It is my honor to serve as the Chairman of The Luzerne Foundation during this important milestone year. The 25th Anniversary Celebration has given us the opportunity to reflect on the creation and development of The Luzerne Foundation. I am deeply inspired by the Founding board members’ vision to create an organization that would enhance the lives of the people living in our community and their commitment to the growth in funds and grants each year.

I am grateful to those who have served on this board over the past twenty-five years, steering The Foundation’s growth and direction. The needs of our community are always present and ever-changing. The board has successfully recognized this and ensured The Foundation’s ability to address current needs while anticipating new concerns and courses of action. I look forward to continuing the course charted by the community leaders who have come before me.

It’s important to recognize that the unsung heroes of The Foundation are the staff. They live the mission of The Foundation with phone calls, donor meetings, nonprofit guidance and so much more. Most of their activity is behind the scenes confidentially connecting causes with philanthropists. Their knowledge and steady hand have been there since The Foundation’s start—a constant that can be counted on.

Tonight, through the generosity of grant sponsors and anonymous matching funds, we will present 26 grants totaling $275,000. The grants are $10,000 each, with one nonprofit receiving $25,000. The descriptions of the worthy programs these grants will support are scattered throughout this program book. You will feel blessed to read about the fantastic array of organizations that we are fortunate to have working in our community.

What will the next twenty-five years bring? I don’t need a crystal ball to know that The Luzerne Foundation will continue to act as a resource to the community and to donors. I know that it will create collaborations to address new needs and will encourage philanthropy in our community. The Luzerne Foundation always has been, and always will be, Here for Good.

John Dowd
Board Chairman, The Luzerne Foundation Board of Directors

Who We Are


These words are at the core of The Luzerne Foundation’s mission to enhance the lives of people living in our community. They are the basis for every encounter, conversation and action of The Foundation.

It happens almost every day…

A group forms to support a cause in their community. People want to help and contribute their time and money. But the group is not a registered nonprofit — how can they accept donations? The Luzerne Foundation meets with group leadership and maps out a plan for a fund to be created to house funds and ensure the future of their organization.

A call from a current fundholder asking about ways to assist underprivileged students in their hometown attain a college education begins a conversation of the best way to make sure those students will be successful. A scholarship program is created.

A coalition of area nonprofits meets at The Foundation to find ways to address issues they are all facing. Paths for working together are explored. Collaborative grant applications are discussed. A commitment is made to keep the conversation going.

A nonprofit is struggling. Quietly, behind the scenes, the staff of The Foundation encourages the organization to examine their mission, structure, and funding sources. The nonprofit may decide to carry on, or to seek a merger. Using The Foundation as a sounding board, they have the information they need.

A donor calls asking who in the community needs support. After listening to their interests and philanthropic vision, The Foundation connects them with appropriate organizations. The donor is also invited to attend the annual Nonprofit Forum to hear about the needs of many organizations across the community.

It happens in many ways…

The Luzerne Foundation enhances donors’ charitable giving, helping them invest strategically in causes they care about in ways that make a difference. The Foundation encourages donors of all types to become part of the future, whether that is through a fund, the Rusty Flack Society, the Millennium Circle or the Youth Advisory Committee. The Foundation supports nonprofits in our community by being a multi-faceted resource.

As new or changing needs arise, The Luzerne Foundation will always be Here for Good.
Frank Bevevino is the founding father of The Luzerne Foundation. In 1994, it was Frank who brought the idea of starting a foundation to a small group of community-minded individuals. People from business, banking, realty, manufacturing, law and accounting, and Msgr. McGowan, all heeded Frank’s call, and The Luzerne Foundation was born.

“The Luzerne Foundation exists because Frank Bevevino had the foresight and fortitude to change the ‘what if’ into ‘how can we.’ Without Frank Bevevino, there would be no Luzerne Foundation. His vision, together with his generosity, are the primary reasons for the success of this Foundation,” notes Attorney Allan M. Kluger, founding board member and recipient of the Mary Bevevino Community Service Award in 2017.

With quiet determination, Frank Bevevino championed The Foundation and what it could do for the community. He shared how the power of creating a fund in 1994 would impact the area for generations to come.

