuable role that BIPOC-led organizations have in providing culturally centered approaches in delivery of services and programs to the Lehigh Valley community. Each of the following organizations received a \$14,000 grant for a project and will be participating in a 2021 Community of Practice, that will be specific to the desires and needs of the newly funded cohort:

- **Afros in Nature** - Afros in Nature Financial Viability Plan
- **Black Heritage Association of the Lehigh Valley** - Allentown Digital Inclusion Initiative
- **Boys & Girls Club of Bethlehem** - Great Leaders Initiative
- **Casa Guadalupe Center** - Casa Communications/Technology Update
- **Cohesion Network** – Project Sustainability
- **Martin Luther & Coretta Scott King Memorial Project Inc.** - Infrastructure Build Out Strategic Plan
- **Pratyush Sinha Foundation** - Mindful Education System
- **Promise Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley** - Fund Development Plan
- **Resurrected Community Development Corporation** - RCDC Staff Compensation Study

In addition to the nine newly funded grantees for 2021, the LVCF renewed grants for two of the organizations that were funded the previous year. Both Humanitarian Social Innovations and the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley have been funded at \$10,000 each this year to implement a joint project, the Regional Coordinated Nonprofit Capacity Building: Fact-Finding Phase.

Megan Briggs noted that when LVCF launched the Nonprofit Effectiveness Pilot, the Foundation's goal was to answer the question, would there be value in creating a centralized, coordinated approach to deploying capacity-building services to the non-profit sector? "Through several interviews and data collection points throughout the last two years, there was a resounding agreement that a centralized approach would be valued," she explained. "Understanding that both the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley and Humanitarian Social Innovations could be key partners in offering a centralized, coordinated approach, LVCF provided an initial grant to both organizations in the 2019-2020 cycle and have renewed them in 2020-2021 to begin laying the groundwork for a centralized, coordinated approach to capacity building in the Valley."



Lehigh Valley Community Foundation recently issued grants that support professional development initiatives for nonprofit leaders in the Lehigh Valley.

Organizations receiving the \$2,000 grants for 2020-21 were:

- Fe Foundation
- Dress for Success Allentown
- SELF LV
- The Ortiz Ark Foundation
- Unidos Foundation
- Change Now Inc
- Casa Oasis

"We recognize the importance and impact that these professional development funds for nonprofit leaders are in helping ensure the continued growth and effectiveness of their organizations," said **Megan Briggs**, director of community investments at the Community Foundation. "Too often professional development is the first thing to be put on hold as organizations shift funding to meet other priorities."



Preserving Journalistic Integrity and Local Reporting in a Digital World

During the virtual spring Board of Associates (BOA) meeting, a panel discussion was held to examine the state of news media in Pennsylvania and the Lehigh Valley, the importance of journalistic integrity in delivering the news, and initiatives that are underway to support local reporting that is integral to the functioning of our government and communities.

The meeting was held via Zoom on June 8, 2021, and featured a robust panel discussion focusing on “Preserving Journalistic Integrity and Local Reporting in a Digital World.” **Michael Stershic**, Chair, LVCF Board of Associates welcomed the group and turned it over to **Erika Riddle Petrozelli**, Community Foundation CEO, who thanked him for his service as the BOA chair for the past two years and for arranging for **Marty Baron**, Former Editor of *The Washington Post* and *The Boston Globe* to participate on the panel.

The meeting sponsor, **Jennifer Ward** of Advanced Cleaning Solutions, a disabled veteran-owned commercial cleaning company, introduced **David Erdman**, Former Editor, *The Morning Call*, who served as the moderator for the panel discussion. He began the program with an analysis of the challenges facing media today and the impact of the technology,



the Internet and social media on the delivery and reliability of news, and the state of journalism. Erdman provided an overview of the current situation with *The Morning Call*, which had been just bought out by Alden Global Capital which “has a track record is for sharply reducing costs by eliminating journalist positions at its newspapers, and making other drastic cost slashing reductions,” Erdman noted.

Panelist **Christopher Baxter** is the Executive Director, Editor, and founder of Spotlight PA, an independent, nonpartisan newsroom covering the state capitol and urgent statewide issues. The mission of spotlight PA is to hold powerful private and public forces across Pennsylvania, especially businesses, governments and special interests to account through urgent and compelling investigative journalism that drives change and strengthens our democracy. “We don’t want to diminish in any way, what remains of local news in Pennsylvania. But instead we’re focused on filling the gap with high quality journalism in those areas. We employ the time intensive and tough accountability and enterprise journalism that has really slipped away as newsrooms have shrunk and have been forced to focus on turning their websites, increasing pageviews and increasing ad impressions to generate revenue,” Baxter noted.



Karen Rundlet, Director of the Journalism Program, joined Knight Foundation in 2015 where she focuses on investing in new methods and models to advance excellence in journalism and civic media as a way to support informed, local communities. “We’re looking to invest in people who have great ideas,” she said.



Knight Foundation invested \$300 million, over five years in the future of local news in 2019. “We are guided at the Knight Foundation by the words—informed and engaged communities,” she explained. “Today’s newsrooms must co-design with local residents—that’s critical. Digital entrepreneurs and new startups are embarking on listening tours well before they even build a news organization, and really trying to understand what information and news a community will use and truly value. As a funder, we see philanthropy as part of the solution. But we certainly can’t do it alone.”

Panelist **Martin “Marty” Baron**, was executive editor of *The Washington Post* from 2013 through February 2021 where he oversaw The Post’s print and digital news operations. Baron-led newsrooms won 17 Pulitzer Prizes, including 10 at The Post. Previously, Baron had been editor of *The Boston Globe* which was awarded the public service prize in 2003 for its investigation into a pattern of concealing clergy sex abuse in the Catholic Church, coverage portrayed years later in the Academy Award-winning movie “Spotlight.”



“The real crisis in American media is at the local level and you’re seeing it in the Lehigh Valley right now,” Baron noted. “Democracy really begins at the local level. It’s the way most people find out what their government, city council, county commissioners, school boards and police are doing. I think it’s important to note that a lot of local stories are national stories. I’m almost certainly best known for the investigation that *The Boston Globe* did of the Catholic Church, covering up sexual abuse. Whether we’re talking about voting rights and election security, elections are supervised at the state and local level, so it’s really important that there are resources at the community level in order to help journalists continue reporting. If there aren’t local news organizations, the vacuum is filled with people who have agendas to spread misinformation,” Baron explained.

Board of Associates Fall 2020 Meeting

An Equitable Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic

Keith Wardrip, Community Development Research Manager, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, presented “An Equitable Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic,” during the Spring 2020 virtual meeting of the BOA. The discussion focused on equitable outcomes in the labor market, examining who was hardest hit during the downturn, and how the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic can be made more equitable.



Wardrip noted the overwhelming evidence of a low-wage recession from the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. In April 2020, workers in occupations in the lowest-paying quintile had an unemployment rate of 26%, compared with 5% for workers in the highest-paying quintile. He shared data showing which jobs offer the greatest level of opportunity for displaced workers without a bachelor’s degree and how to create pathways into these opportunity-rich jobs.

Strategies to improve economic mobility and help meet the needs of employers included implementing skills-based hiring practices that could expand applicant pools to include workers who do not have a bachelor’s degree – but who do have many of the skills required to do the job. Targeted training could provide otherwise qualified workers with the skills necessary to make a successful transition. Increasing collaboration between employers, education providers, and workforce development organizations can ensure training meets local demand.

During the meeting, Bernie Story, President & CEO presented the Service to Philanthropy Award to Brian T. Regan, Director of Tax Services for Regan, Levin, Bloss, Brown & Savchak, P.C. Story then presented the Vision in Philanthropy Award to Barry M. Kessler, Co-founder and President of Kessler Chemical (see pages 14 and 15). The meeting concluded with Bernie Story outlining the leadership transition at the Community Foundation (see pages 6-7).

