

# Visible and Trusted Leadership

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



# Executive Summary



The Lehigh Valley is a growing and changing region with significant opportunities and persistent challenges. Nonprofit organizations are responding to increasingly complex community needs, donors are seeking meaningful ways to make a difference, and civic leaders are looking for trusted partners who can help connect resources, knowledge, and action. In this environment, the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation has an important role to play as a philanthropic leader rooted in place and committed to the long-term well-being of the region.

Over the past several years, the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation has deepened its role as a trusted advisor, partner, funder, and community leader. It has strengthened relationships with donors, nonprofit organizations, professional advisors, civic leaders, and community partners. It has also expanded its capacity in areas such as impact investing, capacity building, family philanthropy planning, grantmaking, and nonprofit partnership. These efforts have positioned the Foundation to serve the Lehigh Valley with greater focus, credibility, and influence, and the next five years are about using that capacity with greater clarity, discipline, and purpose.

The next phase of the Foundation's work is also about bringing our value into greater public view. By increasing visibility and telling compelling stories about community needs, opportunities, donor generosity, and measurable results, the Foundation can build broader awareness of its role and inspire greater philanthropic investment. Visibility is not simply about recognition; it is about strengthening trust, increasing engagement, and helping more people understand how they can contribute to meaningful change in the Lehigh Valley.

Through this strategic plan, the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation will continue its evolution as a visible, trusted, and effective community leader.

# Our Guiding Principles

The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation has established a Mission, Vision, and Values through the thoughtful input and reflection of the Foundation's Board and Staff.

## Our Mission

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

## Our Vision

The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation will be a major force in the development of philanthropy in our region. The Foundation will promote and encourage collaboration among area philanthropists and will be a source of information and expertise regarding charitable giving. The Foundation will be recognized and respected for its trustworthiness, its permanence, and the quality of its Board of Governors.

## Our 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.