“Frank had the vision and persistence to organize a group of leaders to start The Foundation, and our community will be forever indebted to him,” states John Dowd, Chairman, Luzerne Foundation Board of Directors. “The Luzerne Foundation started out with one fund and $10,000 and now manages over $34 million and is home to over 350 funds. We can only imagine what can happen in the next twenty-five years.”

Frank’s family has followed in his footsteps. Several have served and are serving on The Foundation’s board. In 2000, the Mary Bevevino Community Service Award was created as The Foundation’s highest tribute. This recognition reflects the unwavering dedication, commitment, and spirit of its namesake and is given to Luzerne County residents and groups who have made a significant positive impact on the community.

For everything Frank Bevevino and his family have done, and continue to do in the community, It is truly fitting that the Board of Directors has confirmed the honor of naming The Foundation’s new home The Bevevino Family Center for Charitable Giving.

“It takes a visionary to create lasting, meaningful, successful endeavors”, notes Greg Weaver, board member and Bevevino family member. “Frank’s vision and generosity have propelled The Luzerne Foundation to where it is today. Despite not being a native to our area, he was able to identify such a worthy need and garner the necessary support to carry it out. His undying commitment to our community makes him a role model to all.”

A visionary. A role-model. A mentor. A generous man. This is Frank Bevevino.

Hazleton Area Regional Program
80% of HARP’s participants are children from low-to-moderate income homes. The grant will expand the after-school program to 150 students weekly and includes Play with a Purpose—a program for children ages 6-14 with age-appropriate activities such as a railroad yard obstacle course, team builder activity packs, exer-genies, and more.
Millennium Circle

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” - Margaret Mead

A small group of thoughtful people changing the world. That is the epitome of the members of The Millennium Circle Fund of The Luzerne Foundation. Each has made a one-time gift of $2,000 to the fund. The goal is to have 2,000 members resulting in annual grants to the community of $200,000.

With membership comes responsibility. Because of member interest in and commitment to the community, members are in a unique position to identify needs and nominate a worthy nonprofit for grants. A volunteer Millennium Circle Advisory Committee, whose names are drawn each year from a hat, reviews the nominations and selects 4–6 finalists who present their cause at the annual meeting. Every member has a vote.

There is power in numbers. By combining resources, the members of the Millennium Circle Fund of The Luzerne Foundation have had a substantial impact on our community. Most recently, a $25,000 grant was given to the Nurse’s Pantry Program of the United Way. The Pantry provides items for impoverished children such as medicated lice kits and hygiene items like shampoo, soap, deodorant and, feminine products — even an emergency pair of pants or a clean shirt. The Pantry helps at-risk kids on the spot so that they will miss less school. With the grant, the program will expand into more area schools.

In 2009, the River Common opened reconnecting our community to the beauty of the Susquehanna River. The Millennium Circle Portal is one of two openings to the park and features the first piece of public art at the site.

Country Heart Farm

Outdoors & Unplugged is a summer children’s program that includes equine and animal assisted programs, equine assisted psychotherapy to encourage learning, wellness and healing. The program is offered at low or no cost to qualified applicants in Luzerne County.

Volunteers in Medicine

About 75% of VIM’s patients have some type of mental health issue such as depression, anxiety or bi-polar disorder. A social care coordinator in the Behavioral Health Program will focus on counseling, medication review, evaluation and care management for these patients in need.

Over the past decade the Millennium Circle Fund has granted over $339,000 to nonprofit organizations throughout Luzerne County:

2004: United Way of Wyoming Valley – Nurse’s Pantry
2005: Commission on Economic Opportunity’s Dinners for Kids Program
2006: Community Foundation of Luzerne County – Food 4 Kids
2007: Volunteers of America/Rath’s Place for shelter expansion & CEO (Commission on Economic Opportunity) Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan Center for Healthy Living
2008: Family Service Association of NEPA for the Help Line to “Dial 211” Conversion
2009: Rath’s Place Homeless Women’s Shelter in Wilkes-Barre for renovation of new location
2010: Care Concern Ministries in Pittston for facilities enhancement for program services
2011: Volunteers in Medicine, a program providing health care services to our “working poor,” as well as other uninsured and underinsured area residents
2012: Economic Opportunity of Wyoming Valley – Nurse’s Pantry
2013: McGlynn Learning Center for education programs provided to at-risk children who reside in Wilkes-Barre
2014: United Way of Wyoming Valley – Nurse’s Pantry
2015: United Way of Wyoming Valley – Nurse’s Pantry
2016: United Way of Wyoming Valley – Nurse’s Pantry
2017: Valley Community Health – Dental Care
2018: United Way of Wyoming Valley – Nurse’s Pantry
2019: United Way of Wyoming Valley – Nurse’s Pantry
2020: United Way of Wyoming Valley – Nurse’s Pantry
2021: United Way of Wyoming Valley – Nurse’s Pantry
2022: United Way of Wyoming Valley – Nurse’s Pantry

Over 28 “Follow Your Dreams” motivational presentations held at local high schools.

North Branch Land Trust

Connecting kids to nature improves their wellbeing, builds awareness of nature in their lives and creates a thirst for lifelong learning. NBLT will hold seasonal outdoor programs with experiential learning for kids from ages 7-10.
Disaster Recovery Coalition

When disaster strikes, it is devastating. Within the blink of an eye, lives can be shattered, homes and livelihoods compromised, and environmental destruction may change the landscape forever. There is barely time to think, much less organize a recovery plan that encompasses social services, emergency relief, medical assistance, and many more needed services — without stepping on toes, duplicating efforts or adding to the confusion and stress.

In 2011, following the flooding brought on by Tropical Storm Lee and Hurricane Irene, The Luzerne Foundation took the lead in creating a coordinated effort to deal with a large-scale disaster. Working with the American Red Cross, FEMA, United Way of Wyoming Valley, and Family Service Association, organizations from across the county were brought together to form the first long-term Disaster Recovery Coalition of Luzerne County.

By January of 2012, a plan was in place that coordinated activities with FEMA and hundreds of calls were placed to affected homeowners. A Construction Committee and an Unmet Needs Committee were formed with representatives from organizations such as the Greater Wilkes-Barre Labor Council, Luzerne County EMA, Family Service Association and Help Line, the United Ways of Wyoming Valley and Greater Hazleton, the American Red Cross, Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO), Salvation Army of Wilkes-Barre, and area churches including the Lutheran Disaster Response, Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church, Presbytery of Lackawanna and others. It was truly unprecedented.

The work of the 24-member Disaster Recovery Coalition continues today. Long-term case management is in place and the County is now prepared to put plans into action when the next disaster occurs. The Coalition received recognition as the Program of the Year by the Non-Profit Community Assistance Center in 2013, and in 2016 presented Best Practices on the Harvesting Program of the Pennsylvania Management Agency’s Annual Conference. The Luzerne Foundation still serves as an integral part of the team, particularly in uncovering funding resources to ensure sustainability.

Ben Franklin Trust Fund

Although we know Benjamin Franklin was many things—an author, Freemason, humorist, inventor, printer, scientist and statesman—there is one aspect of his remarkable life that is rarely reported. His philanthropy.

In his will, he bequeathed 1000 pounds each (about $4,400 at the time) to his native city Boston and the city he had come to call home — Philadelphia. But there was a caveat. The money was to be invested for 100 years, after which around 75% could be used to help tradesmen and fund civic projects. The remaining monies were to be invested for another 100 years at which time it would be given in full to the cities. By 1990 the trust fund for Philadelphia had grown to $2 million. The Pennsylvania Legislature used a portion of this amount to create Ben Franklin Funds at community foundations across the Commonwealth.

The Ben Franklin Trust Fund at The Luzerne Foundation began with $30,000. In keeping with Ben Franklin's interest in and support of young people and educational programs, the trust has most recently funded United Way's Dolly Parton Library Reading Project for children ages birth to 5 years old; Camp Orchard Hill's special needs summer day camp; and the Osterhout Free Library Turn the Page Wyoming Valley program which encourages kindergarten and first grade students to use the library.

Perhaps Ben Franklin's most famous quip is “A penny saved is a penny earned.” His philanthropy during his lifetime funded many organizations, but the lesson from his bequest is one we can all learn. The Luzerne Foundation, as a community foundation, will continue to build permanent endowment funds that will live on in perpetuity to support our community far into the future.
Nonprofit Forums
You have five minutes. Ready? Go.