Barry M. Kessler Receives Vision in Philanthropy Award

The Community Foundation honored Barry M. Kessler with the Vision in Philanthropy Award 2020 during its virtual Board of Associates fall 2020 meeting. The prestigious award is given to those who have chosen to establish a fund at the Foundation as a method of supporting charitable organizations, and in so doing, have demonstrated a deep and meaningful commitment to philanthropy in the Lehigh Valley. LVCF thanks Valley National Financial Advisors who sponsored the 2020 Vision in Philanthropy Award.

“We honor Barry Kessler with the Vision in Philanthropy Award in recognition of an individual who has truly made a difference in the community by establishing several charitable funds at the Community Foundation that are providing important support in addressing substance use disorder, hunger, and housing,” said Bernie Story, President and CEO. “Notably, Barry has partnered with the Community Foundation staff to create a new model for grantmaking from area of interest funds. This model allows the donor to sit alongside us and other subject matter experts to make grant decisions in support of a cause that is very important to the donor.”



Kessler is the Co-founder and President of Kessler Chemical, Inc. In 2015, he was referred to the Community Foundation by his financial adviser, who noticed that he was growing increasingly interested in doing more with his charitable giving. His first designated fund with the Foundation was earmarked to go to the seven charities that he was personally involved with as a

volunteer. Over time, Kessler became more proactive in learning about the needs of the community. LVCF helped him establish an area of interest fund utilizing the Foundation’s network and knowledge of the nonprofits in the region that address food and housing issues, and substance use disorder issues.



In April of 2019, the Barry M. Kessler Fund at the Community Foundation announced \$50,000 in grants to ten nonprofits in the Lehigh Valley that provide food and housing services to vulnerable populations. In 2020, the Substance Use Disorder Fund of the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, supported by Barry Kessler provided \$30,000 in grants to support three programs addressing substance use disorders.

Past Recipients | Vision in Philanthropy Award

2020	Barry M. Kessler
2018	Luther J. Hottle, Jr. (50th Anniversary)
2016	Ruth & Charles Marcon
2014	Linda Sheftel
2012	Carol Henn
2011	Michael Caruso
2010	Bob* & Ilene Wood
	Louise Moore Pine* (posthumously)
2008	Rolland Adams* (posthumously) and the Adams Family
2007	John* & Ruby* Updegrove and J.B. & Kathleen Reilly
2006	Lehigh Valley Helping Hand Fund
2005	Luther J. Hottle, Jr. New Bethany Ministries
2004	Eleanor & Ben Boylston and William C. Rybak* (posthumously)
2003	Carole Brown and Father Dan Gambet*
2002	Debby Haight* and Ferd Thun

*ad astra...amongst the stars

Brian T. Regan Honored with Service to Philanthropy Award

LVCF honored Brian T. Regan with the Service to Philanthropy Award during its virtual Board of Associates meeting. The award recognizes a professional advisor that understands and appreciates the importance of philanthropy in the community, the diverse advantages of charitable giving for his clients, and the value of philanthropy in estate, retirement, and wealth management planning.

“It is a pleasure to recognize our colleague and good friend Brian Regan with the 2020 Service to Philanthropy Award,” said Bernie Story, LVCF President and CEO. “We present the award for his recognition of the value that the Foundation brings to community and for establishing a significant, permanent, and impactful charitable fund as chair of the board of directors of Saucon Insurance Company which provides important support of diverse community needs in the Bethlehem Area. We thank you RLB and Saucon Insurance Company for sponsoring this Award.”

Brian T. Regan is the director of tax services for Regan, Levin, Bloss, Brown & Savchak, P.C. He is a recognized expert in the areas of income tax compliance, planning, and accounting matters related to closely held businesses with a focus on several industries, including banking, food manufacturing, oil and gas drilling, and real estate development. Brian is a member of PICPA, AICPA, and the Estate Planning Council of the Lehigh Valley, the Pennsylvania Institute’s Multistate Tax Committee, He is a board member at ESSA Bank & Trust, Saucon Mutual Insurance Company and Northampton County Meals on Wheels...and is involved in many other civic and community organizations.



Past Recipients | Service to Philanthropy Award

2018

Marilee Falco
Agili

2017

Bruce A. Palmer, CPA
Buckno Lisicky & Company

2016

Geoffrey Boyer, CFP
Boyer Financial Group

2015

J. Marshall Wolff
Kressler, Wolff & Miller

2014

Matthew Sorrentino, Esq.
Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A.

Robert G. Tallman, Esq. (posthumously)

2012

Alfred E. Douglass, IV
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management
- Douglass Group

2008

Ellen Kraft, Esq.
Attorney At Law

2007

Dolores Laputka, Esq.
Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A.

2006

David Osborn, CLU, ChCF
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management -
Osborn Group

2005

Jeffrey T. Bogert
Magellan Financial, Inc.

Judith A. Harris, Esq.
Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A.

2004

Paul Florenz, Esq.*
Kolb, Vasiliadis & Florenz

Littner, Deshler and Littner

2003

Robert Moffett, Esq.
Attorney At Law

*ad astra...amongst the stars

Note: Recipient firm names reflect the time the award was given

COVID-19 Community Response Fund Recognized with Outstanding Community Champion Award

The Eastern PA Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) honored the people, organizations, and businesses that stepped-up during the COVID-19 pandemic during the chapter's 2020 National Philanthropy Day Awards Ceremony held virtually on November 18, 2020. The Greater Lehigh Valley COVID-19 Community Response Fund, established by the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation and the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, received the chapter's Outstanding Community Champion Award. Through this Fund, dozens of organizations collaborated to strengthen emergency services for community members who were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic in Lehigh, Northampton and Carbon counties.

Together with a Strategic Response Team of community leaders, 23 funders united to provide a rapid, informed and coordinated approach to assessing emerging needs and getting dollars where they're needed most. The Fund generated \$675,000 for Lehigh Valley front-line nonprofits providing essential services.

Kurt Landes, President and General Manager of the Lehigh Valley IronPigs, served as master of ceremonies. He was joined by **Sharon Alexander**, CFRE, AFP Eastern PA Chapter President. PPL and North Star Construction Management were the Lead Sponsors of the event that celebrated philanthropy and good will by honoring a host of those making an impact on the Greater Lehigh Valley area during this unprecedented time.



See the video for Outstanding Community Champion Award shot at Coca-Cola Park, home of the Iron Pigs: <https://youtu.be/O0IXjNW5ZmY>

"When COVID-19 first started impacting the Lehigh Valley nonprofits in our region, which are the front line, we're going to be working tirelessly in order to respond to the critical needs of community," said **Megan Briggs**, LVCF Director of Community Investments.



"We partnered with the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, and other funding partners to build a coalition to support nonprofits in a coordinated and informed way," explained **Erika Riddle Petrozelli**, Vice President for Philanthropy at LVCF.

"Almost immediately, our United Way team pivoted to start sharing additional information, mobilizing community and then generating new resources. And we did that in conjunction with a number of partners, most notably, the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation," said **Jill Pereira**, Vice President, Education & Impact at the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley.



"We are really excited to accept this award. We accept it with an immense amount of humility, because while we are receiving this award, we know that the real community champions are those nonprofit organizations who continue to work tirelessly to address the needs of our community day after day after day," Megan noted.

LVCF Workshop Series Focuses on Anti-Racism and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Community Foundation held, “Choosing the Path for Anti-Racism in the Nonprofit Sector,” a three-part introductory workshop series that provided space to reflect, dialogue, process and move to action within a peer learning community. The workshop was co-sponsored by Humanitarian Social Innovations, and planned in collaboration with the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley. It was held in two cohorts in August 2020.

The workshop series was facilitated by **Erica T. Mahady**, from Illumination Consulting Partners, a dedicated and compassionate educator with more than 10 years of experience as an organizational development consultant, health communications professional, author and certified executive coach.



The workshop series was attended by nonprofit leaders in the Lehigh Valley seeking to gain an understanding of Racial Justice and Anti-Racism and are seeking clarity on how to connect Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to their organization’s mission or strategy. The program presented shared language for discussing racial equity, biases and how to facilitate these difficult conversations

Racial Justice 3-part series provided space to reflect, dialogue, process and move to action within a peer-learning community



and frameworks and tools to understand how to respectfully enter into Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work for transformational change. Participants were given guidance on how to commit and make concrete plans for dismantling racism within their organization and in the larger society.

