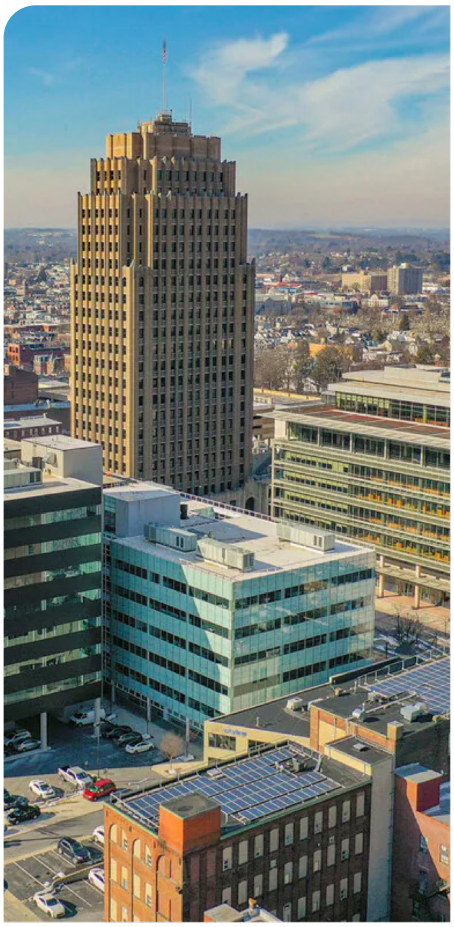
Lehigh Valley Community Foundation

2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT













Investing in Community

LEHIGH VALLEY
Community Foundation
CONNECT. GROW. FUND.

Your Foundation in the Community

At the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, we connect donors who care with causes that matter. A leader in charitable giving in the Lehigh Valley for more than 58 years, we receive support from donors, manage funds to grow over time, and make impactful grants to strengthen local nonprofits.

LEHIGH VALLEY Community Foundation
CONNECT. GROW. FUND.

A Respected Thought Leader

With more than five decades of expertise in regional philanthropy, the Community Foundation has taken on a transformative role to address the Lehigh Valley's most pressing needs. Through research and collaboration, we identify service gaps, convene donors and leaders, and inspire local giving. As a champion of place-based philanthropy, the Foundation promotes integrity, innovation, and lasting community impact.

A Valued Resource to Donors

The Community Foundation offers expert guidance and personalized support to donors, providing a wide range of fund options to meet diverse goals. By fostering connections with nonprofits, we help donors see the direct impact of their generosity. With a commitment to sustaining legacies, the Community Foundation offers a community-focused alternative to private foundations and for-profit financial services so they can focus their efforts on fulfilling their missions.

A Powerful Partner to Area Nonprofits

The Community Foundation raises awareness of nonprofits' work, connects leaders, and aligns donors with causes that matter. We invest in capacity-building initiatives and manages endowments, supporting nonprofits so they can focus on their missions and maximize their impact for the people they serve. In addition to grantmaking, the Foundation provides leadership by fostering collaboration, driving solutions, and empowering the community to address its most pressing challenges.



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Investing in Community



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LVCF FAST FACTS | 2024-25







Message from the Board Chair & President and CEO

At the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, our work is rooted in a simple but powerful belief: when we invest in our community, we strengthen the systems, people, and partnerships that allow our region to thrive. As we reflect on the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, we do so with deep gratitude for the donors, nonprofits, civic partners, and leaders who make this mission possible.

This year marked a transformative period in our Foundation's history. We closed the fiscal year with over $100 million in charitable assets under management, a significant milestone for community foundations that reflects both the generosity of our donors and the trust they place in our stewardship. In this fiscal year, the Foundation received more than $22 million in gifts and distributed over $9 million in grants, both of which are significant figures. We stand firmly in our role as a community leader helping nonprofits deliver essential services and advance meaningful change across the Lehigh Valley.

In particular, we continued to spotlight the importance of early childhood education and to address the challenges that parents face to access affordable, quality childcare. We have deployed innovative approaches to addressing this urgent local need, such as our first impact investment to support the expansion of a childcare facility in downtown Allentown. These investments, paired with our engagement in regional efforts such as the Early Childhood Education Collaborative, demonstrate how strategic partnerships can expand opportunity for families and children.

Internally, we strengthened the organizational infrastructure that enables our mission. With a new accounting system and donor portal, expanded visibility efforts, and continued investment in our staff, LVCF is poised for the next phase of growth. As we prepare to develop a new strategic plan, we do so with a renewed focus on impact beyond the check, growth through partnership, and our values of Connection, Opportunity, Integrity, and Learning.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to this year's accomplishments. Together, we are investing in community—today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.



Anne Reid
Chair, Board of Governors

Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA, CAP®
President & CEO





Strengthening Early Childhood Education in the Lehigh Valley

For families across the Lehigh Valley, access to high-quality, affordable childcare is essential — not only for children's development, but for parents' ability to work, employers' ability to hire, and the region's long-term economic health. Yet early childhood systems remain under strain, challenged by workforce shortages, rising costs, and uneven access.

The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation has responded by deepening its commitment to early childhood education as a core strategy for strengthening youth, families, and the broader community. In Fiscal Year 2025, the Foundation continued to evolve from a traditional grantmaker into a regional leader — aligning funding, convening partners, and advancing systems-level solutions that support children and those who care for them.

Leading Through Collaboration

At the center of this work is LVCF's role as the backbone convener of the Early Childhood Education Collaborative (ECEC), a cross-sector partnership of nonprofit organizations, educators, funders, government agencies, and business leaders working together to address the region's childcare challenges.

early childhood education COLLABORATIVE

As convener, LVCF provides the infrastructure that allows partners to move beyond isolated efforts toward coordinated action. We facilitate shared strategy, support collective learning, and elevate early childhood as a regional priority—ensuring that voices from across sectors are aligned around common goals.

This collaborative leadership was on full display during the 2025 Week of the Young Child, held April 5–11. The week-long celebration brought together families, educators, and community partners to highlight the importance of early learning and to recognize the professionals who make it possible. Events included a virtual kick-off, an Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Dinner, creative artist-in-residence programming at community sites, and a space transformation project designed to promote early literacy and learning through everyday environments.

naeyc Week of the Young Child

A coordinated social media campaign amplified these efforts, reaching thousands of residents across the Lehigh Valley. More than $35,000 was raised through sponsorships, demonstrating broad community support and reinforcing early childhood education as a shared civic responsibility.

Statewide Advocacy

LVCF's early childhood work is informed not only by local needs, but also by statewide learning and advocacy. Through active engagement with Pennsylvania Association of Community Foundations and broader early childhood coalitions in Pa., LVCF helps ensure that regional strategies are aligned with state policy priorities.

Integrating Childcare and Workforce Development

LVCF also continues to advance early childhood education as a workforce issue. As a key partner in Allentown Works, a federally funded economic development initiative, the Foundation leads the childcare component — ensuring that access to reliable, quality care is embedded into workforce planning and implementation. Through collaboration with city leaders and national partners, LVCF has helped design strategies that expand childcare access, strengthen the early educator pipeline, and reduce barriers for parents pursuing employment or training. This work reflects a growing recognition that economic mobility and childcare availability are deeply interconnected — and that solutions must address both simultaneously.

Strategic Grantmaking for Youth and Families

While leadership and convening are critical, grantmaking remains a cornerstone of LVCF's impact. In FY2025, the Foundation awarded more than $175,000 through its Youth & Families grants program, supporting organizations that advance early learning, strengthen families, and promote child well-being across Lehigh and Northampton counties. Our long-term approach requires sustained leadership, trusted partnerships, and a willingness to evolve as needs and opportunities emerge.



> **"By convening partners and aligning resources, we are building systems that support children, families, and educators for the long term."**
>
> **Megan Barnes Briggs**
> **VP of Community Investments**

A Long-Term Commitment to Children and Families

The progress achieved in FY2025 builds on several years of intentional focus. Since 2022, LVCF has steadily refined its Youth and Families strategy—consolidating grant resources, launching early childhood-specific funding, issuing its first multi-year grants, and investing in dedicated staff capacity to lead this work.

That long-term approach reflects a clear understanding: meaningful change in early childhood systems does not happen in a single grant cycle. It requires sustained leadership, trusted partnerships, and a willingness to evolve as needs and opportunities emerge.

Looking ahead, LVCF remains committed to expanding workforce pipeline initiatives, supporting professional development for early learning staff, continuing community-wide engagement efforts, and strengthening partnerships locally and statewide. Through these efforts, the Foundation is helping ensure that every child in the Lehigh Valley has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive—and that families and educators are supported.

By investing in early childhood today, LVCF is laying the groundwork for a stronger, more equitable Lehigh Valley tomorrow.



Strengthening Leaders Across the Lehigh Valley

Strong communities depend on strong leadership. Across the Lehigh Valley, nonprofit organizations are navigating increasing demands—from shifting funding environments and workforce pressures to growing community needs that require collaboration, adaptability, and long-term thinking. In response, the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation has made leadership development and organizational capacity a central part of its community investment strategy.

One of the most significant expressions of this commitment is the CORE Fellowship, a multi-year initiative designed to support nonprofit and community leaders as they strengthen their organizations, deepen collaboration, and build the skills needed to lead through complexity. Since its launch in 2022, the CORE Fellowship has helped shape how leadership is cultivated and supported across the region, reinforcing LVCF's belief that investing in people is essential to lasting community impact.

Fellowship Designed for Real-World Leadership

The CORE Fellowship was intentionally designed to reflect the realities nonprofit leaders face. Fellows come from a wide range of organizations and sectors, including nonprofits, local government, higher education, philanthropy, and business. This diversity creates a learning environment where participants gain insight beyond their own organizations and build relationships that strengthen the broader nonprofit ecosystem.

Across three cohorts, the fellowship has engaged 61 leaders from 39 organizations, creating a regional network grounded in shared learning and mutual support. Each participating organization received a $25,000 grant to support their participation and capacity building projects, resulting in nearly $1.2 million invested in strengthening organizations and leadership across the Lehigh Valley. While the fellowship includes facilitated learning, individual coaching, peer exchange, and organizational assessment, its impact extends beyond the program structure. CORE creates space for leaders to step back from day-to-day demands, reflect on their leadership approach, and build practical skills that can be applied immediately within their organizations.

From Individual Growth to Organizational Strength

Participants consistently describe CORE as a transformative professional experience. Fellows report greater confidence in decision-making, improved communication skills, and a stronger ability to navigate complex organizational and community dynamics. These gains translate directly into organizational benefits, as leaders apply new perspectives and tools to strengthen governance, operations, and service delivery.

The fellowship also fosters collaboration across organizations that might not otherwise work together. By building trust and relationships among leaders, CORE has helped reduce silos and encouraged partnerships that extend well beyond the fellowship itself. Over time, these connections have contributed to more coordinated approaches to shared challenges across the region. CORE's influence is not limited to individual leaders. Organizations participating in the fellowship have implemented changes that affect staff, volunteers, and the communities they serve—creating ripple effects that strengthen the nonprofit sector as a whole.



Cohort Three: Building on Momentum

In Fiscal Year 2025, CORE Fellowship Cohort Three entered its second year of programming with a focus on continued growth and application. Fellows worked closely with consultants to identify opportunities for organizational development while designing and implementing capacity-building projects supported by CORE funding.

These projects reflect the varied missions of participating organizations and their commitment to serving the community more effectively. Initiatives range from expanding access to programs and services and to developing new engagement strategies, to creating spaces that foster connection, creativity, and well-being.

