

# CAUSE CONNECTION

Connecting people who care to causes that matter

## Trust Matters: Why Your Giving Is in Good Hands

When you give to causes you care about, you want to know that your generosity is truly making a difference—and that the organizations you’re supporting are trustworthy, transparent, and accountable. At the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, we understand how important that trust is to you.



Thankfully, [trust in nonprofits](#) is growing again. Recent national studies show that confidence in charitable organizations is on the rise. That’s encouraging news for all of us who believe in the power of trust-based philanthropy. Still, we know you don’t just want to “hope for the best” when it comes to your giving—you want to feel confident that your support is going where it’s needed most. Here’s how we help:

### Trusted Insights on Nonprofits

When you want to know more about a nonprofit you’re supporting—or thinking of supporting—our team is here to help. We offer objective, up-to-date information about charitable organizations and the impact they’re making, so you can give with clarity and confidence.

### Wide-ranging expertise about community needs

We’re deeply connected to the Lehigh Valley. From education and healthcare to the arts, environment, and social services, we stay informed on what our community needs most—and which organizations are stepping up to meet those needs. We’re always happy to be a sounding board as you explore where your giving can have the greatest impact.

### Flexible Tools for Smart Giving

Every donor’s goals are different—and we offer a variety of fund options to match. Whether you want to support a favorite charity, focus on a cause, or involve your family in giving across generations, we’ll help you structure your fund in a way that’s both meaningful and tax-efficient. We make giving simple, so you can stay focused on the joy of making a difference.

In a world where trust matters more than ever, you can count on LVCF to help you give with confidence, knowing your generosity is creating real, lasting impact. Let’s keep the conversation going. Contact **Carrie Krug Nedick, CAP®** via email: [carrie@lvcfoundation.org](mailto:carrie@lvcfoundation.org) to talk about your goals, ask questions, or get ideas for your next grant to a nonprofit doing good work in our community.



## Bridging Philanthropy & Finance: A New Era for Community Investment

**Stephanie Gripne, Ph.D.**  
Founder and CEO of  
Impact Finance Center



**Monday, May 12th**  
**3-5:00 p.m.**

Homewood Suites,  
Center Valley | Program starts at 3:30  
with cocktail reception at 5:00 p.m.

Cost:\$30 | **Register Now** – [Click Here](#)

The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation’s Board of Associates invites you to join us for an engaging conversation on how philanthropy and finance can work together to create meaningful change. Featuring [Dr. Stephanie Gripne](#) from the Impact Finance Center, this program will explore innovative approaches to funding solutions that strengthen our communities. Come and learn, ask questions, and be part of a new way of thinking about charitable giving and investment.

**Impact investing is an investment strategy that seeks to generate financial returns while creating a positive social or environmental impact.**

# Private Foundation or Donor-Advised Fund? Here's What to Consider

If you're thinking about giving in a more structured or long-term way—especially as part of your estate planning—you might be weighing the idea of starting a private foundation or continuing to build your donor-advised fund at LVCF. These two options can seem similar, but there are some key differences worth considering. Let's break down a few common myths:

## Myth #1: Donor-advised funds aren't flexible

Not true! In fact, donor-advised funds at LVCF offer [incredible flexibility](#)—often more than you might expect.

- You can give when the time is right and receive an immediate tax deduction.
- You can recommend grants to your favorite nonprofits, whether they're local or national.
- You can involve your family in giving and even build a multi-generational legacy.

And unlike donor-advised funds at national financial institutions, funds at LVCF connect you directly with local expertise and a community of givers who care deeply about and provide leadership in the Lehigh Valley.

## Myth #2: Private foundations are for "big" philanthropists

Foundation size matters less than you'd think. Both donor-advised funds and private foundations can be structured to fit a wide range of giving levels. In fact, many donors choose donor-advised funds because they're simpler to manage, offer stronger tax benefits, and allow for more privacy. Some funds at LVCF are large enough to rival private foundations—and they do so without the administrative burden, like LVCF's [EverGreen Fund](#) designation.

## Myth #3: You have to choose one or the other

Actually, you can have both. Some families use donor-advised funds alongside their private foundations to:

- Make anonymous grants when needed
- Simplify the giving of complex assets (like real estate or closely-held business interests)
- Reduce administrative stress and ensure giving continues if family roles shift

In some cases, families even decide to transition their private foundation to a donor-advised fund at LVCF ([see the benefits](#)) to maintain their mission while streamlining their giving. Whether its a donor-advised fund, an EverGreen Fund or [other fund](#) at the Community Foundation, we are here to offer the level of service you require to maximize the impact of your philanthropy.

If you're exploring options for how to structure your giving—now or in the future—our team is here to walk you through the pros, cons, and possibilities. We'll help you create a plan that works for your goals, your values, and your life. [Let's talk about your giving strategy →] [carrie@lvcfoundation.org](mailto:carrie@lvcfoundation.org)



## Big Changes Ahead? Here's What You Need to Know

With tax laws potentially [shifting in 2025](#), now's a great time to check in on your charitable giving plans. You don't have to be a policy expert—we've got that covered. But it's helpful to know a [few key points](#) so you can give strategically and with confidence. Here's what's on our radar:

### Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) expiration:

If Congress doesn't act, the tax rules from 2017 will "[sunset](#)" at the end of 2025. This means higher income tax rates, lower limits on charitable deductions, and a reduced estate tax exemption—all of which could impact your financial and philanthropic plans.

**Potential expansion of the charitable deduction:** Some lawmakers are working to restore a universal [charitable deduction](#), which would benefit donors who don't itemize. It's a promising idea that could make giving even more accessible.

**More change is likely:** Experts predict that 2025 [could bring](#) the biggest tax overhaul in decades. That means both your personal finances and your charitable giving could be affected.

We're keeping a close eye on it all so you don't have to. Our team at LVCF is here to make sure your giving is as impactful—and as tax-efficient—as possible, no matter what changes come down the road.

Have questions or want to check in on your giving plan? Let's talk. We're here to help you stay ahead and keep your philanthropy thriving.