“The Community Foundation, in coordination with the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley initiated this event due to the Foundation’s participation in the Strategic Response Team’s Technical Assistance Sub-committee, which was designed to be responsive to needs in our nonprofit community as a result of COVID-19 pandemic,” said **Megan Briggs**, LVCF director of community investments, who is a member of the Strategic Response Team. This event was a follow-up to Heart-to-Heart: A Dialogue on Diversity and Race, an event that was organized by LVCF in June that offered nonprofit leaders a virtual space for connection and reflection in the midst of social uprisings and the COVID-19 pandemic.



Advancing Racial Equity and Cultural Competence:

Cultural competence is about our will and actions to build understanding between people, to be respectful and open to different cultural perspectives, strengthen cultural security and work towards equality.

Anti-Racism and Becoming an Actionable Ally:

For radical systemic change to occur, white people must join with BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) to demand change. Many are resolving to demonstrate allyship by taking actions to counter, disrupt, and dismantle systemic racism through anti-racism.

Infusing Equity and Inclusion Across Organizations:

The process of dismantling racism must in turn trigger a commitment to dismantling racism in organizations.

Thank you to Departing Members of the Board of Governors

Lehigh Valley Community Foundation thanked and recognized two outgoing Governors during the May 2021 Board of Governors meeting. "I gratefully recognize the service of **Camille Eyvazzadeh, M.D.**, who served as a Governor of the Foundation from 2015 to 2021," said **Sandy**



Bodnyk, Chair of the Board of Governors. "During his years of service to the Community Foundation, Camille has been a reliable and unwavering voice for the wise investment and management of Foundation assets. He admirably served on the Community Foundation's Board Finance Committee during his entire tenure. His generosity and support of the Foundation's 50th Anniversary Spark Grant program generated momentum for the organization and helped make the year of special grantmaking a success."

"I would also like to thank and gratefully recognize the service of **Thomas Campbell** who served as a Governor of the Foundation from 2014 to 2021," Sandy continued. "Tom served as Chair of the Foundation from 2019 to 2020. Tom's distinguished service as a Governor and



Chair of the Foundation has been marked by his insight, leadership, and commitment. As Chair, he always focused on the Foundation's mission and potential, serving with skillfulness and resolution. His commitment to the Foundation's growth through his work on the Executive and Board Affairs committees from 2019 to 2021 has been exemplary. During his tenure, he chaired the Community Relations Committee in 2017 and 2018, and served on and chaired the Marketing Committee in 2016 and 2017. He also served on the Discretionary Grants Committee from 2014 to 2015."

LVCF Welcomes New Members

Monica Brooks, Manager, Diversity & Inclusion for PPL Electric Utilities serves on the Community Investments Committee. At PPL, Monica 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. She is known for driving engagement and growing leadership to produce positive business results.



Thomas Groves, Founder, President, and Partner at Equinox Benefits Consulting in Emmaus, Pa., serves on the Finance Committee. He 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. As the founder and principal partner, Groves has led Equinox to be one of the fastest growing companies in the region year over year. He participates on various community boards. Bilingual in English and Spanish, he serves as Vice Chair of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (Lehigh Valley).



Financial Services Advisor **Charlotte Hartmann-Hansen** serves on the Finance Committee for LVCF. She has been an innovator in the financial services business for over 40 years. Charlotte is former president and investment advisor with Bethlehem Financial, LLC and Hartmann-Hansen Financial Services. Charlotte practiced financial planning for individuals and businesses focused on retirement, estates, investments, insurance, senior advisory services and intergenerational transition planning. She sold her business in 2018 and remains a member of Financial, Insurance and Estate Planning Councils and is certified in Long Term Care and Senior Services.



LVCF Staff Additions

Carrie Krug Nedick was named Director of Donor Services at Lehigh Valley Community Foundation in 2021. She joined LVCF in January of 2020 as Donor Services and Program Associate. She works with board members, donors, prospects and other members of the LVCF family to develop the Foundation's charitable fund pipeline. She provides personalized service to steward relationships and implement family philanthropy initiatives. Prior to joining LVCF, Carrie built a career in nonprofit administration and higher education fundraising, both on staff and as an independent consultant. She served in marketing, development, and outreach roles for the Allentown Symphony Association, and was a major gift officer for the College of Arts and Sciences at Lehigh University. Carrie served the Lehigh Valley as an independent consultant. She is a member of the Board of Managers of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem and an Officer of the Board of Parkland Community Library. She is a Cub Scout den leader and sings with the Bach Choir of Bethlehem. A Nazareth native, Carrie graduated from Lebanon Valley College with a B.A. degree in Music Theory and Composition.



Monique Moreno joined the staff of the Community Foundation in October 2020. In her role as Grants Associate, she assists the Director of Community Investments in managing the grantmaking functions of the Foundation, which includes crafting grant strategies, implementing grantmaking cycles, and providing community leadership. Prior to joining the Foundation, Monique spent nine years working various leadership roles for Stitch Fix and BCBG Max Azria. She served in management and administrative roles that focused on company operations and culture, client experience, and project management. Monique worked as an intern for the YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh and as a consultant for the Pittsburgh Human Rights Network, a social networking program implemented by Global Solutions Pittsburgh. A member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, she graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Cheyney University. She earned a Master's degree in Public and International Affairs from the University of Pittsburgh.



LVCF Hits \$75 Million Milestone

The Community Foundation eclipsed \$75,000,000 in assets in March of 2021. This achievement is a result of both market growth and "organic" growth from new funds held by the Foundation. These assets generate funding to support nonprofit organizations.



"Assets of \$75 million is another important milestone for the Community Foundation, and it is particularly meaningful after a challenging year," said **Erika Riddle Petrozelli**, CEO. "We are thankful to everyone for their support of the Foundation, being our ambassadors in the community and providing the helpful guidance and insight we need. We look forward to continuing our success and community impact in 2021 and beyond."

The growth of the Community Foundation is a reflection of the philanthropic spirit that lives in the Lehigh Valley, wise investing for growth, and prudent fiscal stewardship of the Foundation's funds. The Foundation strives to increase its impact through developing new funds and investing for growth to serve as a permanent source of funding for the Lehigh Valley.

Bernie Story a 2020 ICON Honoree

Lehigh Community Foundation President and CEO **Bernie Story** was named one of seventeen outstanding leaders to receive a Lehigh Valley Business Icon Award in October, 2020. The award recognizes Greater Lehigh Valley business leaders over the age of 60 for their notable success and demonstration of strong leadership both within and outside of their chosen fields. The winners were featured in the November, 2020, edition of Lehigh Valley Business.





Charitable 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
 - General Endowment | William J. Fenza Memorial Fund
 - Allentown Symphony Association Endowment Fund
 - Allentown Symphony Association Fund (established by the Century Fund)
- Bach Choir of Bethlehem Funds
 - General Endowment | Charles & Louise Hoffman Fund for the Bach Choir of Bethlehem
- Bethlehem AAUW Fund
- Boys & Girls Club of Bethlehem Restricted Endowment
- Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center Fund
- Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center Quasi-Endowment
- Burnside Plantation Fund
- Bucks County Free Library Endowment Fund
- Family Connection of Easton Fund
- Junior League of the Lehigh Valley Agency Endowment Fund
- KI is our Home Campaign 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 Ministries Endowment Funds:
 - General Endowment | Robinson Fund | Quasi-Endowment Fund for New Bethany Ministries
- Pediatric Cancer Foundation of the Lehigh Valley Fund
- ShareCare Fund
- Sights for Hope Endowment Fund
- United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley Funds
 - General Endowment | The Thun Fund | David Rabaut United Way Fund for Neighborhoods
- Endowment Fund to Further the Mission of Valley Youth House
- Victory House of Lehigh Valley Endowment Fund
- WDIY Public Radio Fund
- WDIY Endowment Fund





Charitable Funds

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, no-kill animal shelters, etc.