Imagine having to explain to potential donors who you are, what you do, and why it matters in five minutes. This is the challenge accepted by area nonprofits at the annual Nonprofit Forum sponsored by The Luzerne Foundation.

Nonprofits from the seven areas served by The Foundation – Arts & Culture, Education & Scholarships, Health & Wellness, Historic Preservations & the Environment, Neighborhoods & Community Development, Social Services, and Youth Issues – are invited to talk about their mission and specific programs addressing needs in the community. It is heartwarming and heartbreaking to learn how the nonprofits are making lives better whether it is saving buildings so that our history is not lost, or creating a place for disabled children to enjoy sports, or providing free dental services to the underprivileged, or supporting grandparents who are raising grandchildren. Every cause is critical. Every program is worthy of funding.

This year sixty-six nonprofits eloquently stated their cases. Twenty-six were selected by the Grants Committee of The Foundation to receive grants of $10,000 in May, with one nonprofit receiving $25,000. But the Foundation doesn’t stop there. Behind the scenes, the staff of the Foundation acts as a resource taking the information presented by the nonprofits and making it available to fundholders, other foundations, individuals and organizations who may have an interest in supporting and funding the requests.

The nonprofits receiving grants at the 25th Anniversary Celebration are:

- **Social Fabric Collective**: Educational experience through photography for high school students
- **Fine Arts Fiesta**: Children’s creative area
- **WWA**: ArtScene Conference
- **McGlynn Center**: A reading specialist for the after-school program
- **Immanuel Christian School**: Construction of primary grades classroom space
- **MOM-n-PA**: Dental Care 2-day event
- **Country Heart Farm**: Outdoor & Unplugged children’s summer program
- **Volunteers in Medicine**: Behavioral Health Program
- **Northeast Sight Services**: Community education to make spaces and services accessible
- **North Branch Land Trust**: Seasonal children’s programs
- **Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR)**: Outreach and awareness programs
- **Sugarloaf Fire Company**: Build an elevated training platform
- **Greater Hazleton Civic Partnership**: Facilities and bicycles for the Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails
- **Diamond City Partnership**: Beautification of downtown Wilkes-Barre
- **Wyoming Valley Children’s Association**: Speech and Occupational therapy equipment
- **Victims Resource Center**: Renovations

Supporting Autism and Families Everywhere (S.A.F.E.): Water safety skills for children

- **Catherine McAuley Center**: Additional case manager to provide life skills training
- **ARC of Luzerne County**: Outside the Lines program
- **Special Olympics PA – Luzerne County**: Expand bowling program and start aquatics program
- **Family Service Association**: Help Line/211 program
- **Domestic Violence Service Center**: Shelter, counseling, hotline, and other services
- **Advocacy Fund for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**: Legal assistance for grandparents
- **CASA of Luzerne County**: Training for new volunteers
- **Hazleton Area Regional Program (HARP)**: Expansion of Play with a Purpose after-school program

You can find more information about each of these organization in the highlighted boxes throughout this publication or by visiting our website luzfdn.org.

### Diamond City Partnership

Sixteen large self-watering planters on the second and third blocks of South Main in Wilkes-Barre will expand the beautification project started by the DCP several years ago. The enhanced “curb appeal” will add to the walkable, college-anchored, live-work neighborhood that is becoming a destination for shopping, dining, arts and entertainment.
1994
A small group of individuals led by Frank Bevevino established The Luzerne Foundation with $10,000.

1994
Daylene Burnside selected as The Foundation’s Executive Director.

1995
The Fund for Luzerne County was established.

1999
The Millennium Circle Fund of The Luzerne Foundation was established.

2000
Charles M. Barber installed as President and CEO of The Luzerne Foundation.

2004
The Foundation celebrates its 10th anniversary with 35 funds and $7 million in assets.

2008
The Foundation grows to 210 funds, with more than $10 million in grants since inception.

2010
The Luzerne Foundation meets the National Standards for Community Foundations.

2011
The Disaster Recovery Coalition was created in response to damage from Tropical Storm Lee and Hurricane Irene.

2012
The “Ribbon” sculpture (the first piece of public art at the River Commons) is dedicated at the Millennium Circle Portal.

