

CAUSE CONNECTION

Connecting people who care to causes that matter

Staff Promotions Reflect Growing Expertise and Leadership in the Community

The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation (LVCF) has recently promoted three staff members in recognition of their professional growth, increasing expertise, and demonstrated commitment and leadership in advancing the Foundation's work.

Trisha Higgins, CPA, has been promoted to the position of Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, elevating her from her previous role as Vice President and CFO. With over 20 years of dedicated service since joining in 2002, Trisha oversees all aspects of the Foundation's financial and operational administration. When announcing the promotion, **Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA, CAP®**, President and CEO at LVCF, said, "This title change acknowledges Trisha's long tenure, unwavering commitment, and valued leadership in many critical functions at the Foundation."



Megan Briggs has been named Vice President of Community Investments, a promotion from her previous role as Director of Community Investments. Megan joined the LVCF staff in 2017, and in her new role, she is responsible for overseeing grantmaking administration and strategy as well as the organization's community leadership work, a key initiative of the organization's strategic plan. She collaborates with volunteer advisory committees to implement the Foundation's high-impact grantmaking programs and analyzes data from the nonprofit community to maximize and promote community impact. Erika explained, "With this promotion, the Foundation recognizes Megan's impactful contributions to our community leadership work and her trusted partnerships in the community."



Holly Fitzpatrick, who joined the LVCF staff in March of 2022, has been promoted to the position of Grants Manager from her previous role as Grants Administrator. "This promotion acknowledges her elevated role in the grants process and all that she has done to take ownership of these processes and earn the trust of fundholders, nonprofits, and fellow staff members," Petrozelli explained. As Grants Manager, Holly collaborates with the Finance, Community Investments, and Donor Services teams to steward grants through the process, from initial input to preparation for payment.



The promotions were announced at the spring LVCF Board of Governors meeting and effective in July 2023. To learn more about the staff, visit The LVCF [staff webpage](#).

IN THE NEWS

Maureen Conolley Wendling Joins LVCF as Director of Donor Initiatives

LVCF recently welcomed **Maureen Conolley Wendling** as the part-time Director of Donor Initiatives, enhancing the Foundation's overall fund development and fundraising efforts with a specific focus on family legacy and philanthropy.



In her new role, Maureen's primary responsibilities include donor identification, cultivation, and solicitation. She will build relationships with professional advisors and develop strategies for groups of donors, such as planned giving donors. Maureen collaborates closely with the Director of Donor Services and the Chief Executive Officer to offer a range of services to donors and fundholders.

Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA, CAP®, President, and CEO of the Community Foundation, expressed her excitement about Maureen's arrival, stating, "Maureen brings extensive fundraising experience to the Community Foundation, having worked for Lehigh University, the Allentown Art Museum, and several other nonprofits in a consulting capacity. She most recently led the Shanthi Project, one of LVCF's grantees, which makes her familiar with LVCF's community work and the impact we expect to accomplish."

[Learn More...](#)

LVCF to Transform the Fundholder & Donor Experience with New Online Portal

Exciting changes are on the horizon at the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation (LVCF), set to reshape the way we engage with our valued fundholders and donors. In the coming months we will unveil the MyFund portal, a cutting-edge online platform that embodies our commitment to enhancing your philanthropic journey. This dynamic portal, scheduled for a fall debut, promises to elevate efficiency and user-friendliness for grantmaking and fund management for our fundholders.

No Time like the Summertime

President and CEO of LVCF, **Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA, CAP®**, shared, “Throughout this summer, the LVCF team has been diligently working to implement a technology upgrade that will enhance the overall experience for our fundholders and donors. The MyFund portal is the forward facing part of the new back-end database and accounting system, CommunitySuite or CSuite, developed by Foundant Technologies. In a matter of weeks, we will officially invite you to join us in the CSuite and embrace the MyFund portal accessed via the LVCF website, empowering you to easily manage your fund and charitable contributions.”



Goodbye DonorCentral, Hello MyFund

The forthcoming portal, poised to replace the current DonorCentral, is primed for its launch in October 2023. During this initial implementation phase, designated contacts for funds at the Community Foundation will receive a comprehensive email with step-by-step guidance on creating a personalized password, navigating the portal, and utilizing the many features. Additionally, a user-friendly instructional video and an array of informative resources will be readily available upon the portal's launch, streamlining the transition process for

our fundholders. Keep an eye on your inbox toward at the end of September/beginning of October for these pivotal communications.



Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Nonprofit & Philanthropic Industry



SPEAKER SERIES

LVCF invites you to attend a three-part speaker series focused on **Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Nonprofit and Philanthropic Industry** in September 2023 on the 14th & 15th via Zoom and 22nd in-person. The series, presented by national experts in AI, will provide you with the insight, guidance, and the resources you'll need to better understand this game-changing technology specific to the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors. [Learn More....](#)

Session #1 – Virtual Webinar on Zoom
An Introduction to AI for Nonprofit Leaders & Philanthropists
Thursday, September 14th, 2023
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Session #2 – Virtual Webinar on Zoom
Responsible Artificial Intelligence in Philanthropy
Wednesday, September 20th, 2023
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Session #3 – In-Person Event
Practical Possibilities and Legal Perspectives for Artificial Intelligence
Friday, September 22nd, 2023
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Fowler Blast Furnace Room & Loft
SteelStacks, 101 Founders Way, Bethlehem