A **foundation-directed area-of-interest fund** distributes grants based on LVCF's community research to identify worthy charitable programs in the specified area-of-interest.

A **donor-directed area-of-interest fund** distributes 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
- Barbara & Maxwell Davison Fund for Alzheimer's Care
- Edward & Inez Donley Fund
- Fund to Fight Substance Use Disorder
- Richard E. Gasser Fund
- Margaret Haas Rotunno Memorial Fund for Local No Kill Shelters
- Barry M. Kessler Endowment Fund for Basic Human Needs
- Erwin J. & Gertrude K. Neusch Fund
- Lehigh River Fund
- Outdoor Recreation Fund for Youth
- Robert D. & Gwendolyn-Jane Romeril Campership Fund
- William C. Rybak Fund for People 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
- City of Bethlehem Celebration Fund
- Downtown Allentown Community Development Initiative Fund
- Every 15 Minutes Fund
- First Commonwealth *WE Thrive LV* Foundation Fund
- Galaxy Fund
- Lehigh County Medical Society Education Fund
- Lehigh Valley Homeless Veteran Fund
- Lehigh Valley Synergy Fund
- Northampton County Bar Association Charitable Fund
- PPL Operation HELP Fund
- Saucon Sanctuary Fund





Charitable Funds

Community Partnership Funds | *Meeting Changing Needs*

Community Partnership Funds provide unrestricted support for the Foundation's discretionary grantmaking to address the needs in the Lehigh Valley.

- 250th Book Fund
- E. Spencer & Nellie C. Addison Fund
- Margaret Ann Bachert Fund
- Randy H. & Ramona A. Bruch Fund
- John L. Daniel & 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.

- Allentown Art Museum Endowment Fund
- William B. & Elizabeth Behr Agocs Geophysical Research Fund
- American Red Cross-Lehigh Valley Chapter Fund
- Clayton W. & Helen H. Bernhardt/V.J. Pazzetti, Jr. Fund
- Dr. Charles L. Best Fund
- Bethlehem & Morning Star Rotary Clubs Scholarship Fund in Remembrance of Stephen P. Godbolt
- 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 for First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem, Pa.
- Boys & Girls Club of Bethlehem Restricted Endowment #1 Fund
- Camp Compass Fund
- Patrick J. & Christine Connell Fund
- Marjorie S. & Joseph E. Correll Fund
- John L. Daniel & Carol Holben-Daniel Designated 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
- Luther J. Hottle Fund
- Nancy S. & Charles E. Keenan Endowment Fund
- Kenneth & Elizabeth Kressler Fund
- Deborah A. Libricz Memorial 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
- Salesian Center Fund
- Arthur E. Schaeffer Trust Fund
- Shoemaker-Bond Home Association, Inc. Fund
- Theatre Organ Arts Fund
- Thun Fund
- George T. Walker Charitable Fund
- Warren W. York Fund To Benefit The United Way of The Greater Lehigh Valley



Charitable Funds

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.

- Anonymous
- Michael & Lynn Abgott Fund
- Alan & Marsha Abraham Fund
- AEP Fund
- Arbor Insurance Group Community Fund
- Arbor Insurance Group Foundation Fund
- Avalon Fund
- Stephen & Janis Bajan Charitable Fund
- Barnette Fund
- Walter & Alma Bastian Fund
- Bethlehem Rotary Club Fund
- Eric B. & Denise M. Blew Fund
- Brown Family Care Fund
- Borda Family Fund
- Geoff & Wenda Boyer Fund
- Building Fund
- Burdette Family Fund
- Calabrese-Collina Wedding Celebration Fund
- Patty & Ian Carlis Fund
- Mike Caruso Foundation Fund
- Cinquino Community Fund
- Client 1st Foundation Fund
- Karen & Peter Cooper Fund
- Cornerstone Cares Fund
- Grace Kathryn & Jeffrey P. Feather Fund
- Sylvia Fenstermacher Lawler Foundation for the Arts Fund
- John & Trisha Fistner Giving Fund
- Fleming Foundation Fund
- Jack & Ann Follett-Terres Fund For Compassionate Care
- W. Beall & Marlene O. Fowler Fund
- Fred Fund
- Stephen & Joyce Gehringer Charitable Family Fund
- Grifo Family Fund
- Janice & Paul Gross Fund
- Dolly Haltzman Foundation for the Arts Fund
- Thomas Hartzell & Jean Larkin Fund
- Heydt Family Fund
- Kraft Hillman Family Fund
- Ray & Donna Holton Charitable Fund
- Hutchinson 3-H Fund
- Joan A. Kraft & R. Wayne Kraft Memorial Fund
- William & Carol Kreitz Fund
- Kressler, Wolff & Miller Fund
- Lehigh County Lawyers' Charitable Fund
- Robert H. & Jean C. Littner Fund
- Lyons-Shields Fund
- L. Charles & Ruth H. Marcon Fund
- MAK Fund
- John F. & Jane H. Malloy Fund
- Dr. Richard D. Martin Memorial Fund
- Morton Brown Family Wealth Fund
- McNairy Fund
- Nanovic Family Charitable Fund
- Olexa Family Foundation Fund
- Tyler and Jenna Papaz Fund
- Ronald R. Perin Fund
- Angela René Pessina Foundation Fund
- Matthew & Erika Petrozelli Fund
- Pharo Family Fund
- Jack Pressmann Memorial Fund
- Prometheus Fund
- Lynn Ratzell Fund





Charitable Funds

Donor-Advised Funds (continued)

- Raymond-Cryder Donor Advised Fund
- Patrick J. Reid Memorial Fund
- J.B. & Kathleen Reilly Fund
- John Reilly Fund
- Tricia Reilly Fund
- Reilly-Taykowski Family Fund
- Tom & Jo Anne Riddle Fund for a
Greater Lehigh Valley
- Bonnie & Joel Ronco Fund
- Saucon Insurance Company Foundation Fund
- Anthony Severo Memorial Grow-A-Fund
- Charles & Margaret Shackelford Fund
- Justin Sheftel Memorial Fund
- St. Luke's Hospital Medical Staff Fund
- Star Foundation Fund
- Stershic Family Fund
- Glenn M. Taggart Memorial Fund
- Torrey Family Fund
- Donald H. & Mary R. Trautlein Fund
- Charles M Tuskes Fund
- Two Tunics Fund
- Charles Versaggi Futures Fund
- John & Chrissie Wagner Fund
- Weigard Family Fund
- Jack & Jean D. Wilson Fund
- Wombat Fund
- Betty & Scotty Wood Memorial Fund
- Ilene & Robert Wood Striving
To Make A Difference Fund
- Stella C. Yee Memorial Fund
- Yeoman Family Fund

Geographic Affiliate Fund | *Serving Surrounding Areas*

- Upper Bucks Community Foundation Fund

Scholarship & Award Funds | *Further Education*

These funds allow donors to invest in the future by helping deserving students pursue higher education.

