



# CAUSE CONNECTION

Connecting people who care to causes that matter

## Announcing a New Strategic Plan to Guide LVCF into the Future

Over the past decade the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation has experienced tremendous growth. We have cultivated new philanthropic partners; increased the quantity and, more importantly, quality of relationships in the nonprofit sector; and expanded the size and expertise of its staff. We have developed a trusted and valued voice, which should be celebrated and amplified.

LVCF's new strategic plan, [Growth Through Partnership](#), uses our voice to further establish the Community Foundation as a trusted advisor, partner, and community leader. We have identified goals to inform and lead the work of the Foundation for the next three years. Two of these goals are an "internal lens" through which we view our work.



### Growth Through Partnership: 2022-25 LVCF Strategic Plan

#### Nurturing Place-Based Philanthropy:

Develop deeper, trusted partnerships with the region's philanthropists to support, encourage, and influence local, impactful giving.

#### Centering Equity:

Integrate an equity lens to all pillars of our work. The Foundation is of, by and for the community it serves.

#### Growing Community Leadership:

Access & develop the relationships, resources, & skills to be an engaged & trusted community partner.

#### Strengthening Structure:

Grow efficiently and effectively, informed by data, without sacrificing quality or fiduciary standards.

Our mantra is "transformational, not transactional," which reflects the ways in which the Community Foundation has evolved in recent years and where we will continue to focus our efforts. We look forward to sharing the results of our work, which will not stop in 2025, but rather move to a deeper level of commitment, influence, and partnership.



I welcome your questions about our strategic initiatives and how we are implementing them. Please contact me to learn more.

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### Virtual Nonprofit Visits



### Virtual Nonprofit Visit Videos

LVCF invites fundholders, donors, the Board of Governors (past and present) and the Board of Associates to join us as we visit nonprofit organizations in the Lehigh Valley. During each visit, we meet with the organization's leaders, and learn more about their mission, successes and challenges. Many visits are done virtually via Zoom.

Check out the recent virtual visits [Virtual Nonprofit Visits | Videos](#)

### Resurrected Community Development Corporation (RCDC)

Virtual Nonprofit Visit  
Lehigh Valley Community Foundation

# It's That Time Again | Tips for the Season of Giving

The year-end holiday season is typically the busiest time for philanthropic giving. We recognize that, at the moment, economic conditions feel, well, awful. But for those who are charitable inclined, challenging economic times might actually serve as an inspiration to become more intentional about charitable giving priorities. Here are some things to consider for your year-end giving.

## 1 Give locally

The communities we live in impact our lives more than any other place in the world. It is where our families bond and learn values, where we shop, and where we participate in activities to pursue personal growth. Our communities provide a large portion of our network and relationships. By giving to the place that provides so much for our daily life, we are investing in a better quality of life for ourselves and others.

## 2 Give unrestricted.

After choosing a nonprofit you like, make an unrestricted gift. Unrestricted donations enable the nonprofit to use the money where it's needed the most. Nonprofits are experts at serving their own mission. General operating support allows for flexibility and capacity building initiatives that strengthen the organization from the inside out. The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation supports nonprofits with unrestricted grants and also, as a nonprofit, accepts unrestricted gifts to support our own community leadership initiatives and operations.

## 3 Talk to your advisor.

Before making any significant gift to charity, consult with your CPA, attorney, or other advisors to understand the impact on your taxes and estate. Consider which assets you might use for your philanthropic plans, like an IRA Required Minimum Distribution, or appreciated stock. The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation offers philanthropic vehicles like Donor-Advised Funds and Designated Funds to simplify your giving.

## 4 Give now, decide later.

If you are planning for a charitable tax deduction this year but are undecided about which nonprofits to support, consider opening a donor-advised fund at Lehigh Valley Community Foundation. A donor-advised fund can be set up in one meeting and can be built over time.



## 5 Explore matching gift programs.

Some companies offer matching gift programs that can increase — even double — the impact of your gift. Contact your human resources department to see what your employer offers. You'll be doubling the positive impact you have on community nonprofits.

## 6 Leave a bequest.

Support for your favorite charities will go well beyond this year if you create a permanent fund in your estate plan that names them as beneficiaries. An update to your will ensures that nonprofit(s) you've helped throughout your lifetime will continue to be supported by you forever. Talk to us about how the Community Foundation can be an integral part of your philanthropic plans.

## 7 Get involved.

Getting involved in the organizations that you support financially can give you greater satisfaction and fulfillment. Consider volunteering, attending agency events, or going out to lunch with a staff member to build a deeper connection and understanding of the impact of the organization.

## 8 Let LVCF 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 impact of your giving.

Contact: **Carrie Nedick, Director of Donor Services**  
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