Beyond individual projects, Cohort Three is also helping inform the future of LVCF's capacity-building work. Insights from fellows are shaping our approach as the Foundation explores ways to extend CORE's learning model to a broader audience of nonprofit leaders.

A Long-Term Investment

The CORE Fellowship reflects LVCF's long-term commitment to strengthening the Lehigh Valley's nonprofit sector. By combining financial support with learning, coaching, organizational development, and peer connection, LVCF has helped leaders build the capacity to navigate change and strengthen their organizations. Looking ahead, the principles that shaped the CORE Fellowship continue to guide LVCF's work. By expanding access to capacity-building resources and sustaining strong leadership networks, the Foundation is helping nonprofit organizations meet today's challenges and lead the region into the future.

"By investing in nonprofit leadership, we strengthen organizations, increase sector resilience, and create a lasting positive impact for the Lehigh Valley."

Robyn Weaver
Program Officer, Capacity Building

Meeting Changing Needs

As the nonprofit landscape continues to evolve, LVCF has taken a thoughtful and proactive approach to its capacity-building strategy. While the CORE Fellowship has been highly impactful, the Foundation recognizes the importance of expanding access to leadership development opportunities and responding to changing conditions.

Building on the success of CORE, LVCF is broadening its approach to include expanded community grants for capacity-building, targeted workshops, and new learning opportunities inspired by the fellowship model. These efforts are designed to reach more organizations while maintaining the depth and quality that have defined CORE.

At the same time, LVCF remains committed to sustaining the relationships and networks that CORE has created. Alumni from all three cohorts continue to engage through cross-cohort gatherings and are shaping an alumni network that supports ongoing connection, collaboration, and shared learning.



Putting Philanthropic Capital to Work for Community Impact

Impact investing is one way LVCF is expanding its philanthropic toolbox to address community needs. By mobilizing flexible capital, LVCF can advance critical projects that deliver clear community benefit. This approach allows donors to put resources to work in new ways that strengthen organizations, expand access, and support lasting impact across the Lehigh Valley.

In June 2025, LVCF took a signicant step in impact investing by approving $175,000 investment to Resurrected Community Development Corporation (RCDC). This investment supports the renovation of RCDC's church facility into a childcare center and affordable housing, creating new early learning slots for Allentown families.

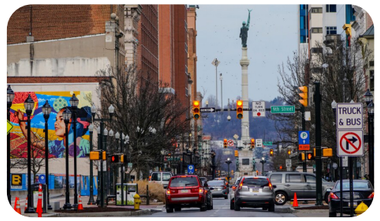
The funding stack behind this effort reflects exactly the kind of cross-sector problem-solving our region does best. Financing includes support from Finantand Truist, along with a $3.4 million loan from the United Church of Christ's Church Building & Loan Fund, supplemented by federal, state, and city resources. LVCF is proud to provide a piece of the puzzle to move this long-awaited project from plan to groundbreaking.

Leveraging Philanthropic Capital

The project represents a new model for leveraging philanthropic capital to drive community outcomes, expanding both the availability and accessibility of early childhood education in the region. LVCF's leadership in this effort was publicly recognized during a press conference celebrating the start of construction, where the Foundation was acknowledged as a key investor and strategic partner. Pictured above is LVCF CEO **Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA, CAP®** and **Rev. Dr. Gregory James Edwards**, President and CEO of the Resurrected Community Development Corporation.

Impact Investing: Putting Capital to Work Locally

At the Community Foundation, impact investing is about using all the resources at our disposal to do more for our community—beyond traditional grantmaking alone. While grants remain a vital tool, grant dollars are finite and do not return once they are distributed. As a community foundation, LVCF also exists to grow philanthropy by investing charitable assets. Impact investing allows us to intentionally connect these two roles and expand how philanthropic capital can serve the Lehigh Valley.



Through impact investing, LVCF seeks opportunities to move some capital from Wall Street to Main Street, investing locally in ways that generate both a financial return and meaningful social benefit. These investments are designed to align with our mission and values while supporting community priorities, including early childhood care and other systems critical to long-term community well-being. By keeping capital closer to home, LVCF can help strengthen local institutions and support solutions rooted in community needs.

Impact investing differs from both traditional grantmaking and traditional investing in important ways. Grants support charitable work with no expectation of repayment, while traditional investing focuses primarily on financial return, often through global markets. Impact investing blends these approaches by deploying capital locally with the goal of achieving a social return alongside at least some financial return. This approach allows LVCF to be more intentional about where charitable dollars are placed and how they reflect community values.

LVCF's exploration of impact investing has been thoughtful and deliberate. While this approach has gained momentum across the community foundation field nationally, LVCF took time to build internal understanding, engage stakeholders, and ensure appropriate governance and oversight. Donor interest in locally focused philanthropy, combined with pressing community needs, reinforced the importance of advancing this work responsibly.

To deepen its capacity, LVCF staff participated in a Pennsylvania Association of Community Foundations (PACFA) impact investing learning cohort last spring. Through this experience, staff built relationships with peer foundations across the state and gained insight into the broader ecosystem that supports impact investing. The cohort concluded with an organizational plan that established two parallel paths forward: one focused on engaging fundholders through an impact investing circle, and another aligned with LVCF's internal community priorities.

Today, LVCF is in the early stages of this work—making initial investments, engaging fundholders, and inviting conversation about what impact investing can look like in the Lehigh Valley. This work continues to evolve, and LVCF remains committed to moving forward transparently, responsibly, and in partnership with the community.



"Impact investing allows us to align philanthropic resources with real community needs and move critical projects forward when they matter most."

Carrie Nedick, CAP®
Director of Donor Services



What Is Impact Investing?

Impact investing is an approach that uses philanthropic capital to generate both financial return and positive community impact. Unlike traditional grants, which are spent once, impact investments may be repaid and redeployed over time, allowing charitable resources to work longer and more strategically. Unlike conventional investing, which prioritizes financial performance alone, impact investing intentionally aligns capital with social values and community priorities.

Impact investing means putting dollars to work locally—supporting initiatives that strengthen critical systems, expand access to opportunity, and contribute to long-term community well-being. By blending mission and investment, impact investing expands the philanthropic toolbox and creates new pathways for donors and institutions to advance lasting, place-based impact across the Lehigh Valley.



Welcoming New Leadership to the LVCF Board of Governors

The Board of Governors at Lehigh Valley Community Foundation provides administrative, programmatic, and fiscal oversight in support of the organization's mission. Members of the Board serve as ambassadors, promoting the Community Foundation as a vehicle for philanthropy and a leader of community improvement.

In 2024-25, the Community Foundation strengthened its leadership with the addition of four accomplished community and business leaders to its Board of Governors. These new Governors bring diverse expertise in health care, financial strategy, engineering innovation, and creative business leadership that will enhance the Foundation's governance, community engagement, and strategic oversight. Their collective experience reflects a deep commitment to advancing the Foundation's mission to strengthen nonprofits, support philanthropy, and improve quality of life across the Lehigh Valley.

Their perspectives will be invaluable as the Community Foundation continues to deepen its impact and steward philanthropic resources for long-term community benefit.

Anne Baum



Anne Baum is a longtime civic and nonprofit leader and the former President of Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital (part of Jefferson Health), where she oversaw strategic planning and operations across more than 100 locations and led comprehensive pediatric services for the region. Deeply engaged in community service, Baum has served on a range of regional boards, including the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, Valley Youth House, United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, the Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority, and Northampton Community College Foundation (chair). She joined LVCF's Board of Governors in July of 2025 and serves on the Community Investments Committee.

Kathryn M. Brown, CFP, ChFC, CAP®



Kathryn M. Brown is co-founder and principal of Morton Brown Family Wealth, a registered investment advisory firm based in Allentown. With more than 20 years in financial planning, she helps clients align wealth with long-term goals and values—experience that strengthens LVCF's governance and fiscal oversight. Katie has held leadership roles with the Allentown Chamber of Commerce and Valley Youth House and previously served on LVCF's Board of Associates. She joined the Board of Governors in July of 2025 and serves on the Finance Committee.

Kevin Greene



Kevin Greene is Principal Strategist at Faces International, an Allentown-based creative and digital marketing agency. Originally from Jamaica, his career spans major markets and has focused on strategy, business development, and community impact. Kevin serves on several community boards and committees, including the NCC Foundation, Valley Youth House, United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, and the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce. He joined LVCF's Board of Governors in January of 2025 and serves on the Community Relations Committee, strengthening outreach and engagement.

Nicholas (Nic) Hindle



Nic Hindle is president of HindlePower Inc., a family-owned Easton manufacturer specializing in industrial battery chargers and DC power systems for the utility industry. He has led the company's innovation and growth while emphasizing employee well-being and reinvestment. As a second-generation leader of a Lehigh Valley–based manufacturing company, Nic brings a deep understanding of local economic ecosystems and the role that long-term, values-driven businesses play in sustaining communities. Nic also serves as vice president of the Greater Easton Development Board. He joined LVCF's Board of Governors in July of 2025 and serves on the Finance Committee.

With Gratitude to Our Departing Governors

The Foundation extends its sincere appreciation to three Governors whose terms concluded this year. Through their leadership, expertise, and commitment to community, each has contributed meaningfully to LVCF's governance and long-term impact.

Antonia Grifo, Esq.



We thank **Antonia Grifo, Esq.** for her exceptional service as a Governor of the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation from 2016 to 2025. Over more than a decade, Antonia provided steady leadership, institutional knowledge, and a deep commitment to the Foundation's mission. She served with distinction as Secretary of the Board and as a member of the Executive Committee. Antonia played a pivotal role on the Community Investments Committee, including several years as Chair, and led the Community Relations Committee. She also contributed her legal expertise on the Legal Affairs Committee and supported the Foundation's response to urgent community needs through the COVID-19 Fund and Substance Use Disorder Advisory Committees. Her service reflected a principled approach to impactful philanthropy.

Leigh Ehrlich

We thank **Leigh Ehrlich** for her dedicated service as a Governor from 2022 to 2025. Leigh brought professionalism, clarity, and a strong fiduciary lens to her work on the Finance Committee. She also served on the ad hoc Investment RFP Committee, contributing thoughtful analysis and collaboration during an important investment transition. Her service supported sound decision-making and transparency in the Foundation's financial oversight.

Thomas Neuhaus

We thank **Thomas Neuhaus** for his service as a Governor from 2022 to 2025. As a member of the Finance Committee, Tom brought strong financial insight and careful stewardship to the Foundation's work. He also served on the ad hoc Investment RFP Committee, helping guide the selection of PNC Institutional Asset Management Group as Outsourced Chief Investment Officer for two Foundation portfolios. His contributions strengthened the Foundation's financial governance and long-term sustainability.



A Community Conversation on Child Care in the Lehigh Valley

In September 2024, more than 135 community leaders, business executives, parents, providers, and elected officials gathered at Homewood Suites in Center Valley to confront one of the most urgent challenges facing the Lehigh Valley: access to affordable, high-quality child care. The breakfast convening was co-hosted by the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation (LVCF), and the Early Childhood Education Action Committee, reflecting the shared recognition that childcare is both a family issue and a workforce imperative.

The program opened with welcome remarks from **Linda Sheftel,** Chair of LVCF's Board of Associates, who emphasized the importance of collaboration in addressing complex community challenges. **Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA, CAP®**, President and CEO of LVCF, spoke, underscoring the Foundation's long-standing commitment to early childhood care and education as a cornerstone of economic mobility, family stability, and long-term community health. The business community also weighed in. **Peter Danchak**, PNC Regional President, reaffirmed PNC's long-term commitment to early childhood education, emphasizing its connection to workforce readiness and economic competitiveness.