- Elizabeth Behr Agocs Scholarship Fund
- Ann C. Bernard Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Bethlehem Educational Scholastic Trust (B.E.S.T.) Fund
- Debra "Frau" Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Reverend Douglas Caldwell Fund for Nursing Excellence
- Beall Fowler Scholarship Fund for Northampton
Community College
- Truman L. Frey, Jr. Scholarship Fund
- 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 Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Stephanie Olexa & Seth Weber Scholarship Fund
- Miss Pennsylvania Scholarship Fund
- Dr. Joseph A. Perna & Hilda Ramos Perna Memorial
Scholarship Fund
- Sue Ratzell Scholarship Fund for Nursing
- Frances Sadler Award Fund
- Arthur E. & Myrl G. Schaeffer Scholarship Fund
- Anthony Severo Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Justin Sheftel Scholarship Fund
- William & Jamie Soukup Reid Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Catherine Hilaire Thompson Nursing Scholarship Fund
- 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

Unrestricted Funds | *A Community Endowment*

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
- Buckley Family Fund
- Dorothy & Joseph Conroy Fund
- Helen Adams DeRiemer Fund
- Globe Times/WGPA Charities Fund
- Carol Dean Henn Community Fund
- Kutteroff Family Fund
- Frank L. Marcon Fund
- Horace R. Miller Fund
- Operating Endowment Fund
- Perna Family Fund
- Katharine March & Stanley J. Thomas Memorial Fund

New Charitable Funds

Agency Fund

- Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center Quasi-Endowment
- Lower Macungie Township Fund
- New Bethany Ministries Quasi-Endowment Fund

Area of Interest

- Anonymous

Donor-Advised

- Cornerstone Cares Fund
- Hutchinson 3-H Fund
- Nanovic Family Charitable Fund
- Tyler and Jenna Papaz Fund
- Patrick J. Reid Memorial Fund
- Weigard Family Fund

Designated

- Allentown Art Museum Endowment Fund
- Allentown Symphony Association Endowment Fund

Scholarship Fund

- Gary D. Martz Class of 1974 Scholarship Fund
- Damian C. Mele Memorial Scholarship Fund



WELCOME

NEW FUNDS

14 FY 2020-21

Profile in Philanthropy



Michael Fischer | Client 1st Financial

Michael Fischer believes in putting his community and his clients first. He follows this philosophy through his work at Client 1st Financial and through his donor advised fund at the Community Foundation.

Michael has been a Lehigh Valley local his whole life, growing up in Lower Macungie Township and graduating from Emmaus High School. He attended college at Penn State and moved back to the Lehigh Valley after graduating; he currently lives in Weisenberg Township of Western Lehigh County.

Michael founded Client 1st Financial, located in Fogelsville, in 2011, and has been working in the financial services industry for the past 33 years. Client 1st Financial works in business and personal financial planning, investments, and insurance.

Throughout his time in the Lehigh Valley, Michael has involved himself in the community in many ways. He is currently a member of the Kutztown Lions and the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, a social member of the Greater Lehigh Valley Auto

Dealers' Association, and serves as the treasurer of the board of New Bethany Ministries. In addition to his volunteer work with nonprofits, Michael enjoys gardening, riding his bike, and hiking along the Appalachian Trail.

"What I enjoy about being involved with these nonprofit organizations and volunteering is the impact that these nonprofit organizations have on our community in a positive way," said Michael.

"My mantra at Client 1st Financial has always been to give back. We put our clients first and we put our community first, and the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation fits that philosophy." - Michael Fischer

A colleague of Michael's first introduced him to the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation. He had a goal to give back to the community and was told that the Community Foundation could help him achieve that goal and connect him with different organizations he would positively impact.

Michael started a donor-advised fund with the Community Foundation. At first, he was interested in giving back in the areas of education, the arts and humanities, and the environment. To better his impact, Michael later switched his focus to one area, which was helping those in need.

"I give to our community because I feel it's the right thing to do and I'm proud that I have the financial resources to be able to make a positive impact to our community," he explained.



Client 1st Foundation Fund has provided grants to dozens of nonprofits since 2012. The photos above are from a visit to New Bethany Ministries in Bethlehem, Pa. to present a check and drop-off donated supplies for the food pantry.

Gifts at a Glance | 2020-21

\$13.3	Million in Gifts Received	1,180	Total Number of Gifts	747	Individual Donors
\$1.15	Million Largest Gift	92	Funds Donors Gave To		

Sponsors & Partners

- Advanced Cleaning Solutions
- Humanitarian Social Innovations
- Norris McLaughlin, P.A.
- Regan, Levin, Bloss, Brown & Savchak, P.C.
- Saucon Insurance Company
- Valley National Financial Advisors

In-Kind Gifts

- Advanced Cleaning Solutions
- Level Web Development LLC/
Google Ads

Our Promise to Donors and Fundholders

The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation has a promise for you.

We **CONNECT** you to community needs by providing a highly personalized and effective approach to philanthropy.

We **GROW** a stronger community by helping you fulfill your charitable vision and grow a charitable legacy.

We **FUND** nonprofits and partner in the community to improve the quality of life in our region as a trusted and respected grant maker.



Rolland L. Adams Society



Governors Club

Includes donors who have cumulatively donated in excess of \$500,000 to an active fund

- Rolland Adams*
- Dr. William B. Agocs*
- Anonymous Donors
- Walter & Alma Bastian Foundation, Inc.
- William H. Burdette*
- Michael J. Caruso
- The Donley Foundation
- Fleming Foundation
- Susan and Bob Gadomski
- Luther J. Hottle, Jr.
- Lehigh Valley Helping Hand Foundation
- Charles & Ruth Marcon
- Pharo Family Foundation
- Louise Moore Pine*
- Delphine S. Quinn*
- Raymond-Cryder Foundation
- Erma L. Reed*
- J.B. & Kathleen Reilly
- Saucon Insurance Company
- Charles & Margaret Shackelford
- George T. Walker*

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

Rolland L. Adams Society

Philanthropists Club

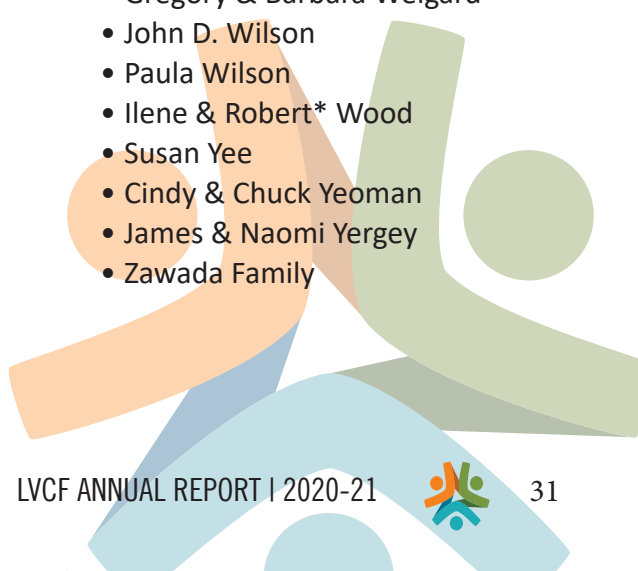
Includes donors who have established or directed the establishment of endowment funds