2013
Nonprofit Forums become part of The Foundation’s grant making process.

2018
The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) is established with 18 area high schools.

2019
The Luzerne Foundation moves to its new home at 34 S. River Street in Wilkes-Barre.

2020
The Luzerne Foundation has over 350 funds and has distributed over $152 million dollars in grants. The Foundation has over $34 million in assets.

The Luzerne Foundation Staff
Charles M. Barber, President and CEO
Diane Dutko, Chief Operating Officer
Debbie Buczynski, Finance Administrator
Donna Eiden, Grants and Scholarship Program Administrator
Sylvia Strowe, Administrative Assistant
Rusty Flack Society

Creating an estate plan or will is very personal. Your decision to include The Luzerne Foundation in those plans is much appreciated and humbly accepted. A legacy gift will benefit the community in perpetuity, doing good for many years to come.

The Rusty Flack Society is a list of those who have made us aware that The Foundation is a beneficiary of a planned gift. In some cases, the amount is communicated, but it is not necessary to be listed as a member of this philanthropic group.

Rusty Flack was a founding board member, past chairman and board member of The Luzerne Foundation. His family’s contributions to the community are legion, and the family was named Association of Fundraising Professionals Philanthropists of the Year reflecting their commitment of time, treasure and talent to a broad spectrum of nonprofits across our community.

“Rusty always talked about the importance of doing something today that would grow and last for years to come,” Charles Barber, President and CEO of The Foundations reminisced.

“Associating his name with this legacy society is a fitting tribute to him and his family, and it serves as a reminder of The Foundations’ mission to support the community far into the future.”

The annual mid-winter Rusty Flack Society event is a reminder of his big heart, affable nature and wise counsel as his family continues the tradition of welcoming friends to the society.

Greater Hazleton Area Civic Partnership

Bicycling is one of the best, simplest and healthiest forms of outdoor exercise. The grant will purchase 15 new bicycles to be made available to those using Greater Hazleton Rails to Trails. Various sizes and types of bikes will be housed in a shed near the trail making it easy to start pedaling.

The annual mid-winter Rusty Flack Society event is a reminder of his big heart, affable nature and wise counsel as his family continues the tradition of welcoming friends to the society.

John A. McCole Campership Trust for the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA

One of the earliest funds of The Luzerne Foundation, the John A. McCole Campership Trust Fund for the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA was created in memory of John A. McCole who was a founding board member of The Foundation and a renowned community supporter.

Experiencing the great outdoors and having carefree time is essential in the development of a child. This fund provides financial assistance to needy children in the Wyoming Valley enabling them to attend overnight and day camps at Camp Kresge run by the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA. Situated on Beaver Lake in the heart of the Poconos, activities abound, and laughter can be heard echoing through the trees. Without the McCole Campership program, many children would not have the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of nature and make new friends. In 2018, 160 children attended the YMCA’s day and overnight camps. An annual golf tournament is held to build the fund so that more children can spend some days just being kids.

ARC of Luzerne County

The TRACE program that assists individuals with intellectual and developmental disorders prepare to become active employees in the workforce following high school will be expanded to include Outside the Lines, a program that provides additional help to those with special needs.

Catherine McAuley Center

Life skills training, budgeting and financial literacy, parenting and child safety, health and wellness, vocational training—these are just some of the services that will be provided by a case manager who will help vulnerable women and children transition from homelessness to economic independence and self-sufficiency.

Wyoming Valley Children’s Association

Many of the WVCA’s students need weekly speech and/or occupational therapy sessions. The addition of specific equipment will address language delays and gross motor delays allowing each student to reach their full potential.

Creating an estate plan or will is very personal. Your decision to include The Luzerne Foundation in those plans is much appreciated and humbly accepted. A legacy gift will benefit the community in perpetuity, doing good for many years to come.

The Rusty Flack Society is a list of those who have made us aware that The Foundation is a beneficiary of a planned gift. In some cases, the amount is communicated, but it is not necessary to be listed as a member of this philanthropic group.