> **"Child care is not just a family issue—it is a workforce and economic issue that affects our entire region."**
>
> — Megan Barnes Briggs
> VP of Community Investments

Moderated by **Tony Iannelli**, President and CEO of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, the panel explored how child care access—or the lack of it—affects families, employers, and the regional economy. **Megan Barnes Briggs**, LVCF Vice President of Community Investments, framed the issue as a systems challenge, noting that sustainable solutions must support children's development while also enabling parents, particularly mothers, to fully participate in the workforce. She highlighted LVCF's role in convening partners and advancing strategies that address both immediate needs and long-term structural gaps.

From the provider perspective, **Charles Dinofrio**, President and CEO of Lehigh Valley Children's Centers, described a sector under strain. He outlined how rising costs, staffing shortages, low wages, and fragmented funding streams are squeezing both families and providers, making it increasingly difficult to maintain quality and stability across the system.

The discussion was grounded by lived experience. **Melinda Saunders-Wood**, a registered nurse and mother of three, shared the challenges her family faced navigating waitlists, affordability, and quality when seeking care. Her story illustrated how even families with steady employment can struggle to find reliable child care, underscoring the real-world consequences behind workforce and economic data.

Public-sector leaders reinforced the need for sustained policy action. **Congresswoman Susan Wild** spoke to the long-standing nature of the child care crisis and its implications for workforce participation and economic growth. **State Representative Peter Schweyer** emphasized the importance of legislative solutions, including universal preschool, better compensation for child care workers, and long-term funding models that allow providers to plan and grow. Allentown Mayor **Matt Tuerk** highlighted the local economic stakes, noting that child care access directly affects a city's ability to attract and retain workers and families.

Rev. Dr. Gregory James Edwards, President and CEO of Resurrected Community Development Corporation, called for reducing bureaucratic barriers and expanding culturally responsive, community-based child care solutions that meet families where they are.

Throughout the event, the Community Foundation's leadership as a convener was evident—bringing together voices across sectors to elevate the issue, share data and experience, and explore pathways forward. Convenings like this reflect the Foundation's broader impact strategy: strengthening systems, fostering collaboration, and helping align public, private, and philanthropic resources to support families and economic participation across the Lehigh Valley.

BOARD OF ASSOCIATES

The Board of Associates members are an important group of foundation donors, professional advisors, government representatives, nonprofit leaders, corporate executives, and community volunteers who share an interest in the work of the Foundation.

Executive committee

The Board of Associates is led by an executive committee (as of June 30, 2025):

Linda Sheftel, Chair
Justin Sheftel Memorial Fund

Patricia Beldon
Community Representative

Kathryn Brown
Morton Brown Family Wealth

Dawn Godshall
Community Action Lehigh Valley

Stephen Link, CAP®
Cornerstone Advisors Asset Management, LLC

Michael Tukeva
Pocono Mountains United Way





Bridging Philanthropy & Finance:

A New Era for Community Investment

On May 12, 2025, the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation's Board of Associates convened local leaders, fundholders, and community changemakers for an afternoon program exploring how philanthropy and finance can work together to address the region's most pressing challenges. Titled Bridging Philanthropy & Finance: A New Era for Community Investment, the event—sponsored by PNC—reflected LVCF's growing leadership in advancing innovative, place-based approaches to community investment.

The gathering opened with welcoming remarks from **Linda Sheftel**, Chair of the Board of Associates Executive Committee, who emphasized the importance of bringing people together across sectors to learn, question, and imagine new possibilities for impact. **Terrence A. McMahon** of PNC Institutional Asset Management followed, reinforcing PNC's commitment to community-focused investment strategies and partnerships that strengthen local economies. **Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA, CAP®**, President and CEO of LVCF, then shared updates on the Foundation's strategic priorities, highlighting LVCF's role in aligning philanthropic resources with community needs and long-term systems change.

The keynote address was delivered by **Dr. Stephanie Gripne,** Founder and CEO of the Impact Finance Center, whose presentation challenged attendees to rethink how capital can be mobilized for social good. Drawing on national case studies and regional data, Dr. Gripne demonstrated that the Lehigh Valley already has the financial capacity to address significant challenges—if capital is activated differently. She shared a striking example: mobilizing just 0.2% of the region's estimated $295 billion in private wealth could finance the development of approximately 9,000 housing units, meeting a critical regional need. With traditional banks able to finance roughly 80% of such projects, only a fraction of local philanthropic and private capital would be required to catalyze change.

Central to Dr. Gripne's message was the concept of Full Spectrum Capital—an approach that encourages communities to deploy a range of tools, from grants and recoverable investments to loans, guarantees, and market-rate equity.



Rather than viewing philanthropy and investment as separate silos, Full Spectrum Capital invites foundations, donor-advised funds, and individuals to align "treasure," "time," and "talent" in ways that multiply impact.

Dr. Gripne also introduced the Philanthropic Opportunity Scan, a practical tool designed to help foundations uncover investment-ready opportunities within their existing grantee networks. She shared examples from across the country, including a case study from Essex County Community Foundation, where a scan identified more than 100 potential impact investments that had previously gone unrecognized. These examples illustrated how community foundations can uncover hidden opportunities by asking the right questions and pairing capital with technical assistance.

Interactive elements throughout the presentation—including role-play exercises and facilitated discussions—encouraged attendees to engage directly with these ideas. Participants were invited to reflect on how modest reallocations of assets, combined with strategic intent, could help build what Dr. Gripne described as a "caring economy"—one that values both financial return and human well-being.

The program concluded with a networking reception, where conversations continued about how these concepts could take root locally. As LVCF looks ahead, the 2025 spring gathering served as a catalyst—reinforcing the Foundation's commitment to innovation, education, and leadership at the intersection of philanthropy and finance, right here in the Lehigh Valley.



















"We already have the resources to solve many of our community's challenges—what's needed is alignment between philanthropy and investment. Community foundations are uniquely positioned to convene, educate, and activate capital at the local level."

Dr. Stephanie Gripne
Founder & CEO
Impact Finance Center

Why This Matters

Community challenges such as housing, child care, and workforce stability are complex and capital-intensive. Traditional grantmaking alone cannot meet the scale of these needs. By exploring impact investing and Full Spectrum Capital, the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation is helping donors and community leaders understand how philanthropic assets can be deployed more strategically—alongside market capital—to unlock new solutions.

Convenings like this Board of Associates meeting build shared understanding, spark new ideas, and position the Lehigh Valley to mobilize local resources for local impact. By bridging philanthropy and finance, LVCF is expanding the tools available to strengthen communities, accelerate solutions, and create lasting change across the region.









LVCF Co-Hosts with Estate Planning Council

Program Focused on Family Business Succession

LVCF and the Estate Planning Council of the Lehigh Valley co-hosted a program that featured **Tom Garrity**, Managing Partner at Compass Point Consulting, LLC, who shared his expertise during his presentation, “Beyond Taxes–The Challenges of Succession Planning for Family Businesses and the Impact on Estate Planning.” Tom provided valuable, real-world strategies to help families, business owners, and advisors navigate growth, ownership transitions, and long-term succession while preserving both enterprise value and family relationships.

The program began with welcoming remarks from **Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA, CAP®**, President and CEO of LVCF, who offered a brief overview of LVCF’s mission and shared a compelling story of philanthropy that highlighted the lasting impact of thoughtful planning. Erika then introduced Tom, setting the stage for a meaningful discussion on how succession planning extends well beyond tax considerations to include governance, leadership development, and communication across generations.

Throughout the program, attendees engaged in thoughtful conversation around the complex challenges family-owned businesses face as they plan for the future. The discussion emphasized the importance of proactive, holistic planning that aligns business objectives with estate and legacy goals, reinforcing the critical role advisors play in guiding families through these transitions.



LVCF Convenes Regional Leaders

Addressing Early Childhood Education Challenges

In November 2024, the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation played a central role in convening regional leaders for a timely community forum focused on the state of early childhood education in the post-pandemic era. Hosted at the Univest Public Media Center in Bethlehem, the roundtable brought together nearly 40 early childhood education professionals to discuss workforce shortages, classroom challenges, and the growing social-emotional needs of young children.

The event was co-hosted by LVCF alongside PBS39, Lakeshore, and the Early Childhood Education Action Committee, reflecting a shared commitment to advancing dialogue and collaboration in a sector facing increasing strain. The conversation featured educators and nonprofit leaders from across the Lehigh Valley, including representatives from Community Services for Children, Pinebrook Family Answers, and Lehigh Valley Children’s Centers, who shared firsthand perspectives on how early learning environments have grown more complex since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The discussion was moderated by LVCF’s **Megan Barnes Briggs**, whose facilitation helped guide a thoughtful and solutions-oriented exchange among panelists. Through her leadership, the forum balanced candid discussion of challenges—such as behavioral needs, staffing shortages, and program sustainability—with practical strategies to support educators, children, and families. Panelists emphasized the importance of classroom design, teacher support, professional development, and strong family engagement in helping young learners succeed.

> By bringing together practitioners, advocates, and community partners, LVCF demonstrated its ongoing role as a convener and catalyst for community dialogue. Events such as this reflect LVCF’s commitment to strengthening systems that support children and families and to fostering partnerships that translate conversation into action across the region.

The forum also featured **Coy Bowles**, a member of the Zac Brown Band and a children’s book author, who reinforced the importance of social-emotional learning and creativity in early education. Bowles shared his experiences creating music and books for children and offered encouragement to educators, underscoring the collective impact of continued advocacy and collaboration.















LVCF continues to serve as a trusted convener and resource for nonprofit leaders, creating space for dialogue, professional development, and connection. By investing in the financial literacy and storytelling capacity of local organizations, the Community Foundation helps ensure that nonprofits across the Lehigh Valley are better positioned to sustain their missions and amplify their impact.

Coffee & Conversation:
Financial Storytelling in Uncertain Times

In February, the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation (LVCF) convened nearly 100 nonprofit leaders from across the region for Coffee & Conversation: Financial Storytelling in Uncertain Times, a capacity-building workshop designed to help organizations strengthen how they communicate financial need, impact, and sustainability. The program was held on February 24th at Northampton Community College's Fowler Center and reflected LVCF's ongoing commitment to equipping nonprofit leaders with practical tools to navigate an increasingly complex funding environment.

The workshop was led by **Tisha Hyter, CSRIC®**, Senior Vice President and Director of Nonprofit Strategy & Solutions at PNC Institutional Asset Management, who guided participants through a structured framework for financial storytelling. Drawing on real-world nonprofit scenarios, she emphasized how organizations can clearly articulate their challenges, describe their approach, demonstrate a track record of effective management, and connect financial data to mission impact in ways that resonate with funders and stakeholders.

Tisha's presentation highlighted actionable strategies around diversification, endowment development, alliances, and long-term financial planning—critical considerations for nonprofits operating amid economic uncertainty.

The program opened with welcoming remarks from **Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA, CAP®**, President and CEO of LVCF, who underscored the Foundation's role in supporting nonprofit resilience and fostering shared learning across the sector. **Terrence A. McMahon, CIMA®**, Senior Investment Advisor at PNC Institutional Asset Management, introduced the presenter, reinforcing the collaborative partnership between LVCF and PNC to bring expert insights to the local nonprofit community. The event concluded with reflections from **Robyn Weaver**, LVCF Program Officer for Capacity Building, who encouraged participants to apply the concepts discussed to strengthen their organizations' financial narratives and strategic planning.