- Rolland Adams*
- Dr. William B. Agocs*
- Anonymous Donors
- Arbor Insurance Group
- Margaret A. Bachert*
- Frank R. Barnako*
- Frances L. Barnard*
- Hank & Joanne Barnette
- Walter & Alma Bastian Foundation
- Louis E. Bernard
- Clayton* & Helen* Bernhardt
- Bethlehem Area Moravians, Inc.
- Bethlehem Educational Scholastic Trust
- Bethlehem Rotary Foundation
- Denise & Eric Blew
- Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin C. Boylston
- Carole K. & Keith A. Brown*
- David F. Brown
- Ramona A. & Randy H. Bruch
- Marjorie & Walter Buckley, Jr.
- William H. Burdette*
- Dolly & Lee Butz
- Nancy & L. William Clark
- Martin D. Cohen, Esq.
- Christine & Patrick Connell
- Joseph M. Conroy *
- Saul & JoAnne Coplan
- Joseph E. Correll, Jr.*
- John Lisy Daniel & Carol Holben Daniel
- Honorable Maxwell E. Davison
- Helen Adams DeRiemer*
- Leonard R. Dimmick*
- Donley Foundation
- Lucille F. Driver*
- Mr. & Mrs. John G. Engleson
- Estate of Joanna D. Martz
- Alice M. Farquharson*
- Beall Fowler
- Linny* & Beall Fowler
- Benjamin Franklin*
- Fr. Daniel G. Gambet OSFS*
- Richard E. Gasser*
- Mary & Robert* Gedney
- Joyce & Stephen Gehringer
- Franklin B. Gillespie, Jr.*
- Eugene G. Grace, Jr.*
- Antonia Grifo
- Francesca Grifo
- Carla Grifo Gunn
- Karen Hahn
- Deborah S. Haight*
- Charlotte & Tore* Hartmann-Hansen
- Louise* & Charles* Hoffman
- Luther J. Hottle, Jr.
- Douglas E. & Dee A. Hutchinson
- Donald Jaffe*
- Betsy & Jack Jordan
- Nancy S.* & Charles E.* Keenan
- Barry M. Kessler
- Elizabeth Kressler*
- Kressler, Wolff & Miller, Inc.
- Karen & Fred Kutteroff
- Anne M. & Bruce J. Lawrence
- Lehigh River Foundation
- Lehigh Valley Coalition for Kids
- Lehigh Valley Helping Hand Foundation
- George J. Libricz, Jr.
- Robert H.* & Jean C. Littner
- Joanna D. Martz*
- Ham Malek
- Martina M. Malone*
- Elvira* & George Maniatty
- Mary & Jack McNairy
- Horace R. Miller*
- Dr. Russell E. Morgan, Sr.*
- Erwin J. Neusch*
- Dr. Stephanie Olexa & Attorney Seth Weber
- Sarah L. Pagotto
- Lynne & Chad Paul
- Ronald R. Perin*
- Dr. Joseph A. Perna*
- Michael & Michele Pessina
- Pharo Family Foundation
- Roswell Dean Pine* & Louise Moore Pine*
- Delphine S. Quinn*
- Lynn Ratzell
- Raymond-Cryder Foundation
- Erma L. Reed*
- Anne & James Reid
- Thomas E. Rotunno
- Anthony J. Ruggiero*
- William C. Rybak, Esq.*
- Saucon Insurance Company
- Arthur E.* & Myrl G.* Schaeffer
- Larry & Jean Severo
- Jack Terres & Ann Follett-Terres
- Katharine M. Thomas*
- David & Wendy Littner Thomson
- Liz & Ferd Thun
- Elizabeth & Samuel Torrence
- George T. Walker*
- Dr. Leonard A. Wenzel*
- Gene & Joan Witiak
- Kay & Marshall Wolff
- Nicole & Kenneth Yee
- Raymond C. Yee
- Susan Yee
- Warren W. York Trust
- Mary & Edwin Youtz
- Susan B. Ziegler

Community Supporters Club

Includes donors who have established or directed the establishment of nonendowed funds

- Michael & Lynn Abgott
- Marsha & Alan Abraham
- Joe Amorese
- Anonymous Donors
- Arbor Insurance Group
- Bar Association of Lehigh County
- Stephen & Janis Bajan
- Helen & Geoff Borda
- Wenda & Geoffrey Boyer
- Kathryn & David Brown
- Alyssa Budraitis
- Brian and Laura Budraitis
- Buckno Lisicky & Company
- Patty & Ian Carlis
- Michael J. Caruso
- Louis Cinquino
- Client 1st Financial
- Compass Point Family Business Consulting
- Donors to the Congregation Keneseth Israel "KI is our Home" Campaign
- Karen & Peter Cooper
- Cornerstone Cares
- Bonnie Coyle & Joel Ronco
- John Lisy Daniel & Carol Holben Daniel
- Jeff & Kathy Feather
- First Commonwealth Federal Credit Union
- Michael J. Fischer
- Trisha & John Fistner
- The Fleming Foundation
- Susan & Bob Gadomski
- Janice G. & Paul K. Gross
- Jay J. Haltzman
- Jennifer Haltzman Tracy
- Mark S. Haltzman, Esq.
- Hanover Township Memorial Golf Tournament
- Mark D. Hartney & Megan A. Beste
- Thomas Hartzell & Jean Larkin
- William & Mary Ann Heydt
- Donna & Ray Holton
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- Keystone Savings Foundation
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- Charles & Ruth Marcon
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- Northampton County Bar Association
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- pARTners GLV (Any Given Child Bethlehem)
- Erika & Matthew Petrozelli
- PPL Corporation, Inc.
- Jack Pressmann Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Sean Pressmann
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- Saucon Sanctuary Committee
- Charles & Margaret Shackelford
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- St. Luke's University Hospital Medical Staff
- Bob Swick Memorial Fund
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- Donna Taggart
- John Thompson, Jr.
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- Zawada Family



Rolland L. Adams Society

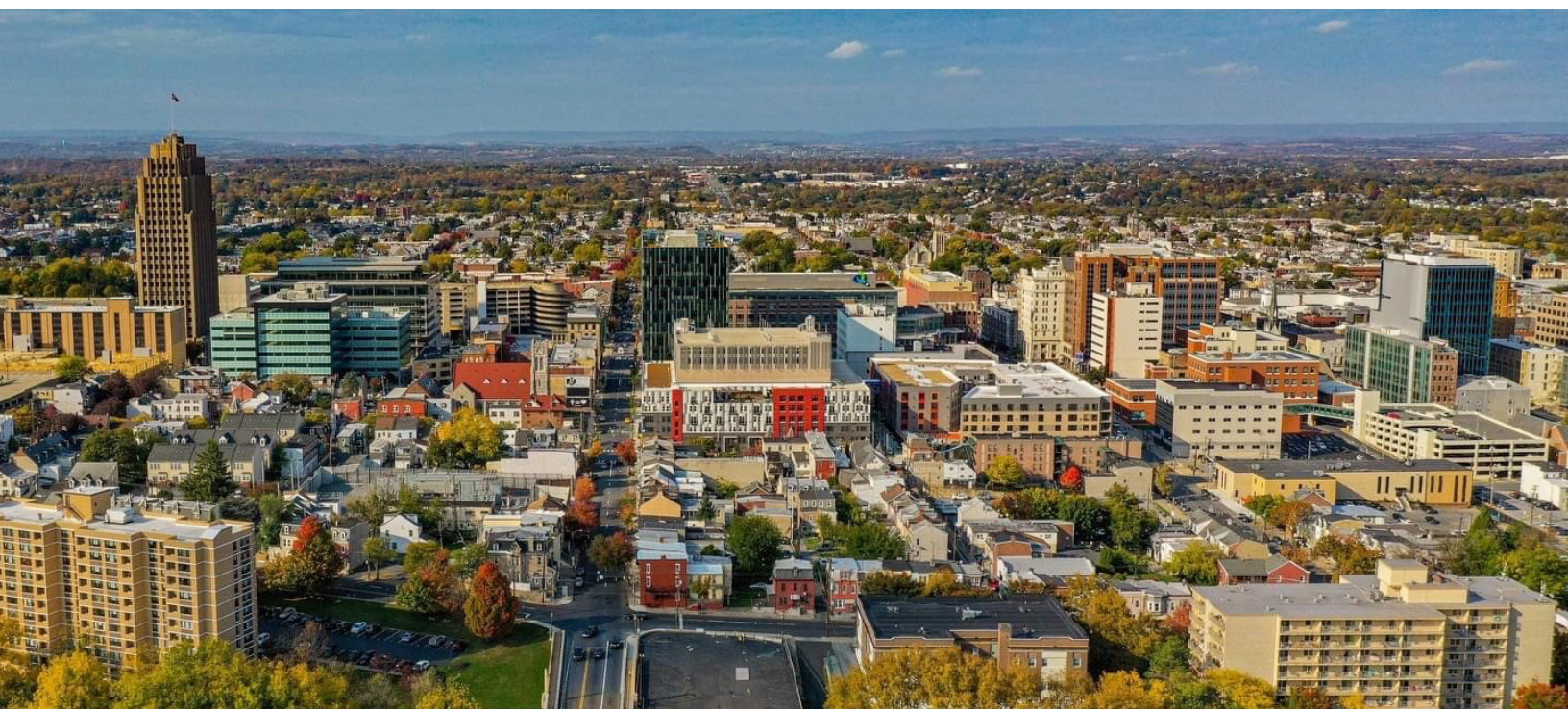
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Includes donors who have given at least \$1,000 to the Foundation for unrestricted use in the current fiscal reporting year

- Raymond K. & Helen I. Berk Fund
- Sandra L. Bodnyk
- Helen & Jeff Borda
- Antonia Grifo
- Charlotte Hartmann-Hansen
- Trisha & Gary Higgins
- Donna & Ray Holton
- Jennifer Mann
- R. Nicholas Nanovic, Esq.
- Anne & James Reid
- Sybil and Michael Stershic
- Bernard & Margaret Story
- Kay and Marshall Wolff
- Stacy & Kerry Wrobel

THANK YOU DONORS & FUNDHOLDERS

All gifts to the
Lehigh Valley Community Foundation
have an important impact on the Lehigh Valley
community. The generosity of individuals and
organizations enables the Foundation to continue
with its mission to improve the quality of life
within the Lehigh Valley. Support is critical
to the mission of the Foundation and the
health of the Lehigh Valley
community.