Rusty Flack was a founding board member, past chairman and board member of The Luzerne Foundation. His family’s contributions to the community are legion, and the family was named Association of Fundraising Professionals Philanthropists of the Year reflecting their commitment of time, treasure and talent to a broad spectrum of nonprofits across our community.

“Rusty always talked about the importance of doing something today that would grow and last for years to come,” Charles Barber, President and CEO of The Foundations reminisced.

“Associating his name with this legacy society is a fitting tribute to him and his family, and it serves as a reminder of The Foundations’ mission to support the community far into the future.”

The annual mid-winter Rusty Flack Society event is a reminder of his big heart, affable nature and wise counsel as his family continues the tradition of welcoming friends to the society.

“Rusty always talked about the importance of doing something today that would grow and last for years to come,” Charles Barber, President and CEO of The Foundations reminisced.

“Associating his name with this legacy society is a fitting tribute to him and his family, and it serves as a reminder of The Foundations’ mission to support the community far into the future.”

The annual mid-winter Rusty Flack Society event is a reminder of his big heart, affable nature and wise counsel as his family continues the tradition of welcoming friends to the society.

One of the earliest funds of The Luzerne Foundation, the John A. McCole Campership Trust Fund for the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA was created in memory of John A. McCole who was a founding board member of The Foundation and a renowned community supporter.

Experiencing the great outdoors and having carefree time is essential in the development of a child. This fund provides financial assistance to needy children in the Wyoming Valley enabling them to attend overnight and day camps at Camp Kresge run by the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA. Situated on Beaver Lake in the heart of the Poconos, activities abound, and laughter can be heard echoing through the trees. Without the McCole Campership program, many children would not have the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of nature and make new friends. In 2018, 160 children attended the YMCA’s day and overnight camps. An annual golf tournament is held to build the fund so that more children can spend some days just being kids.

One of the earliest funds of The Luzerne Foundation, the John A. McCole Campership Trust Fund for the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA was created in memory of John A. McCole who was a founding board member of The Foundation and a renowned community supporter.

Experiencing the great outdoors and having carefree time is essential in the development of a child. This fund provides financial assistance to needy children in the Wyoming Valley enabling them to attend overnight and day camps at Camp Kresge run by the Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA. Situated on Beaver Lake in the heart of the Poconos, activities abound, and laughter can be heard echoing through the trees. Without the McCole Campership program, many children would not have the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of nature and make new friends. In 2018, 160 children attended the YMCA’s day and overnight camps. An annual golf tournament is held to build the fund so that more children can spend some days just being kids.
Special Olympics Pennsylvania – Luzerne County

This successful program is looking to grow. The grant will support expansion of the popular bowling program and will start an aquatics program in the Hazleton area providing more opportunities for new athletes to become part of the program.

Youth Advisory Committee – YAC

What happens when you put a group of twenty-eight 9th-12th graders from seven different schools together in a room? Noise? Lots of clicking and texting? A bit of trepidation, perhaps some boredom? Probably all of the above. But when those students are part of YAC, you will also see excitement, determination, curiosity, and collaboration. These students are there for a purpose.

YAC members are learning the fundamentals of philanthropy. Many have probably participated in fundraisers—a bake sale, dance marathon, car wash, etc. Thus, it may not be out of their comfort zone to solicit potential donors to raise approximately $15,000 to give away. It is the next step that provides a challenge.

How do you give that money away? Throughout the year-long program, “YACsters” complete community needs assessments, solicit grant applications and review them. Site visits occur, and reports are presented to the entire group so that votes may be taken on who should receive the grants. The students quickly understand that the needs are many, and there is not always enough to go around.

Twenty nonprofits were invited to present at a YAC nonprofit forum where members asked direct questions. The group narrowed the field to 12 nonprofits, site visits occurred then discussions ensued regarding each request. Finally, once the votes were taken, the field was narrowed to three finalists. The grant recipients listed below were presented with checks at the YAC annual dinner.

The process is eye-opening for many of the students, but the satisfaction felt from knowing their efforts have made a difference in the community makes it all worthwhile.