LVCF collaborated with LINC, United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, and the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley to present Growing Together: Volunteer Power, Staff Well-Being, and Community Connection on April 28, 2025, at NCC. "We are so grateful to everyone for sharing their expertise and providing powerful tools to help nonprofits grow, support their teams, and expand their impact," said **Robyn Weaver**, LVCF's Program Officer, Capacity Building, who coordinated the program. Pictured from left to right are **Karen Smith**, **Robyn Weaver**, **Krissi Echevarria**, and **Missy Wise**.















Photos by Andrew Keuscher

Early Childhood Education Collaborative Appreciation Dinner

LVCF supported the Early Childhood Education Collaborative Appreciation Dinner held at ArtsQuest at SteelStacks on April 9, 2025, during Week of the Young Child® 2025. LVCF's **Megan Barnes Briggs** (top left) in partnership with members of the Early Childhood Education Collaborative (ECEC), celebrated early educators and their vital role in supporting children and families across the Lehigh Valley. The Early Childhood Education Collaborative is a regional partnership of organizations and leaders committed to building a thriving community by advancing high-quality, accessible, and affordable early childhood education and care. Through collaboration, advocacy, and shared learning, the Collaborative works to strengthen systems that support early educators, children, and working families.



LVCF sponsored the April 2025 Lehigh Valley Consortium of Professional Organizations program that explored the evolving role of media in our community and the dramatic changes journalism has seen over the past few decades. LVCF President and CEO **Erika Riddle Petrozelli**, who is a member of the LVCPO Board, spoke about the Community Foundation and its support of local journalism. A special thank you to **Christopher Baxter**, CEO/President and founding editor of Spotlight PA, and **Jim Deegan**, Vice President, News at Lehigh Valley Public Media, for sharing their insights and answering questions posed by LVCPO President **Mark Crossley, Esq**.



"We emphasized that this was not a fundraiser of any type. Rather, we hoped that the invitees would come away with a better understanding of this wonderful organization, and how it can be useful to those who believe in paying it forward."

— Marshall Wolff

Building Bridges of Awareness | Thank you Kay and Marshall Wolf

Kay and Marshall Wolff graciously opened the doors of the historic Pomfret Club in Easton to host an intimate gathering aimed at fostering connections and raising awareness about the Community Foundation. The event brought together a select group of friends and colleagues to learn about the Foundation's mission, its impact on the community, and the role it plays in advancing philanthropy across the region.

A Personal Connection to Giving

For **Marshall Wolff**, a nearly 20-year veteran of LVCF's Board of Directors, the inspiration to host this event came from a common realization: many friends and professional peers remain unfamiliar with the Foundation's work. "Having served as a Board member for almost two decades, I continue to be surprised in conversations when our friends or professional colleagues aren't familiar with the Foundation," Marshall shared. "When we had lunch with Erika and Maureen recently, we offered this reception idea simply to cross that bridge of awareness."



With this purpose in mind, the Wolffs designed the evening not as a fundraiser, but as a moment to shine a light on LVCF's capabilities and its unique approach to philanthropy.

The Impact of Local Philanthropy

Guests at the Pomfret Club had the opportunity to hear firsthand from LVCF President and CEO **Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA, CAP®**, who shared stories of how the Foundation has helped fundholders turn their philanthropic goals into tangible, local impact. From its seamless donor-advised fund services to its role as a steward of community resources, LVCF continues to prove why it is a favorite among donors like the Wolffs. "The LVCF continues to be our favorite nonprofit, because it has no agenda," Kay explained. "With our donor-advised fund, we can gift now—and into the future with our daughter—to local causes that matter to us. Everything is handled easily, professionally, and confidentially."

As longtime supporters of the Foundation, the Wolffs also reflected on how their involvement has deepened their understanding of the region's philanthropic landscape. "I have been continually impressed with the quality of the Board and the respect and cooperation from the professional advisor community," Marshall said. "We're also amazed at how many funds have been created for all kinds of reasons, by fundholders all across the Valley."

A Ripple Effect of Awareness

Thanks to events like this, the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation continues to expand its network and increase its visibility within the community. The gathering served as a powerful reminder that philanthropy thrives not only through monetary gifts but also through intentional conversations and shared stories.

As Marshall and Kay's event demonstrated, the act of connecting people with the mission of LVCF is itself a profound way of giving back. Their dedication to building bridges of awareness ensures that more individuals and families can discover how to make their giving easy, impactful, and deeply personal.

Donor Services Highlights 2024-25

An Evening of Theater and Conversation at the Shakespeare Festival

On the evening of June 12, 2025, the Community Foundation brought together donors, fundholders, and Legacy Society members for a vibrant celebration of arts, connection, and community impact at the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival in Center Valley. Fundholders gathered on the DeSales University campus for an experience that honored creativity and philanthropy in our region.

The event began with a reception under the early summer sky. Attendees reconnected with fellow members of the LVCF community and enjoyed light refreshments while sharing conversations about their passions, philanthropic interests, and the role of arts in enriching the cultural fabric of the Lehigh Valley. During the reception, guests were warmly welcomed by LVCF's **Erika Riddle Petrozelli** who spoke briefly about the Foundation. She was joined by **Jason King Jones,** Artistic Director of the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival who provided an engaging behind-the-scenes look at the creative process and artistic vision for the Festival's 2025 season, including insight into the ambitious staging of The Producers, the uproarious musical that formed the centerpiece of the evening.

Following the reception, attendees took their seats for a special performance of **Mel Brooks'** Tony-Award-winning musical The Producers. The show, presented with the Foundation's courtesy tickets, delivered comedy, vibrant production values, and an unforgettable live-theater experience.

This gathering exemplified the Community Foundation's commitment to fostering connection and community engagement beyond grantmaking. Through evenings like this, we continue to strengthen ties across the philanthropic community, deepen appreciation for cultural partners, and thank those whose generosity helps make the Lehigh Valley a more vibrant place to live, work, and thrive.





This milestone underscores our role as a trusted philanthropic partner and a permanent community resource. The $100 million mark represents expanded capacity to respond to emerging challenges, deepen investments in local nonprofits, and steward charitable legacies for generations to come.

A Milestone Built on Stewardship and Trust

On June 4, 2025, the Community Foundation marked a defining moment in its history—surpassing $100 million in assets under stewardship. To honor this achievement, the Foundation welcomed past Board Chairs and Executive Directors to an elegant evening at Saucon Valley Country Club, bringing together leaders whose vision and commitment helped shape LVCF into the institution it is today.

"Reaching $100 million is more than a financial benchmark. It reflects decades of careful stewardship, strong governance, and the enduring trust of donors who believe in the Foundation's mission to strengthen the Lehigh Valley," said **Erika Riddle Petrozelli**, President and CEO. "These assets—built through a combination of market performance and sustained 'organic' growth from new charitable funds—serve a single purpose: to generate lasting resources that support nonprofit organizations and address the region's most pressing needs."

The celebration was intentionally rooted in gratitude. Past leaders were recognized not only for their individual contributions, but for the collective leadership culture they fostered—one grounded in collaboration, accountability, and long-term thinking. Their guidance laid the foundation for LVCF's continued growth, including the milestone of surpassing $75 million in assets in March of 2021, and now reaching nine figures.

While the number itself is significant, its true meaning lies in impact—measured in stronger organizations, more resilient communities, and a region better positioned to thrive. The June gathering served as both a celebration of how far LVCF has come and a reminder of the responsibility that accompanies growth: to continue transforming generosity into meaningful, lasting change across the Lehigh Valley.













Donor Services Highlights 2024-25



Valley Youth House's Camp Fowler | A Walking Tour

The Community Foundation held an in-person walking tour of Valley Youth House's Camp Fowler in Orefield, offering fundholders and community partners a closer look at the organization's impact in action. Set across 43 wooded acres, Camp Fowler provides a welcoming environment where young people build confidence, leadership skills, and connections through experiential learning.

During the visit, participants explored the camp's facilities and learned about its diverse programming, including outdoor education, arts and STEM activities, ropes courses, swimming, and archery. Camp leaders shared insights into how these experiences support youth development and foster resilience, teamwork, and personal growth. Attendees also received updates on future plans for the site, including the Carter Family Center, which will expand opportunities for year-round programming.

Through immersive nonprofit site visits like this, LVCF continues to connect its donors and fundholders with the organizations strengthening youth and families across the Lehigh Valley.











Nonprofit Virtual Tours

In addition to the in-person nonprofit visit at Valley Youth House's Fowler Campus, LVCF invited fundholders, donors, and others to learn more about the needs of The Third Street Alliance (Easton) via Zoom in September 2024. We also conducted a virtual program to learn about the Early Childhood Education Collaborative and to launch the Week of the Young Child!

Maureen Earns CAP® Designation



Maureen Wendling, Director of Donor Initiatives at LVCF, recently earned the Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy® (CAP®) designation from The American College of Financial Services. As a CAP®, she helps clients integrate charitable giving into financial, estate, and legacy planning, designing strategic, tax-efficient giving plans using tools such as donor-advised funds, charitable trusts, and private foundations. More...



LVCF Leads the Early Childhood Workgroup in Allentown's Recompete Grant Success

In 2024, the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation took a central leadership role in shaping a critical component of the City of Allentown's successful bid for the federal Recompete Pilot Program grant—a $20 million U.S. Economic Development Administration award aimed at revitalizing some of the city's most economically distressed neighborhoods. The award was announced at a press event in August of 2024 (photos below). At the heart of this collaborative effort was a strategic focus on early childhood care and education, recognizing that access to quality childcare is a foundational enabler for workforce participation, family stability, and long-term community well-being.

LVCF's contribution to the Recompete application was led by **Megan Barnes Briggs,** Vice President of Community Investments, who convened a coalition of community partners, advocates, and service providers to develop the early childhood section of the plan. This work was not an add-on—rather, it was integral to identifying barriers that prevent families from entering and maintaining gainful employment, such as the lack of affordable, accessible childcare options. By framing early childhood solutions as a central economic development strategy, the Foundation helped distinguish Allentown's proposal among a highly competitive field of over 565 submissions, ultimately securing one of only six national awards.

The childcare strategy crafted by LVCF and its partners emphasized enhancing childcare services to support both families and those working in the childcare sector. This dual focus aimed to strengthen the early childhood workforce, expand high-quality care availability, and create pathways for more residents to participate in the broader economy. The importance of this approach was underscored by **Alejandra Y. Castillo**, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, who noted the often-underappreciated role of childcare in enabling parental employment.

Beyond the Recompete application itself, the Foundation's leadership in early childhood system building continued throughout 2024. LVCF serves as the backbone convener of the Early Childhood Education Collaborative, a regional coalition of nonprofits, policymakers, educators, and community leaders working toward systemic change in the early childhood sector. In this role, LVCF facilitates collaboration, aligns priorities, and mobilizes resources aimed at addressing long-standing challenges in childcare access, quality, workforce development, and affordability across the Lehigh Valley.

LVCF's early childhood work exemplifies how philanthropy can do more than just fund programs—it can shape solutions, build partnerships, and elevate community priorities. By extending this approach through its leadership on the Recompete grant, we are helping align early learning, family support, and workforce goals so that children and families can succeed.