Legacy Society

- Rolland Adams*
- Dr. William B. Agocs*
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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.

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 Erika Riddle Petrozelli at (610) 351-5353 or email erika@lvcfoundation.org.

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



Grants at a Glance | 2020-21

350 Organizations Receiving Grants

753 Individual Grants Issued

\$5.6 Million in Grants Issued

Philanthropic Partnership Grants

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

Community Investments Grants

The Community Investments Grants are the primary discretionary grant funds which LVCF's Board of Governors awards as grants to nonprofits on a competitive basis. The grant program in 2020-21 included the Nonprofit Effectiveness Program (Year 3, see pages 10-11), Community Assistance Fund, and Community Partnership Grants. Discretionary grantmaking included Area of Interest Fund supported grants from the Substance Use Disorder Fund and the Upper Bucks Community Fund. In the Spring 2020, the Community Foundation established a number of funds in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Community Investment Funds generate the unrestricted dollars that support Foundation-Directed grantmaking. The following highlights a number of foundation-directed grant programs.



Sharing Community Knowledge

Throughout the year, the Community Foundation invites fundholders, donors, and others to join us as we visit a nonprofit organization in the Lehigh Valley. During each visit, we meet with the organization's leaders, take a tour, and learn more about their mission, successes and challenges. During COVID-19 in 2020-21, we conducted four visits online via Zoom, including Meals on Wheels of the Greater Lehigh Valley, Communities in Schools Lehigh Valley, New Bethany Ministries, and Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center.



Donley Fund at LVCF Supports Youth and Families

The Edward and Inez Donley Fund at the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation (LVCF) distributed \$90,000 to sixteen area nonprofit organizations in FY21. Grants from the fund support organizations that promote self-sufficiency and achievement for marginalized children, individuals, and families by increasing education and literacy support.

Nearly all of the grants were awarded as general operating grants. Organizations receiving grants from the Edward and Inez Donley Fund included:

- Allentown School District (ASD) Foundation
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Lehigh Valley
- Minsi Trails Council, Boy Scouts of America
- Boys & Girls Club of Allentown
- Communities in Schools Lehigh Valley
- Community Bike Works
- Girls Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania
- Housing Association & Development Corporation
- Lehigh Valley Children's Centers, Inc.
- Northeast Community Center
- Pinebrook Family Answers
- Da Vinci Science Center
- The Literacy Center
- The Neighborhood Center
- United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley
- Valley Youth House Committee, Inc.

The Edward and Inez Donley Fund was established in 2018 with a \$2 million dollar endowment from the Donley Foundation, a private grant-making foundation that was founded in 1987 through the generosity of Edward and Inez Donley and has a long history of providing grants to organizations who share their mission throughout the Allentown-Bethlehem area of the Lehigh Valley.

The fund at the Community Foundation largely supports previous Donley Foundation grantees in general operating awards. This approach applies to the FY2021 year only in order to ensure that the foundation transitioned support for these previously funded organizations responsibly, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. "As we look ahead to the future



The Edward and Inez Donley Fund
at the Lehigh Valley
Community Foundation

Supporting programs that promote self-sufficiency and achievement for marginalized children, individuals, and families through the support of education and literacy



of grantmaking from the Edward & Inez Donley Fund we are adopting a foundation-wide strategy of community investment in youth and families as a main focus area of our foundation-directed grantmaking," noted Megan Briggs, LVCF Director of Community Investments. "Through our community leadership activities, we continue to build relationships with organizations that exhibit strong leadership, effective programming, and forward-thinking strategies."

"At the Community Foundation, we offer the perfect solution for philanthropists, including other Foundations, who are looking for an effective vehicle to support community nonprofit organizations in any number of ways," said **Erika Riddle Petrozelli**, Chief Executive Officer at LVCF. "As an alternative to a nonoperating private foundation, charitable funds are a flexible way for philanthropists to manage their charitable giving, creating an enduring, multigenerational family legacy with maximum impact. We are pleased that the Donley Foundation chose us to direct their charitable giving to help improve the lives of people in the Lehigh Valley."

Lehigh Valley Homeless Veterans Fund Supports Four Area Nonprofits

Lehigh Valley Community Foundation issued \$195,000 in grants to four area nonprofits providing services for homeless veterans in FY 21. The Lehigh Valley Homeless Veteran Fund grants support projects that address transitional and supportive housing needs of homeless veterans in the Lehigh Valley; veteran-centric case management counseling in relation to housing, employment, finance, and life-skills; or other veteran-oriented programs.



experience in veterans' services or housing programs, finance and administration to allocate the money in grants to charitable organizations for services for homeless veterans in the Valley. In 2020, the Fund distributed \$30,000 in grants to Catholic Charities, Safe Harbor of Easton, and Victory House for programs supporting homeless veterans.

Nonprofit organizations receiving grants in 2021 include:

Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities Supportive Services for Veteran Families

Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living (LVCIL)

SALUTE (Support with Assistance, Learning, Unity, Transition and Employment)

New Bethany Ministries

Homeless Veterans Housing Assistance

Victory House of Lehigh Valley

Veteran Service-Intensive Transitional Housing Program

Lehigh County government established the Lehigh Valley Homeless Veteran Fund at the Community Foundation in 2019 to provide grants to charitable organizations for programs supporting homeless veterans in the Lehigh Valley. The county established a committee of five people with

LVCF Grants Aimed at Tackling the Opioid Epidemic in the Lehigh Valley

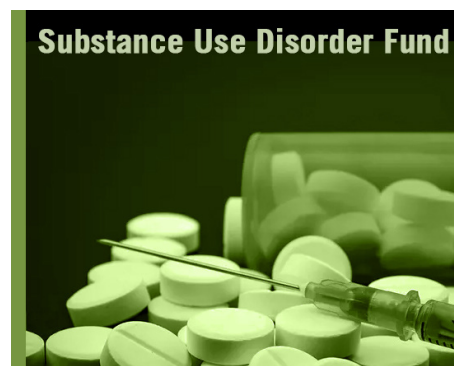
The Community Foundation issued \$30,000 in grants from the Substance Use Disorder Fund to organizations providing substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

The grants supported programs at two organizations that were also funded in 2020:

Recovery Revolution, Inc. - 'On the Road' to Revolution project provides transportation with a CRS to treatment

Humanitarian Social Innovations (as fiscal sponsor) - Bridge Beyond Addiction project provides rent assistance for those entering sober living centers

The grants were made possible through an area-of-interest fund established by **Barry Kessler** who along with the Community Foundation in 2020 embarked on an effort to better understand the opioid epidemic in the Lehigh



Valley. The Foundation engaged county governments and nonprofits addressing the issue, with the goal of identifying funding gaps where private philanthropy can make an impact.

"The Community Foundation's work with Barry Kessler has been a great example of the melding of donor interests and Foundation work," explained LVCF's **Erika Riddle Petrozelli**. "We have received feedback from Mr. Kessler that he greatly appreciates the connection to the Community Foundation and value we provide."

