



CAUSE CONNECTION

Connecting people who care to causes that matter

Moving a Donor-Advised Fund to LVCF? It's Easier Than You Think

For people who have a donor-advised fund (DAF) at a national financial institution and are wondering if it would be better served at the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation (LVCF) — the answer is yes, and making the move is much simpler than you might expect.

Many LVCF supporters come to us after opening DAFs with commercial sponsors like Fidelity, Schwab, or Vanguard. While those platforms offer convenient giving tools, they often fall short of providing the local expertise, personal service, and deep community connections that make LVCF unique. So why move a fund to the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, consider the following:

A donor-advised fund at LVCF offers:

- The same tax advantages and administrative ease you expect — including online access, consolidated receipts, and support for contributions of cash, securities, and other complex assets.
- A simple, personalized grantmaking experience — you recommend grants to the nonprofits you care about, and our team takes care of the rest.
- Live support from people who know you and understand the region — not a call center or automated portal.

When you bring your DAF to LVCF, you gain:

- Advising tailored to your goals, whether you're giving locally or nationally.
- Insight into Lehigh Valley's greatest needs, with vetted nonprofit partners and measurable impact.
- Opportunities to engage in special initiatives, education, and events.
- A team that can involve your family, help you build a lasting legacy, and amplify your impact — all while remaining rooted in the place you call home.
- Admin fees that stay local, supporting the mission of LVCF and enhancing the community around you.



How to Transfer a Donor-Advised Fund to LVCF

The process is simple — and we'll guide you through it step-by-step:

- 1 Open your new donor-advised fund at LVCF.**
Our team will help you complete the paperwork — typically in less than a day. You can mirror your current fund terms or adjust advisors, beneficiaries, or legacy wishes to better reflect your intentions.
- 2 Request a grant from your current DAF provider.**
Most providers allow you to do this online. You'll designate LVCF as the recipient and can note the new fund name if applicable.
- 3 Transfer your balance.**
In many cases, the full balance can be granted in one transaction. If not, the majority can be moved upfront and the rest over time.
- 4 Download your history.**
Before closing your old fund, be sure to save contribution and grant history for your own records. These transfers are tax-neutral — there are no tax consequences for moving your DAF.



Honoring Your Legacy

Why Every Fund Needs a Purpose Statement

When you establish a philanthropic fund—especially one designed to last in perpetuity—you are making a powerful commitment to the community. Over time, the people involved in managing and distributing grants may change, and so will the needs of the Lehigh Valley. But your intent can remain clear and strong if you take one simple step: document your purpose.

A mission, purpose, or personal values statement provides guidance for how your philanthropy should be carried out—now and in the future. It can anchor your giving in what matters most to you and help the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation steward your fund with care and fidelity. Whether or not you have named successor advisors, a statement ensures that decisions about your fund remain grounded in your intent as time goes on and the community landscape evolves.

Extending Your Values Beyond Grantmaking

In addition to guiding grant distributions, your statement can also express your wishes about how your fund's assets are invested. For example, some fundholders choose to authorize the Foundation to consider impact investments—those that aim to generate positive social or environmental outcomes alongside financial returns.

By documenting your openness to this approach, you make it possible for your fund to be part of investment opportunities that advance community well-being—not just through grantmaking, but through how the fund is stewarded over time. Including this kind of guidance in your statement helps us honor your intent across both sides of your philanthropy: giving and investing. Below are some questions to get you started:

To begin shaping your statement, consider:

- What inspired you to create this fund?
- What values guide your giving?
- Are there causes or organizations you especially want to support?
- What kind of impact do you hope to make over time?
- Are you open to your fund being used for impact investments?
- Are there things you want future advisors—or the Foundation—to know?

There's no right or wrong format—just clarity, honesty, and heart.

Next Steps for Getting Involved

If you'd like help crafting your fund's statement or already have one you'd like us to keep on file, please reach out to your contact at the Foundation or email Carrie at carrie@lvcfoundation.org. We're here to support your vision, through both your giving and your investing, and to ensure it lasts.

LVCF Night at the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival

On June 12, we gathered with some of the LVCF community—fundholders, donors, and Legacy Society members—for a special evening celebrating the arts and the generosity that fuels our mission.

Hosted at the beautiful Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, the evening began with a wine and cheese reception where guests connected, shared stories, and heard exclusive behind-the-scenes insights from Artistic Director **Jason King Jones** provided an inside look the Shakespeare Festival and its programs. LVCF's President and CEO, **Erika Riddle Petrozelli**, welcomed the assembled guests.

The night continued with a lively performance of *The Producers*—a joyful and hilarious musical experience made even more meaningful by the company we kept.



See all the photos on [LVCF's Flickr](#)