Megan Barnes Briggs (r.), LVCF's Vice President of Community Investments appeared on WDIY 88.1 FM's HealthBeat program. **Margaret McConnell** and co-host **Samantha Shaak**, Executive Director of the Leonard Parker Pool Institute for Health, welcomed Megan and **Trevor Tormann** (l.), Senior Planner, City of Allentown. They discussed plans for the $20 million in federal funding awarded to Allentown through the Recompete Program in 2025.



LVCF's **Megan Barnes Briggs** was joined by **Trevor Tormann,** and **Pamela Cho**, Vice President, Early Learning Resource Centers, Community Services for Children, on Astound's "Community Spotlight" program, hosted by **Dan Mowdy**, The program, focusing on the early childhood education crisis, aired multiple times in February and March 2025 on the Astound cable network.



LVCF's CEO **Erika Riddle Petrozelli** (c.) was the featured guest on the What's Next 4 Financial Advisors podcast with host **Bill Rambo** (r.) and guest **Michael Fischer** (l.) of Client 1st Financial, discussing legacy, philanthropy, and how people can engage in giving through community foundations.



Mariska van Aalst Joins Staff

Mariska van Aalst joined the staff of the Community Foundation in March 2025 as Program Officer, Community Impact & Policy. Her primary responsibilities include supporting and developing the Foundation's expanded role in bridging government relations and advocacy work.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Mariska served as Lehigh Valley Regional Manager for **U.S. Senator Bob Casey**, Jr. and Deputy District Director for U.S. **Congresswoman Susan Wild**. Before her roles in government, Mariska was a professional writer and editor. She started her publishing career in San Francisco, managing the editorial of a semiconductor trade magazine. After backpacking around the world for 18 months, she spent 10 years as a magazine and book editor at Rodale, Inc., then became a nonfiction book collaborator and co-wrote eight *New York Times* and Washington Post bestsellers. Her work is published in over 30 languages.

Mariska is a member of the inaugural cohort of the CORE Fellowship and has served on the Allentown School District Strategic Plan Steering Committee, the Executive Team of Resilient Lehigh Valley, and Muhlenberg College Board of Associates. She was a founding board member of Seven Generations Charter School in Emmaus

Originally from New Jersey, Mariska has lived in the Lehigh Valley since 1998. She received a BA in English from Schreyer Honors College at Penn State.

Out & About in the Community

Highlighting LVCF staff in action across our community—participating in, supporting, and speaking at events where ideas are exchanged, partnerships are strengthened, and our mission is advanced.







Learning and Leading | A handful of LVCF staff attended the Pennsylvania Community Foundation Association's (PACFA) Third Annual Statewide Conference in State College during September 2024. LVCF's **Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA, CAP®**, (l.)who serves on the PACFA Board, held moderator duties for the opening program. **Carrie Krug Nedick, CAP®**, (r.) led a "Meet your Peers" development and marketing meeting, and Erika helped lead a "Hot Topic" discussion on Childcare and Economic Mobility.



LVCF sponsored the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley's Lehigh Valley Nonprofit Impact Conference during October, 2024. **Megan Barnes Briggs**, Vice President of Community Investments, was part of an all-star panel that presented, "Collaborating with Funders for Impact." LVCF's **Robyn Weaver**, Program Officer for Capacity Building, who served on a conference planning committee, worked the LVCF booth. She noted, "It was a day that celebrated collaboration, and centered the incredible impact all the amazing nonprofits make on our community. I'm so grateful to work amongst such brilliant and wonderful humans."





Carrie Krug Nedick, CAP®, Director of Donor Services at the Community Foundation spoke at a luncheon hosted by One Financial Services, highlighting the importance of creating a philanthropic legacy, the ripple effects of giving, and the role of a supportive community. The program was held at The Club at Twin Lakes in November, 2024.







LVCF's **Megan Briggs** (r.) and **Carrie Krug Nedick, (l.)** represented the Community Foundation at the November, 2024 annual meeting of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce. Pictured on the left is **Tom Groves**, CEO of Equinox, who served as Chair of the Chamber Board (2024). He is also a member of the LVCF Board of Governors.

LVCF's **Robyn Weaver,** (r.) Program Officer for Capacity Building, participated as a panelist in LINC's workplace inclusion roundtable, where she joined fellow leaders in a discussion on transforming challenging conversations into opportunities for connection and growth. The session focused on practical strategies for identifying underlying tensions, interrupting unproductive dialogue, and building bridges across differences. Drawing on her experience supporting nonprofit organizations, Robyn contributed insights on fostering more meaningful and productive conversations in both workplace and community settings.





LVCF's Board members, **Lindsay Watson** (l.) and **Monica Brooks** (r.) are pictured with **Erika Riddle Petrozelli**, (f.) and **Megan Briggs** (m.) during LINC's "Celebrating a Welcoming Lehigh Valley" 2024 event, honoring local leaders and supporting newcomers in our community. The energy, connections, and mission made it a truly inspiring evening.



LVCF's **Carrie Krug Nedick, CAP®,** Director of Donor Relations (c.) attended the CO Impact Days in Denver in November 2024 to learn more about impact investing. She is with **Rebecca McAtee, CAP®** (r.) and **Stephen Link, CAP®**, Director of Philanthropic Services at Cornerstone Advisors Asset Management, LLC, (l.) who is a former LVCF Board member.



A special thanks to the amazing teachers at Donegan Elementary! Through the Any Given Child program, they're bringing the arts into every part of learning—proving that creativity belongs in the classroom. In March of 2025 at the Black Box Theatre at Zoellner Arts Center, BASD celebrated their dedication to making arts education a priority. "We are proud to support this inspiring work and maintain a fund for Any Given Child at the Foundation," noted LVCF's **Carrie Krug Nedick**, who attended the event. Pictured speaking is **Mark Wilson**, CEO of the Zoellner, who is a CORE alum.



The Community Foundation received a $30,000 grant from the City of Bethlehem's Community Recovery Fund to support its CORE Fellowship initiative. This funding helps local nonprofits strengthen leadership and build organizational capacity, fostering a more resilient and impactful community. A huge thank you to the City of Bethlehem for investing in the future of the Lehigh Valley! LVCF's **Erika Riddle Petrozelli**, **Robyn Weaver**, and **Michael Wilson** were on hand in the Rotunda at City Hall in January 2025, when we were one of 21 area nonprofits to be recognized as a grant recipient at this ceremony.



Megan Briggs, Vice President of Community Investments presented at a January 2025 Lunch & Learn with Promise Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley and a focus on the power of community-centered philanthropy. "It was inspiring to see so many engaged voices learning about how investing in the community makes for stronger, more vibrant neighborhoods," she noted.



LVCF's **Maureen Wendling, CAP®**, Director of Donor Initiatives (r.) and **Michael Wilson**, Director of Communications (members of HSI's Marketing Committee) attended Humanitarian Social Innovations annual "Share the Love" breakfast meeting in February 2025 "It was inspiring to hear Linda Rentschler share updates on HSI and how they support grassroots movements and nonprofits."

LVCF's **Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA, CAP®**, President and CEO, and **Megan Briggs**, Vice President of Community Investments, were guest speakers at the February, 2025, meeting of the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce. Erika spoke briefly about the work of LVCF and Megan spoke about the importance of early childhood education to the employment sector and the work of the Early Childhood Education Collaborative.









LVCF's Carrie Nedick, CAP®, and **Maureen Wendling, CAP®,** attended the Easton State of the City address by **Mayor Sal Panto** in March, 2025 at Lafayette College. The duo is pictured with LVCF Board of Governors member **Luis Campos,** City Administrator; and NCC President and member of LVCF's Board of Associates (BOA) **Dr. David Ruth**. Other pics are Maureen with Comcast's **Brian Jeter**, Senior Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs, and Carrie with **David Wolff** of Kressler, Wolff & Miller, who is also a member of the Foundation's BOA.













LVCF's **Erika Riddle Petrozelli, CPA, CAP®**, (pictured with Comcast and Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley representatives) attended the LV Chamber's Annual Mayors' and Municipal Officials' event that honored our three city mayors along with municipal and community leaders from our region. The program held in March of 2025 included a special guest appearance from Mayor of Philadelphia, **Cherelle Parker.**



LVCF's **Mariska van Aalst**, Program Officer, Community Impact & Policy (l.) and **Maureen Wendling, CAP®**, rubbed elbows at the Allentown Art Museum's 2025 Gala Dinner & Auction held in April 2025. The event raised vital funds in support of the Museum's mission. On display were two Tiffany stained glass windows that have become centerpieces of the Museum's permanent collection.



In April, 2025, LVCF's **Carrie Nedick, CAP®,** Director of Donor Services, spoke with students in a career development class at DeSales University about careers in the nonprofit sector and the importance of organizational culture. "It was energizing to connect with future leaders and share insights on mission-driven work and building values-based workplaces," she said.



LVCF's **Erika Riddle Petrozelli**, **Megan Briggs**, and **Mariska van Aalst** attended the Economic Mobility Summit hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia that convened business and community leaders, policymakers, researchers, nonprofit leaders and philanthropists, and workforce development practitioners to advance a national conversation about the economic imperative of upward mobility.



Thank you to LVCF Board member **Jennifer L. Mann** for including LVCF staffers **Maureen Wendling** and **Mariska van Aalst** to join in supporting Grace Montessori School's role in the community. We congratulate award recipients ASR Media's **Ashley Russo** for her dedication to lifelong learning and **Lin Erickson** for her leadership in guiding the Da Vinci Science Center.





The Community Foundation sponsored the Lehigh Valley Chamber's Nonprofit & Business Partners Collaboration Conference in April 2025. What a great event! LVCF's **Carrie Nedick** and **Michael Wilson** were there to hobnob with colleagues and learn from inspiring speakers. Major congrats to State Theatre Center for the Arts President and CEO **Shelley Brown**. The Chamber honored the FREDDY Awards as the 2025 Collaboration Award recipient.

Advocating for Change in Harrisburg | On May 5th, 2025, LVCF's **Mariska van Aalst,** Program Officer, Community Impact & Policy, joined with the Latino Early Childhood Provider Capitol Caravan as it made its way to the Pennsylvania Capitol to raise our collective voices for early care and education. It was a powerful day of advocacy, led by First Up, Latinos Educando Juntos, and many incredible partners from Early Learning PA, including Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children (PennAEYC).

We had the opportunity to meet with several Lehigh Valley legislators— **Senator Nick Miller**, **Representative Josh Siegel**, **Representative Peter Schweyer**, and **Representative Jeanne McNeill**—to share the stories, struggles, and successes of Latinx early childhood educators across our region. These conversations were grounded in urgency. The message was our kids and providers need real investment in the upcoming state budget.















The Community Foundation is a proud annual sponsor of the Estate Planning Council of the Lehigh Valley (EPCLV) — and we were pleased to support their Annual Meeting held on May 15, 2025 at ArtsQuest Bethlehem. LVCF is committed to strengthening the Lehigh Valley by supporting initiatives that empower and connect professional advisors across the region. Congratulations to **Julie Knight**, Janney Montgomery Scott LLC, who begins her term as President of the EPCLV. Pictured l. to r. **Sarah Bartlett**, YWCA; **Maureen Wendling**, LVCF; **Alisa Baratta**, Third Street Alliance; and the Community Foundation's **Erika Riddle Petrozelli.**

LVCF sponsored the 2025 Lehigh Valley Philanthropy Institute in May, hosted by Association of Fundraising Professionals - AFP Greater Lehigh Valley. LVCF's **Carrie Nedick, CAP®**, Director of Donor Services, joined a stellar panel for the session "The Power of Partnership: Nonprofits and DAF Donors in Action." Alongside **Winston Alozie**, **Donna Taggart**, **Raymond Santiago**, **Marc Rittle** and **Michael Fischer,** Carrie shared her perspective on how meaningful relationships between funders and nonprofits can drive real community change with a focus on donor-advised funds. The keynote speaker was **Dr. Stephanie Gripne**, whose bold vision for impact investing with an innovative spirit can help shape the future of philanthropy in the Lehigh Valley. Stephanie is pictured with LVCF's **Michael Wilson** (l.), **Mariska van Aalst,** and **Carrie Nedick** (r.).