LVCF Issues Round of Grants from its COVID-19 Response Fund

Lehigh Valley Community Foundation provided \$25,000 in grants from its COVID-19 Response Fund to nine nonprofit organizations in FY 21. The grants supported the general operating expenses of these organizations who are providing needed childcare and family support services in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Organizations receiving the grants were::

- Boys & Girls Club of Bethlehem
- Boys & Girls Club of Easton
- Children At-Promise Early Learning Center
- Communities in Schools of Eastern Pennsylvania
- Community Services for Children
- Family Connection of Easton
- Greater Valley YMCA
- Ortiz Ark Foundation
- Unidos Foundation

These grants build upon the funding that the Community Foundation has directed to COVID-19 relief during the 2019-20 grant cycle. In April of 2020, the Greater Lehigh Valley COVID-19 response fund, a 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.



Making an Impact in the Lehigh Valley

In 2020-21, LVCF issued \$85,000 in Community Partnership Multi-Year Impact Grants to support programs at five area nonprofit organizations serving Lehigh and Northampton counties. Successful programs are funded for five consecutive years.

The following organizations were renewed for funding during 2020-21:

- **Housing Association & Development Corporation – Youth Build Allentown** (year five) \$20,000
- **VAST - Valley Against Sex Trafficking – Community Education and Prevention Program Development** (year five) - \$10,000
- **Greater Easton Development Corporation – Easton Community Garden Project** (year five) - \$25,000
- **Lehigh Valley Health Network – Connections, a pilot intervention program addressing the current opioid epidemic** (year four) - \$20,000
- **Greater Easton Development Corporation – Ambassadors Program** (year four) - \$10,000

“The Community Foundation is pleased to continue to partner with these organizations that are making a difference in the Lehigh Valley,” said LVCF President **Bernie Story**. “We are encouraged by the good work our multi-year impact grants are generating.”

Community Foundation's Walker Fund Issues \$396,000 in Grants

The George T. Walker Charitable Fund at Lehigh Valley Community Foundation issued more than \$396,000 in grants during 2020-21 to support organizations that were important to the late George T. Walker of Monroe County in Pennsylvania. A donor designated fund at the Community Foundation, the George T. Walker Charitable Fund provides annual grants to organizations designated through the estate of George T. Walker in perpetuity.

Grants from the Fund for FY 21 included the following:

American Red Cross - Northeastern Pennsylvania Chapter

General Operating - BioMedical Services - \$41,480

Deborah Hospital Foundation

Capital Campaign - Deborah100: The Campaign - \$50,000

Effort United Methodist Church

Outside and Inside Facilities Projects - \$40,000

Guiding Eyes for the Blind

General Operating - \$75,000

Mount Pocono United Methodist Church

Competitive Salaries /Technology Upgrade \$40,000

Salvation Army East Stroudsburg Corps

Emergency Shelter/Housing Programs serving Monroe County, Pa. - \$75,000

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Named Space at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital - \$75,000

The late George T. Walker of Monroe County in Pennsylvania discussed his charitable goals with his professional advisors in 2005, creating the parameters for a charitable fund at the Foundation which was funded by bequest upon his passing. The George T. Walker Charitable Fund was established with his



bequest in 2011. “Mr. Walker specified that the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation has complete discretion, each year, regarding the amounts to be granted to each of these charitable organizations as well as the specific programs to be funded by grants from the Fund,” said **Carrie Krug Nedick**, LVCF Director of Donor Services. “We are pleased to make these grants to the organizations Mr. Walker held dear as the Foundation fulfills his charitable legacy.”

About George T. Walker

George T. Walker lived a humble life in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. He was very generous, and he was especially careful to support organizations doing so much for their communities without asking for reimbursement or charging fees. He wished to continue this legacy of “helping those who help others” after his lifetime. He sought guidance from his financial advisor and estate planning attorney on how to incorporate his charitable wishes into his estate plans. The legacy gifts resulting from his considerable estate had the potential for significant impact. His professional advisors recommended a charitable fund at Lehigh Valley Community Foundation as a way to give to organizations in perpetuity. Grants from the Fund are made to Mt. Pocono United Methodist Church, Effort United Methodist Church, the Salvation Army of East Stroudsburg, the American Red Cross of East Stroudsburg, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, Deborah Heart and Lung Center, and Guiding Eyes for the Blind.



Area Nonprofits Receive Grants from the Upper Bucks Community Fund

The Upper Bucks Community Fund of the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation issued \$27,500 in grants to area nonprofit organizations in FY 21. The Fund consists of two area-of-interest funds. The Richard E. Gasser Fund and Erwin J. and Gertrude K. Neusch Fund are for organizations and programs primarily serving the Palisades, Pennridge and Quakertown School Districts in the Upper Bucks area. Receiving grants for programs in FY21 were:

- **YMCA of Bucks County**
Upper Bucks Student Success Program
- **Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center**
DEI training on LGBTQ cultural awareness & equity
- **Bucks County Opportunity Council**
Supporting Upper Bucks County, low-income clients working toward Economic Self-Sufficiency
- **The “Drop” at the Quakertown Community Center**
The “Drop” at the Quakertown Community Center
- **Quakertown Band**
Safe Rehearsal environment for the Quakertown Band
- **Heritage Conservancy**
Educating the Next Generation of Conservationists in Palisades School District
- **National Inventors Hall of Fame, Inc.**
Camp Invention STEM, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship Programs in Upper Bucks County
- **Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival**
FreeWill
- **Palisades Community Foundation**
Palisades Community Foundation
- **Quakertown Alive!**
2021 Arts Alive! Fine Arts Festival
- **Quakertown Historical Society**
Burgess Foulke House/The Museum/Liberty Hall Labeling
- **Riegelsville Public Library**
Art for Kids in the Summer

BEST Awards 2020-21

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). In 2019-20, the Community Foundation handed the award selection to the Bethlehem Area School District Foundation. [Learn more...](#)

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

Karen Voorhees

Fountain Hill Elementary School

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

Lynn Vento

Broughal Middle School

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

Grace Ruggerio

Freedom High School



Scholarships 2020-21

The majority of the Foundation's scholarships are administered through high schools, colleges and local organizations. Grants issued are payable to the schools or colleges/universities. The Foundation does not directly accept any applications for these scholarships.

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

Betty Williams Memorial Scholarship

Bethlehem Area School District or Bethlehem Catholic High School

Senior Woman's Club of Bethlehem Scholarship

Bethlehem Catholic High School

Catherine Hilaire Thompson Nursing Scholarship

Boys and Girls Club of Bethlehem

Edwin F. Van Billiard Scholarship

Fleetwood Area High School

Arthur E. & Myrl G. Schaeffer Scholarship

Hanover Township Memorial Golf Tournament Scholarship

Lehigh Area High School

Damian C. Mele Memorial Scholarship Fund

Northern Lehigh High School

Ann C. Bernard Memorial Scholarship

Notre Dame High School

Tuskes Family Scholarships

Scholarships and Awards



Parkland High School

*Frederick W. Hahn Memorial Scholarship
Gary D. Martz Class of 1974 Scholarship Fund
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 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 College & 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

Stephanie Olexa and Seth Weber Scholarships

The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation 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 high school 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 high school senior who will be majoring in the life sciences at an accredited institution for post-secondary education. [Learn more...](#)

The Stephanie Olexa and Seth Weber Scholarship for Criminal Justice

The Stephanie Olexa and Seth Weber Scholarship for the Life Sciences



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History

Established in 1967 as the Bethlehem Area Foundation, the Foundation was regionalized and re-named in 1992 in order to serve the entire Lehigh Valley. What was preserved in this transition is the true community spirit of the Community Foundation. The Bethlehem Area Foundation was begun as part of the City's 225th anniversary celebration. Funds remaining from that celebration were used to create a permanent community endowment, the Bethlehem Area Foundation. Those funds were contributed by schoolchildren, steelworkers, retailers, college professors, homemakers, and business leaders. It was a true community beginning for a community foundation, and that community spirit is at the heart of the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation.

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.

Vision

The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation will be a major force in the development of philanthropy in our region. The Foundation will promote and encourage collaboration among area philanthropists, and will be a source of information and expertise regarding charitable giving. The Foundation will be recognized and respected for its trustworthiness, its permanence, and the quality of its Board of Governors.

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.