This year YAC supported:

- F.M. Kirby Center: $5,500 - Sensory Friendly Theater
- PEC (PA Environ. Council): $5,500 - Community Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Program
- Mom-n-Pa Dental: $5,000 - Dental Program June 7 & 8 Mohegan Sun Arena

Since the 2013/14 school year, YAC has supported 18 organizations with grants totaling $96,775.
The Luzerne Foundation Campaign

You only have one chance to celebrate a milestone and being Here for Good for twenty-five years certainly qualifies. Thus, the Board of Directors decided to do something unusual—authorize a fundraising campaign for the Foundation.

The Foundation does not normally raise monies for itself. Our focus has been (and always will be) to support the fundraising efforts of nonprofits in our community. Connecting fundholders and philanthropists with worthy causes and organizations is at the core of our mission. But this fundraising campaign is a little different.

The goal of the campaign is to raise $1,500,000. Most of the donations will be directed to The Fund for Luzerne County while the rest will be set aside as an endowment for the Foundation’s new home at 34 North River Street in Wilkes-Barre. The Fund for Luzerne County is a general purpose “unrestricted” fund—this is the fund from which the Board of Directors directs grants to nonprofits in the community. By increasing the fund, more monies will flow into our community.

We want to thank The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation for their sponsorship of the $25,000 grant. You will also hear the names of people, companies, and funds who have sponsored grants which, combined with an anonymous donor’s matching gift, are for $10,000. The total amount of grants presented at the 25th Anniversary Celebration is $275,000.

Anniversary events have also been sponsored. In particular, we wish to thank Century 21 Smith Hourigan Group for sponsoring the 25th Anniversary Celebration Dinner. Panzitta Enterprises sponsored The Foundations’ Open House while Bill and Sandi Williams Fund and Jack Williams Tires and Auto Centers sponsored the Rusty Flack Society Mid-Winter Gathering. First Federal Charitable Foundation is hosting a representative from each nonprofit grantee at the dinner and members of the Youth Advisory Committee. UGI is the sponsor for the next three years of the annual Mgr. McGowan Golf Tournament.

Naming Opportunities at the Foundation’s new home in Wilkes-Barre brought in an additional $180,000. Pride Mobility has sponsored the CEO office while Power Engineering Corporation has its name on the COO’s office. The Allan M. Kluger Boardroom was donated by grateful friends, and the Berkshire meeting room is sponsored by Berkshire Asset Management. A welcoming reception area was given by PNC and the soon to be created outdoor garden by Allen and Mary Erwine and Erwine Home Health and Hospice.

Every gift means more for the community. We are grateful to these donors and all the fundholders, board members, community members and others who have also contributed.

The Fund for Luzerne County

The idea is simple. Find a way to make sure needs are met in the community today and for years to come. But how? When the founding board members established The Luzerne Foundation one of their goals was to create a fund, a pool of general purpose “unrestricted” monies, that could be used to address needs that would change over time as life and the world changed too. Thus, the very first fund of the Foundation was born—The Fund for Luzerne County.

Where to begin? Help the homeless. Feed the poor. Build a playground. Support students. Encourage the arts. A truly vibrant community has many facets, each contributing to a positive, enduring quality of life. It was decided The Fund for Luzerne County would make grants in seven areas—Social Services, Education and Scholarships, Arts and Culture, Neighborhoods and Community Development, Youth Issues, Historic Preservation and the Environment and Health and Wellness. Since 1994, over six hundred and fifty grants have been made from the Fund, and the impact of those grants has changed our community for the good.

Access to healthcare has been increased through grants to Wyoming Drug & Alcohol, Care and Concern Clinic and Volunteers in Medicine grants. Libraries and YMCA’s through Luzerne County have received grants to support additional programs and make needed renovations. Audiences have enjoyed productions at the Little Theater of Wilkes-Barre and the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts or have wandered through the art exhibits and vendors of the Fine Arts Fiesta. The North Branch Land Trust and Lands at Hillside Farms have preserved the history and environment of our area while the River Commons has reconnected us to nature and the river with events and programs. These are but a few of the areas The Fund for Luzerne County has supported. The needs may change in the future and the Fund will continue to seek ways to collaborate, create partnerships and provide funds to address them.