LVCF staff and board members participated in the Women's Summit at Wind Creek Bethlehem presented by the Women's Business Council of the Chamber of Commerce. **Robyn Weaver** moderated a panel discussion, Bridging the Gap: Strategies for Fostering Allyship in the Workplace. **Mariska van Aalst** and **Carrie Nedick, CAP®** were on-hand to help celebrate the strength, resilience, and leadership of women across our region. LVCF Board member **Lindsay Watson**, President of FIA NOW Employment Solutions was also a presenter at the day-long summit.









It was a great night supporting Good Shepherd Rehabilitation (GSR) at their Gala in the Garden in June, 2025. Pictured are LVCF's **Michael Wilson** (l. to r.), **Mariska van Aalst**, **Carrie Nedick**, **Jennifer Mann** (LVCF Board), **Megan Barnes Briggs**, Allentown Mayor **Matt Tuerk** and **Karen Tuerk**. Thank you to Jennifer Mann for supporting the event. Michael Wilson is a member of GSR's Marketing and Communications Advisory Committee.



The Community Foundation sponsored the 2025 FREDDY Awards held annually at the State Theatre in Easton, Pa. LVCF's **Erika Riddle Petrozelli** helped present the award for outstanding production number along with **Jason King Jones,** Artistic Director of the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. They presented the award to Bangor Area High School for their production of Topsy Turvy (Parts 1 and 2) from The Hunchback of Notre Dame. In their 23rd year, the 2025 Freddy Awards recognized the achievements of 29 high school musical theater programs across Lehigh, Northampton and Warren counties. Congratulations to all the talented students who participated.





LVCF sponsored LINC's Celebrating 10 Years of Connecting Our Community: Spring Soiree by the Creek. LVCF's **Erika Riddle Petrozelli** and **Robyn Weaver**, who serves on LINC's Inclusion Council, attended and hobnobbed with fellow community and business leaders. Erika is pictured with Robyn (l.) and in the other shot, **Leela Breithaupt** (l.), Executive Director of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem, and **Tom Groves** (r.) President of Equinox Benefits Consulting and a member of the Community Foundation's Board.



It was a fun evening of baseball at the Iron Pigs game in June 2025 hosted by PNC's **Terry McMahon.** LVCF staffers **Trisha Higgins, Amy Sams** (r.), and **Michael Wilson** (l.) were taking in the action with a little help from **Ferrous**. Thanks PNC!



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As of 6/30/25

Lehigh Valley Community Foundation houses a variety of funds to meet the philanthropic needs of its donors, fundholders, and the community, which include:

- Agency Funds
- Area-of-Interest Funds
- Community Endowment Funds
- Community Investment Funds
- Designated Funds
- Donor-Advised Funds
- Scholarship & Award Funds

Agency Funds | *Focusing on the Nonprofit Mission*

Establishing an agency fund allows a nonprofit to focus on its mission while benefiting from the operational efficiencies, oversight and visibility that LVCF offers.

- Allentown Band, Inc. Endowment Fund
- Allentown Symphony Association Funds
  - Allentown Symphony Association Endowment Fund
  - William J. Fenza Memorial Fund
- Allentown Symphony Association Fund (established by the Century Fund)
- Bach Choir of Bethlehem Funds
  - General Endowment
  - Charles & Louise Hoffman Fund
- Bethlehem AAUW Fund
- Boys & Girls Club of Bethlehem Restricted Endowment #2
- Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center Fund
- Burnside Plantation Fund
- Bucks County Free Library Endowment Fund
- City of Easton Sports & Recreation Fund
- Family Connection of Easton Fund
- Junior League of the Lehigh Valley Agency Endowment Fund
- Latino Leadership Alliance Scholarship Fund
- Lehigh Valley Child Care Endowment Fund
- Lower Macungie Township Fund
- Hunter Meckes Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Meals on Wheels of The Greater Lehigh Valley
  - Endowment Fund of Meals on Wheels of The Greater Lehigh Valley
  - Wendy H. & Lothar D. Gumberich Fund for Meals on Wheels of the Lehigh Valley
- New Bethany Endowment Funds:
  - General Endowment
  - Robinson Fund
  - Quasi-Endowment Fund
- Pediatric Cancer Foundation of the Lehigh Valley Fund
- David Rabaut United Way Fund for Neighborhoods
- United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley Funds
  - General Endowment
  - The Thun Fund
- Endowment Fund to Further the Mission of Valley Youth House
- Victory House of Lehigh Valley Endowment Fund
- WDIY Public Radio Fund
- WDIY Endowment Fund

Area-of-Interest Funds | *Choosing a Cause*

An area-of-interest fund supports programs & initiatives that tackle issues of the donors' choosing such as the environment, camperships, youth and families, and many others.

Foundation-directed area-of-interest funds award grants based on LVCF's own community research to identify charitable programs in the specified area-of-interest.

Donor-directed area-of-interest funds award grants based on the recommendations of a community committee that oversees a specific initiative.

Foundation-directed area-of-interest funds

- Frances L. Barnard Fund for Children
- Walter & Alma Bastian Fund
- Barbara & Maxwell Davison Fund for Alzheimer's Care
- Bridge Fund for Critical Care
- The Edward & Inez Donley Fund
- Richard E. Gasser Fund
- Barry M. and Diane E. Kessler Fund for Social Justice
- Lehigh River Fund
- Erwin J. & Gertrude K. Neusch Fund
- Good Neighbor Fund
- Janis & Paul Gross Fund for Youth and Families
- Outdoor Recreation Fund for Youth
- Robert D. & Gwendolyn-Jane Romeril Campership Fund
- Margaret Haas Rotunno Memorial Fund for Local No Kill Shelters
- William C. Rybak Fund for Persons with Disabilities
- Leonard A. Wenzel Memorial Fund for South Bethlehem
- Joyce and Lloyd Welken Fund for Easton
- Gene & Joan Witiak Fund

Donor-directed area-of-interest funds

- Any Given Child Bethlehem Fund
- Canary Studio Fund
- City of Bethlehem Celebration Fund
- Cindy Miles Adaptive Area of Interest Fund
- Downtown Allentown Community Development Initiative
- Every 15 Minutes Fund
- The Galaxy Fund
- Lehigh County Medical Society Education Fund
- Lehigh Valley Coalition for Kids Fund
- Lehigh Valley Homeless Veterans Fund
- Northampton County Bar Association Charitable Fund
- PPL Operation HELP Fund
- Saucon Sanctuary Fund

Community Endowment Funds | *Responding to Community Needs*

The flexibility of unrestricted giving enables the Community Foundation to respond to the community's most pressing needs.

- Adams Final Fund
- Rolland L. Adams Fund
- Rolland L. & Pauline H. Adams Fund
- Aaron Burr Baldree Fund
- Madeline S. & Frank R. Barnako Fund
- Clayton W. & Helen H. Bernhardt Fund
- Bethlehem 225th Anniversary Fund
- Buckley Family Fund
- Dorothy & Joseph Conroy Fund
- Helen Adams DeRiemer Fund
- John G. Drauch Fund
- Globe Times/WGPA Charities Fund
- Carol Dean Henn Community Fund
- Kutteroff Family Fund
- The Lambert Durham Family Fund
- Forever Lehigh Valley Fund
- Frank L. Marcon Fund
- Horace R. Miller Fund
- Operating Endowment Fund
- Perna Family Fund
- Albert M. Reed Fund
- Katharine March & Stanley J. Thomas Memorial Fund
- Bernard J. Story Fund

Community Investment Funds | *Meeting Changing Needs*

Community Investment Funds for discretionary grantmaking make sure the needs of tomorrow's Lehigh Valley are met. Donors rely on the deep community knowledge & experience of the Community Foundation to support the effective work of nonprofits throughout the region, forever.

- 250th Book Fund
- E. Spencer & Nellie C. Addison Fund
- Margaret Ann Bachert Fund
- Randy H. & Ramona A. Bruch Fund
- John L. Daniel and Carol Daniel Holben Fund
- Lucille F. Driver Fund
- Early Childhood Education Collaborative Fund
- Donald & Alice Farquharson Fund
- Ben Franklin Trust Fund
- Eugene G. Grace, Jr. Fund
- Greene Family Fund
- Deborah S. Haight Fund
- Betsy & Jack Jordan Fund
- Lehigh Valley Helping Hand Fund
- Martina M. Malone Fund
- The Pine Fund
- Anthony J. Ruggiero Fund
- Michael C. Schrader Fund

Designated Funds | *Defining Your Giving*

Donors name specific nonprofits to receive grants, and LVCF will make those grants over time. It is the most common way to preserve an individual's charitable legacy.

- William B. & Elizabeth Behr Agocs Geophysical Research Fund
- Allentown Art Museum Fund (established by the Century Fund)
- Allentown Symphony Association Fund (established by the Century Fund)
- American Red Cross – Lehigh Valley Chapter Fund
- Clayton W. & Helen H. Bernhardt/V.J. Pazzetti, Jr. Fund
- Bethlehem Educational Scholastic Trust (B.E.S.T.) Fund
- Benjamin C. Boylston-Kemerer Museum Fund
- Benjamin C. & Eleanor A. Boylston Fund for the Lehigh Valley Chapter, American Red Cross
- H. Bridges & Lucile P. Boylston Fund
- Boys & Girls Club of Bethlehem Restricted Endowment #1
- Center for Faith & Justice Fund
- Camp Compass Fund
- Patrick J. & Christine Connell Fund
- Marjorie S. & Joseph E. Correll Fund
- John L. Daniel and Carol Holben Daniel Fund
- Leonard R. Dimmick Fund for Burnside Plantation
- Equi-librium Therapeutic Horsemanship Fund
- Fowler Family Fund
- Joseph R. Gagnier Memorial Fund
- Marion Brown Grace Memorial Fund
- Tore & Charlotte Hartmann-Hansen Fund for the Bethlehem Morning Star Rotary Charitable Organization
- Lifepath Employee Award Fund
- Luther J. Hottle Fund
- Nancy S. & Charles E. Keenan Endowment Fund
- Kenneth & Elizabeth Kressler Fund
- Lehigh Valley Justice Institute Endowment Fund
- Deborah A. Libricz Memorial Fund
- Link Designated Family Fund
- Magee Family Fund
- Charles & Ruth Marcon United Way Fund
- Mary & Jack McNairy Fund
- Dr. Russell E. Morgan, Sr. Fund
- Peter Pagotto, Elizabeth A. Pagotto, and Family Fund
- Delphine Quinn Perpetual Fund
- Raymond-Cryder Designated Fund
- Albert M. Reed Fund
- Safe Start Fund
- Arthur E. Schaeffer Trust Fund
- Shoemaker-Bond Home Association, Inc. Fund
- Herman & Shirley Slozer Fund for Peace Tohickon Lutheran Church
- Herman & Shirley Slozer Fund for Pennridge Senior Center
- Walter N. and Mildred F. Trbovic Endowment Fund
- Theatre Organ Arts Fund
- Thun Fund
- Charles Versaggi Futures Designated Fund
- George T. Walker Charitable Fund
- Warren W. York Fund To Benefit the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley

LVCF Charitable Funds 2024-25

Donor-Advised Funds | *Remaining Deeply Involved in Your Giving*

A donor-advised fund permits donors to recommend grants from their fund and to vary those recommendations and change their charitable priorities as they wish. LVCF offers personalized service and deep community knowledge – a true partner in philanthropy.

