

CAUSE CONNECTION

Connecting people who care to causes that matter

A Heartfelt Thank You and a Look Ahead to 2025

The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation staff extends our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support throughout 2024. Your generosity and commitment have allowed us to make incredible strides in addressing our community's needs while strengthening the Foundation as a whole. Thanks to you, we've accomplished so much in just one year.

▶ Growing as a Community Leader

LVCF has also solidified its role as a leader and partner in early childhood initiatives. This year, we played a pivotal role in securing a \$20 million Reconnect grant for Allentown, reinforcing our position as the backbone partner of the early childhood action collaborative. We also hosted two Board of Associates meetings, recognizing The Century Fund and Judy Harris for their contributions. We also facilitated an important panel discussion on the childcare crisis, elevating the conversation on this pressing issue in partnership with the Chamber and Early Education Action Collaborative.

▶ Centering Inclusiveness

We are focused on implementing strategies that ensure everyone is included and valued. We proudly welcomed three LVCF representatives into the CORE Fellowship – Cohort 3, setting the stage for an organizational assessment in 2025. To further guide our work, we adopted a Values Statement focused on Connection, Opportunity, Integrity, and Learning. These principles will continue to shape our approach and strengthen our impact.

▶ Strengthening Our Structure

Internally, we have made great progress in enhancing our operations. This year marked the full implementation of all Foundant products, including our scholarship module, streamlining our grantmaking processes. Following a rigorous search, we also engaged PNC as our Outsourced Chief Investment Officer as of January 1, 2024, ensuring the continued stewardship of our investments. Our team has grown as well, welcoming Robyn Weaver as Program Officer – Capacity Building. At the same time, we bid farewell to Monique Moreno, who has joined State Senator Nick Miller's office. In January, we will launch the search for a Program Associate to oversee arts grants and support the Community Investments Team.

▶ Looking Ahead

As we enter the final 18 months of our current strategic plan, we are laying the groundwork to carry us across the finish line with Impact Beyond the Check and Growth Through Partnership at the forefront of our efforts. Looking ahead, we are filled with optimism and enthusiasm for what we can accomplish together in 2025. With your continued partnership, we are confident that we will rise to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities that lie ahead. On behalf of our staff and the countless individuals whose lives have been enriched by your generosity, thank you for your dedication and service.



IN THE NEWS



Maureen Wendling Receives Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy® Designation

LVCF's Director of Donor Initiatives, Maureen Connolley Wendling, has earned the Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy® (CAP®) designation from The American College of Financial Services.

Maureen helps people integrate philanthropy into their financial, estate, and legacy planning. She specializes in designing strategic giving plans using tools such as donor-advised funds, charitable trusts, and private foundations while leveraging tax-efficient strategies to maximize impact. She focuses on aligning charitable giving with her clients' values and goals, creating meaningful legacies, and collaborating with other professionals to develop comprehensive plans.

LVCF now has three staff members who have achieved the Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy® (CAP®) designation. **Carrie Krug Nedick**, Director of Donor Services, earned her CAP® in 2024, and President and CEO **Erika Riddle Petrozelli** received the designation in 2023. [Learn More...](#)

LVCF Values Statement | Words to Work By...

At the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, our work is guided by core values that are applied internally, with our own staff, Board, and volunteers, and externally, with our donors, nonprofit partners, stakeholders and community. We are committed to building connections, expanding opportunities, upholding integrity, and fostering learning so we can be a transformational leader creating a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

Connection

We recognize the power of meaningful relationships as the foundation of a vibrant, resilient community.

Opportunity

We support pathways for individuals to achieve their full potential and build thriving communities.

Integrity

We act with honesty, transparency, and accountability to steward the resources entrusted to us and to maintain the relationships we have built.

Learning

We foster an environment of shared learning, fresh perspectives, and innovation to ensure that our work continually evolves to meet challenges and embrace opportunities.

Approved by Board of Governors, November 2024

IN THE NEWS



Kevin Greene Joins Community Foundation Board of Governors

Kevin Greene recently joined the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation's Board of Governors. Kevin is the Principal Strategist at Faces International, a full-service creative and digital marketing agency, based in Allentown, offering integrated corporate growth and business consultancy services. He serves on the Community Foundation's Community Relations Committee.

Kevin is deeply involved in the community and serves on several boards and committees, including the NCC Foundation (Northampton Community College Foundation), Valley Youth House, United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, and the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce. For over a decade, he has championed initiatives that support youth and families, reflecting his commitment to fostering equitable opportunities and stronger communities.

"We are thrilled to welcome Kevin Greene to the Board of Governors," noted **Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA, CAP®**, President and CEO. "His innovative leadership, dedication to community service, and deep understanding of the Lehigh Valley's needs make him an invaluable addition to our team. Kevin's experience and passion for empowering others align perfectly with our mission to enhance the quality of life in our region through philanthropy."

Lehigh Valley Community Foundation

2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT



The Power of Philanthropy



Take a moment to see all the names, numbers and stories in our [2023-24 Annual Report](#).

We invite you to explore the 2023-24 annual report and discover the stories of impact and innovation that define our work. Share these stories with friends, family, and neighbors, and encourage others to join us in harnessing the power of philanthropy to transform lives and communities.