Immanuel Christian School

To move the Pre-K through 6th grade students into the same building as other students (7-12) Immanuel Christian School will first need to do needed renovations to create more space. Hammer will pound, paintbrushes will brighten the walls and new furniture will be ready when children return this fall.

McGlynn Center

The Center’s after-school program assist children with their homework and helps them with their academics. One of the biggest struggles is with reading. The grant will allow the Center to hire a reading specialist to work one-on-one with students who need the most help.

Advocacy Fund for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Over 90,000 children in Pennsylvania are under the care of their grandparents who face challenges every day as they assume responsibility of raising their grandchildren. In many cases, the courts become involved, but many grandparents do not have the means to hire a lawyer. This grant will subsidize the cost of the initial legal consultation ensuring what is best for the welfare of the child.
FINANCIAL

HISTORIC GRANT TRENDS

- Arts & Culture: 4.08%
- Neighborhoods & Community Development: 17.30%
- Education and Scholarships: 9.68%
- Health & Wellness: 1.12%
- Historic Preservation and the Environment: 10.97%
- Social Service: 13.54%
- Youth Issues: 16.31%

[2019 Grant Recipient]
CASA of Luzerne County

Each year the number of court-appointed special advocates and the number of children served has grown, and there is no end in sight. By the end of 2020 CASA plans to have 90 advocates helping 100 children. The grant will provide training for the new volunteers and increase CASA's ability to provide more children with an advocate.

The Luzerne Foundation works diligently to maintain the highest philanthropic standards for operational quality, integrity and accountability.

The National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations Program, based in Arlington, VA, requires community foundations to document their policies for donor services, investments, grantmaking and administration. With over 500 community foundations in 49 states already certified in compliance nationwide, the program is designed to provide quality assurance to donors, as well as to their legal and financial advisors.

The National Standards address five key areas of community foundation operations: Structure and Governance; Resource Development; Accountability; Grantmaking; Community Engagement.

Every state in the U.S. is home to at least one community foundation—large and small, urban and rural—that is advancing solutions to a wide range of community and social issues. Although community foundations make up only one percent of all U.S. grant-making organizations, they account for more than 10 percent of all foundation giving.

Just look at the nonprofits that are receiving grants this evening at our 25th Anniversary Celebration. Their programs reach thousands in a myriad of ways: training for firefighters, after-school programs, beautification of our cities, bicycles for rails to trails, education through photography, community education, free dental services, and the list goes on. Some grantees are well established such as Help Line/211 and the Domestic Violence Service Center. Others are newer and growing, like CASA and the Social Fabric Collective.

The grants this evening are the result of fundholders, individuals, companies, groups, and others who support The Luzerne Foundation and the good works of these nonprofits. As a community foundation, we are focused on developing funds that will live on in perpetuity providing support to the community for generations to come. We intend to be here for the next 25 years and the next 25 years after that. The need will always be here, and, if history is any indication, those who answer the call will still be here too.

Personally, I would like to thank the board and the staff of The Luzerne Foundation. I am extremely grateful for their support, their encouragement, their creativity, and their selfless dedication to this community we call home. It is truly appreciated.

Charles Barber
President & CEO

One of the most intriguing aspects of my position here at The Luzerne Foundation is how I am pleasantly surprised every day. In a world that seems to thrive on the negative, I am reminded again and again of the good in our community, People care. They give of their time, treasure and talent in so many ways. They see a need and say “How can I help?” As the Foundation celebrates 25 years of being Here for Good, I humbly add—because of you.

We can talk about numbers—how many funds we have, how many grants have been made, how much the Foundation has in assets, etc.—but what we are really celebrating tonight is what has been done by many for so many in our community.

The grants this evening are the result of fundholders, individuals, companies, groups, and others who support The Luzerne Foundation and the good works of these nonprofits. As a community foundation, we are focused on developing funds that will live on in perpetuity providing support to the community for generations to come. We intend to be here for the next 25 years and the next 25 years after that. The need will always be here, and, if history is any indication, those who answer the call will still be here too.

Personally, I would like to thank the board and the staff of The Luzerne Foundation. I am extremely grateful for their support, their encouragement, their creativity, and their selfless dedication to this community we call home. It is truly appreciated.

Charles Barber
President & CEO