- Michael & Lynn Abgott Fund
- The AEP Fund
- Alan & Marsha Abraham Fund
- Arbor Insurance Group Community Fund
- Avalon Fund
- Barnette Fund
- Peter Barter and Linda Bartera Fund
- Bethlehem Rotary Club Fund
- Eric B. & Denise M. Blew Fund
- The Brown Family Care Fund
- Borda Family Fund
- Geoff & Wenda Boyer Fund
- Buckno Lisicky Charitable Fund
- Building Fund
- Burdette Family Fund
- Dr. Lisa S. Bunin Foundation Fund
- Ian & Patty Carlis Fund
- Mike Caruso Foundation Fund
- Cristen Charnley Memorial Fund
- Geoff Chenworth Memorial Fund
- Cinquino Community Fund
- Client 1st Foundation Fund
- Karen & Peter Cooper Fund
- Cornerstone Cares Fund
- Peg DeAngelo Memorial Fund
- Anthony Michael Durman Foundation Fund
- Grace Kathryn & Jeffrey P. Feather Fund
- Ferrio Fund
- Trisha & John Fistner Giving Fund
- Fleming Foundation Fund
- W. Beall & Marlene O. Fowler Fund
- Beall Fowler Family Fund
- Fred Fund
- Gadomski Foundation Fund
- Denise C. Garrity/Compass Point Foundation Fund
- Stephen & Joyce Gehringer Charitable Family Fund
- Grifo Family Fund
- Dolly Haltzman Foundation for the Arts Fund
- Thomas Hartzell & Jean Larkin Fund
- Heydt Family Fund
- Ray & Donna Holton Charitable Fund
- Hutchinson 3-H Fund
- Joan A. Kraft & R. Wayne Kraft Memorial Fund
- William and Constance Kreitz Fund
- The LeCompte Fund
- Link Family Donor Advised Fund
- Lucky7 Fund
- Lyons-Shields Fund
- Steven W. Kraft and Margot R. K. Hillman Fund
- William & Carol Kreitz Fund
- Kressler, Wolff & Miller Fund
- Lehigh County Lawyers' Charitable Fund
- Robert H. & Jean C. Littner Fund
- MAK Fund
- L. Charles & Ruth H. Marcon Fund
- Dr. Richard D. Martin Memorial Fund
- McNairy Fund
- Marion S. Messinger Fund
- Cindy Miles Adaptive Fund
- The Morton Brown Family Wealth Fund
- Mulligan Family Fund
- myHR Partner, Inc. Fund
- Nanovic Family Fund
- One Financial Services, LLC Endowed Fund
- One Financial Services, LLC Giving Fund
- Olexa Family Foundation Fund
- David and Carol Osborn Family Fund
- Chris and Pam Page Charitable Fund
- Tyler and Jenna Papaz Fund
- Ronald R. Perin Fund
- Angela René Pessina Foundation Fund
- Matthew & Erika Petrozelli Fund
- Pharo Family Fund
- Jack Pressmann Memorial Fund
- Lynn Ratzell Fund
- Raymond–Cryder Donor Advised Fund
- Patrick J. Reid Fund
- J.B. & Kathleen Reilly Fund
- John G. Reilly Fund
- Reilly-Taykowski Family Fund
- Tricia B. Reilly Fund
- Jonathan Ringer Foundation Fund
- Bonnie & Joel Ronco Fund
- St. Luke's Hospital Medical Staff Fund
- Justin Sheftel Memorial Fund
- Star Foundation Fund

Donor-Advised Funds (continued)

- Stershic Family Fund
- The Stinner Family Fund
- Glenn M. Taggart Family Foundation Fund
- Jack & Ann Follett-Terres Fund for Compassionate Care
- Three Love Fund
- The Torrey Family Fund
- Donald H. & Mary R. Trautlein Fund
- Two Tunics Fund
- Tuskes Fund
- Charles Versaggi Future Fund
- John & Chrissie Wagner Fund
- Weigard Family Fund
- First Commonwealth FCU WE Thrive® LV Foundation Fund
- Wombat Fund
- Betty & Scotty Wood Memorial Fund
- Ilene & Robert Wood Striving to Make a Difference Fund
- Stella C. Yee Memorial Fund
- James and Naomi Yergey Fund
- Yeoman Family Fund
- Ryan J. Zawada Memorial Fund



Scholarship & Award Funds | *Further Education*

These funds allow donors to invest in the future by helping deserving students pursue higher education. Students benefit from the financial assistance as well as the academic recognition of being a scholarship recipient.

- Elizabeth Behr Agocs Scholarship Fund
- Ann C. Bernard Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Bethlehem Educational Scholastic Trust (B.E.S.T.) Fund*
- Bethlehem & Morning Star Rotary Clubs Scholarship Fund in Remembrance of Stephen P. Godbolt
- Debra “Frau” Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Buckno Lisicky Scholarship Fund
- Andrew Budraitis Foundation Scholarship Fund
- Reverend Douglas Caldwell Fund for Nursing Excellence
- Truman L. Frey, Jr. Scholarship Fund
- Beall Fowler Scholarship Fund for Northampton Community College
- Frederick W. Hahn Scholarship Fund
- Hanover Township Memorial Golf Tournament Scholarship Fund
- Carol (Rodgers) Jaffe & Donald Jaffe Scholarship Fund
- Gary D. Martz Class of 1974 Scholarship Fund
- Damian C. Mele Scholarship Fund
- Stephanie Olexa and Seth Weber Scholarship Fund
- Parkland High School Class of 1961 Scholarship Fund
- Miss Pennsylvania Scholarship Fund
- Dr. Joseph A. Perna & Hilda Ramos Perna Memorial Scholarship Fund
- William and Jamie Soukup Reid Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Frances Sadler Award Fund*
- Arthur E. & Myrl G. Schaeffer Scholarship Fund
- Anthony Severo Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Justin Sheftel Scholarship Fund
- Bob Swick Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Catherine Hilaire Thompson Nursing Scholarship Fund
- Sue Ratzell Scholarship Fund for Nursing
- Tuskes Family Scholarship Fund
- Edwin F. Van Billiard Scholarship Fund
- Betty Williams Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Wilson High School 2006 Football Champions Scholarship Fund
- Woman’s Club of Bethlehem Fund
- Paige Reid Whitten Legacy Fund*

*Award Funds

New Charitable Funds in 2024-25

Area-of-Interest Fund (Donor-Directed)
- Cindy Miles Adaptive Area of Interest Fund

Area-of-Interest Fund (Foundation-Directed)
- Bridge Fund for Critical Support
- Good Neighbor Fund
- Joyce and Lloyd Welken Fund for Easton

Community Investment Fund
- Early Childhood Education Collaborative Fund

Designated Funds
- Lehigh Valley Justice Institute Endowment Fund
- Herman & Shirley Slozer Fund for Peace Tohickon Lutheran Church
- Herman & Shirley Slozer Fund for Pennridge Senior Center

Donor-Advised Funds
- Cristen Charnley Memorial Fund
- The LeCompte Fund
- Marion S. Messinger Fund
- One Financial Services, LLC Endowed Fund
- One Financial Services, LLC Giving Fund
- Three Love Fund

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New Funds in 2024-25

WELCOME TO THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FAMILY







Rolland Adams Society

The Rolland L. Adams Society is the Foundation's leadership giving society that recognizes and honors the generosity of our donors.

Thank you | Sponsors 2024-25

- Lehigh Valley Health Network
- Pennsylvania AEYC
- PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.

Thank you | In-Kind Support 2024-25

- Advanced Cleaning Solutions
- Lehigh Valley Industrial Park, Inc.
- Luis E. Campos
- Marshall and Kay Wolff
- Quality Service Marketing



For Our Donors/Fundholders

We are a leader in charitable giving in the Lehigh Valley, receiving support from donors, managing funds to grow over time, and making high-impact grants to local nonprofits. We connect people like you with the causes you care about most.

Make Your Giving Local

LVCF is here to serve the Lehigh Valley and all its people. Our knowledge of local issues and organizations and our connections across the region make us a perfect choice for donors who want to make a difference right here.

Maximize Your Impact

Drawing on our deep knowledge of the region and its nonprofits, our team can help you identify organizations whose missions align most directly with your interests. We will assist you in ensuring that you make your gifts in the way that yields the greatest tax advantage and impact.

Make Your Giving Easy

Making charitable gifts can be a joy but handling the administrative details and tax implications can be complicated. For those considering starting a private foundation (or already have), we offer the EverGreen Fund as an alternative that saves you the expense, effort, and complication of establishing/operating your own private foundation.

Ensure Your Legacy

We are the ideal partner for donors who are also committed to long-term impact—who want their generosity to continue to do good after they are gone. We will understand your wishes and manage your funds accordingly.

The Legacy Society recognizes and honors these donors who have made deferred gifts through their will or other planned gifts through the Community Foundation. We are grateful for their generosity and philanthropic vision and are pleased to honor and recognize them.



- Rolland Adams*
- Dr. William B. Agocs*
- Anonymous Donors
- Margaret A. Bachert*
- Madeline S. Barnako*
- Frances L. Barnard*
- Rebecca J. Bartholomew
- David K. Bausch
- Carol & Charles Bennicoff
- Raymond K.* & Helen I.* Berk
- Clayton* & Helen* Bernhardt
- Karen Norvig Berry & William Berry
- Dr. Charles L. Best*
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- Joseph E. Correll, Jr.*
- John L. Daniel and Carol* Holben Daniel
- Honorable Maxwell E. Davison*
- Helen Adams DeRiemer*
- Leonard R. Dimmick*
- John G. Drauch*
- Lucille F. Driver*
- William & Mary Ann Heydt
- Louise* & Charles* Hoffman
- Cynthia A. Lambert Durham
- Alice M. Farquharson*
- Frank Fisher
- Linny* & Beall Fowler
- Benjamin Franklin*
- Grete & Stanley Furrow
- Susan & Bob Gadomski
- Richard E. Gasser*
- Wendy H.* & Lothar D.* Gumberich
- Deborah S. Haight*
- Linda & Ned* Heindel
- Robert Heinsohn*
- Carol Dean Henn
- Mary Hook
- Luther J. Hottle, Jr.*
- Nancy S.* & Charles E.* Keenan
- Michael J. Krajsa
- Anthony A. & Judy A. Krasnicke
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- Christine J. Martin*
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- Marion Messinger*
- Horace R. Miller*
- Barbara & Robert Moffett
- Dr. Russell E. Morgan, Sr.*
- William F. Murphey
- Erwin J. Neusch*
- Dr. Stephanie Olexa & Attorney Seth Weber
- Lynne & Chad Paul
- Robert Pharo*
- Louise Moore Pine*
- Delphine S. Quinn*
- David Rabaut
- Erma L. Reed*
- Linda & Don Robertson
- Thomas E. Rotunno
- Anthony J. Ruggiero*
- Herman J.* and Shirley Slozer*
- Michael and Sybil Stershic
- Bernard & Margaret Story
- Maria K.* & Edward P.* Street, Jr.
- Jan Erik Surotchak
- Katharine M. Thomas*
- Walter Trbovic*
- Susan & Dennis* Tretter
- Charles J. Versaggi
- George T. Walker*
- Stevie Gay Weart*
- Dr. Leonard A. Wenzel*
- Robert C. Wood*
- Mary Youtz

*Denotes deceased members who are now 'ad astra'...among the stars.

If you have included the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation in your will or other planned gifts and wish it to be recognized in the Legacy Society, please contact Maureen Wendling, CAP®, Director of Donor Initiatives, at (610) 351-5353 or email: Maureen@lvcfoundation.org



Community Investments: Advancing Strategy, Strengthening Systems

In Fiscal Year 2025, the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation directed community investments toward the region's most pressing challenges while remaining responsive to emerging needs. Through a combination of strategic grantmaking, leadership, convening, and innovative tools, LVCF supported hundreds of nonprofit partners and strengthened the systems that underpin long-term community well-being. Below is an expansion on the main focus areas:



Capacity Building & Leadership

LVCF continued its long-term commitment to strengthening nonprofit leadership and organizational resilience across the Lehigh Valley. Investments supported leadership development, governance and board effectiveness, strategic planning, and cross-sector collaboration. Through initiatives such as the CORE Fellowship and related capacity-building efforts, organizations gained tools to navigate workforce pressures, funding uncertainty, and increasing community demand—positioning leaders and institutions to adapt, stabilize, and lead through change.



Early Childhood Education

Building on several years of intentional focus, LVCF prioritized early childhood education and care as a cornerstone of economic mobility, workforce participation, and long-term community health. Funding supported direct early learning services, childcare workforce development, and systems-level coordination among providers, funders, and public partners. These investments reflect LVCF's role not only as a grantmaker, but as a convener advancing shared strategies to expand access to quality, affordable care across the Lehigh Valley.



Arts, Culture & the Creative Economy

Through state and local partnerships, LVCF invested in artists, cultural organizations, and creative entrepreneurs throughout the region. Grantmaking supported recovery from pandemic-era disruptions, strengthened organizational stability, and helped sustain the creative workforce. These investments recognize the arts and creative sector as both a cultural asset and an economic driver—contributing to community identity, vibrancy, and local economic resilience.



Support & Donor-Directed Grantmaking

In addition to foundation-directed priorities, donor-directed funds continued to address a wide range of community needs. Through donor-advised, designated, scholarship, and area-of-interest funds, LVCF supported initiatives spanning education, human services, health, the environment, and neighborhood-based work. This flexible grantmaking reflects the diverse philanthropic interests of LVCF's fundholders while complementing the Foundation's broader community leadership goals.

Community Investments | Grantmaking 2024-25

Select Grantmaking Highlights: FY25

In Fiscal Year 2025, LVCF's foundation-directed and donor-directed grantmaking supported a wide range of organizations and initiatives across the Lehigh Valley and beyond. The highlights below offer a snapshot of key grant programs and investments from the year—illustrating how resources were deployed to address immediate needs, strengthen organizational capacity, and advance long-term community priorities.

Capacity Building & Leadership

Investments in capacity building and leadership focused on strengthening nonprofit leadership, governance, and organizational effectiveness. Additional funding and partnerships supported sector-wide workshops, learning opportunities, and leadership convenings addressing board development, volunteer engagement, and organizational sustainability.

- Nearly $145,000 in foundation-directed grants supported organizations participating in the CORE Fellowship across three cohorts, funding organization-level capacity-building projects.
- When combined with investments in coaching, consulting, evaluation, and cohort learning, total capacity-building related program expenses exceeded $300,000 in FY25.

Early Childhood Education & Care

LVCF directed significant funding toward stabilizing and expanding early childhood education and care across the Lehigh Valley. Grants focused on workforce stabilization, program quality, facility improvements, and expanding access to care. In addition to direct grantmaking, LVCF invested staff capacity and leadership support as the backbone convener of the Early Childhood Education Collaborative, aligning funders, providers, and public partners around shared strategies.

- More than $325,000 was awarded through the Early Childhood Care Fund across multiple grant cycles, supporting childcare providers, early learning programs, and family-serving organizations.

Arts, Culture & the Creative Economy

LVCF administers the Creative Sector Flex Fund and the Creative Entrepreneurship Accelerator Program which is made possible by The Pennsylvania Creative Industries, powered by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA), and the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA) regional funding partnership. State funding is provided by Pennsylvania's General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

- More than $123,000 was awarded through the Creative Sector Flex Fund and the Creative Entrepreneurship Accelerator Program to arts and culture organizations and individuals across Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, and Northampton counties, supporting operating stability and creative recovery.

Scholarships and Donor-Directed Awards

Through donor-directed scholarship and award funds, LVCF continued to invest in education and opportunity across the region. These grants supported students and individuals pursuing a wide range of educational and career pathways, reflecting the diverse philanthropic interests of LVCF's fundholders while complementing the Foundation's broader community investment priorities.

> **"LVCF's impact in FY25 was measured not only in dollars granted, but in partnerships strengthened and systems advanced."**



New in 2024-25, **The Good Neighbor Fund** supported households facing rising energy costs by providing grants to nonprofit organizations with existing utility assistance programs. In its 2024–25 cycle, LVCF awarded $195,000 across 14 community-based partners serving 29 counties in eastern and central Pennsylvania.

These organizations delivered financial support for home energy needs—such as electricity, fuel, oil, and wood pellets—for households earning up to 300% of the federal poverty level, with assistance capped at $1,000 per household.

Made possible in partnership with the PPL Foundation, the Good Neighbor Fund strengthens the capacity of local nonprofits to help neighbors keep the lights on and stay warm. More...



Supporting Students Pursuing Higher Education

The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation manages many scholarship funds. These funds have been established by donors with a particular interest in supporting students from a specific high school, students attending a specific college or university, or students with certain academic skills or goals. Learn more...

Scholarships for high school graduates pursuing a post-secondary education are:

Bethlehem Area School District

Debra 'Frau' Brown Memorial Scholarship
Truman L. Frey, Jr. Scholarship
Bob Swick Memorial Scholarship
Betty Williams Memorial Scholarship

Bethlehem Area School District and Bethlehem Catholic High School

Senior Woman's Club of Bethlehem Scholarship

Bethlehem Catholic High School

Catherine Hilaire Thompson Nursing Scholarship

Bethlehem & Morning Star Rotary Club Scholarship Fund in Remembrance of Stephen P. Godbolt

Boys and Girls Club of Bethlehem

Edwin F. Van Billiard Scholarship

Dieruff High School

Justin Sheftel Scholarship

Fleetwood Area High School

Arthur E. & Myrl G. Schaeffer Scholarship

Hanover Township Memorial Golf Tournament Scholarship

Liberty High School

Gene Buckno Memorial Scholarship (For Accounting)

Lehighton Area High School

Damian C. Mele Memorial Scholarship

Nazareth High School

Bob Swick Memorial Scholarship

Northern Lehigh High School

Ann C. Bernard Memorial Scholarship

Notre Dame High School

Tuskes Family Scholarships

Parkland High School

Class of 1961 Scholarship
Frederick W. Hahn Memorial Scholarship
Gary D. Martz Class of 1974 Scholarship
Anthony Severo Memorial Scholarship
Justin Sheftel Scholarship

Phillipsburg High School

William & Jamie Soukup Reid Memorial Scholarship

Wilson High School

Wilson High School 2006 Football Champions Scholarship

William Allen High School

Justin Sheftel Scholarship

Stephanie Olexa & Seth Weber Scholarships

The Community Foundation manages an application process for two annual scholarships for high school seniors attending public, private or charter high schools in Lehigh, Northampton and Bucks counties.



Stephanie Olexa and Seth Weber Scholarship for Criminal Justice- Awarded to a HS senior who will be majoring in criminal justice or law enforcement at an accredited institution for post-secondary education.



The Stephanie Olexa and Seth Weber Scholarship for the Life Sciences- Awarded to a HS senior who will be majoring in the life sciences at an accredited institution for post-secondary education. Learn more...

Scholarships for Contestants in HS or College in Lehigh, Northampton, and Bucks Counties:

Miss Pennsylvania Scholarship

Scholarships for Students & Veterans Pursuing a STEM Education at a Lehigh Valley College or University:

Andrew Budraitis Foundation Scholarship





The Budraitis Foundation awarded a $5,000 scholarship to **Reynald Salazar**, a United States Navy veteran, who is pursuing a bachelor's degree in psychology with a clinical and counseling focus at DeSales University; and to **Kaley Melendez**, a STEM scholar, pursuing a bachelor's degree in pharmacy at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy at Saint Joseph's University. Learn More...

Scholarships for students attending the following post-secondary institutions are:

Case Western Reserve University

Dr. Joseph Perna & Hilda Perna Memorial Scholarship

DeSales University, Department of Nursing & Health

Sue Ratzell Scholarship for Nursing

The Juilliard School

Raymond-Cryder Scholarship

Moravian Unv. & St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing

Reverend Douglas Caldwell Nursing Scholarship

Northampton Community College

Beall Fowler Northampton Promise Scholarship

Simmons College, School of Nursing & Health Sciences

Carol (Rodgers) Jaffe & Donald Jaffe Scholarship

St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing

Elizabeth Behr Agocs Scholarship

West Chester University

Raymond-Cryder Scholarship

College/University Located in Lehigh, Northampton, Carbon, and Monroe Counties

Buckno Lisicky Scholarship (For Accounting)

Community Foundation Awards

Grants from award funds recognize individuals for an outstanding achievement. The Foundation has established policies and procedures for scholarships and awards pursuant to the awarding of grants from funds where donor advisors have advisory privileges or participate in the selection of grant or award recipients.

William B. & Elizabeth Behr Agocs Geophysical Award

This fund provides an annual grant to the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, Hungary for awards for graduate research and education in the field of geophysics.

Bethlehem Educational Scholastic Trust Award

The B.E.S.T. Fund provides annual awards to recognize excellence in teaching in the Bethlehem Area School District (BASD). Award recipients are chosen by a committee of educators, and the Foundation for the Bethlehem Area School District and awards are presented at the School District's Opening Convocation. For information on how to nominate a teacher for B.E.S.T.: Click here or here to see past recipients.

The Frances Sadler Award for Nursing

The Frances Sadler Award for Nursing was established at the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation in appreciation of the critical work performed by nurses in the Lehigh Valley. A retired nurse, Frances Sadler knew that nurses perform extraordinary work every day. She has a desire to recognize and help support her colleagues as they begin their nursing careers. Learn more...

The Paige Reid Whitten Award for Writing

Paige Reid Whitten Legacy Fund at Lehigh Valley Community Foundation supports the presentation of the Paige Reid Whitten Award for Writing to a graduating senior of Mills E. Godwin High School. The English Department of Mills E. Godwin High School will choose the awardee, the author of the best written work, based on criteria set by the department. The chosen recipient will receive a $1,000 award. Learn more at: Paige Reid Whitten Legacy Fund

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Senior VP & General Counsel
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Board roster as of 07/01/2025

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Megan Briggs
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Michael Wilson
Director of Communications

LVCF Staff as of 12/31/2025

LEHIGH VALLEY
Community Foundation
CONNECT. GROW. FUND.

Mission

The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation promotes philanthropy in order to improve the quality of life in our region, encourage collaboration among area philanthropists, and serve as a source of information and expertise regarding charitable giving.

LVCF Values

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.

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The official registration and financial information of the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling, toll free, within Pennsylvania 800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.