2015 Annual Report of The Luzerne Foundation

Caring... about our community's needs

Convening... resources and people to help

Creating... opportunities and solutions

The Luzerne Foundation

Here for good.™

THE LUZERNE FOUNDATION

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cf NATIONAL STANDARDS™

The Luzerne Foundation

Here for good.™

Dear community friends,

As we celebrate our 21st anniversary as Luzerne County's community foundation, let's take a look at how The Luzerne Foundation is able to proactively support the community through caring, convening and creating.

Caring. The Foundation takes great pride in caring for the community's needs, whether through providing grants to support much needed programs and services, offering counsel to struggling nonprofits, or teaching our youth about the importance of philanthropy. The Foundation strives to ensure that our community is a better place to live, work, and play - not only today, but for future generations to come.

Convening. Because we are a community foundation, we're able to convene and collaborate with other nonprofits and charitable organizations, thus reducing duplication of efforts and instead working toward a common goal to better serve and benefit the community as a whole. The Foundation assists in this process by providing valuable information, experience and resources. Some of the initiatives we are currently assisting with include behavioral health, disaster recovery, and early childhood education.

Creating. Through its unique position within the community, The Luzerne Foundation is able to create awareness by providing a platform for area nonprofits to come together and discuss a variety of issues and challenges they face each day. Our Nonprofit Forums provide an environment in which ideas are shared, partnerships are created, and coalitions are formed – all for the betterment of our community.

The Foundation considers it an honor and a privilege to serve Luzerne County and all its diverse needs. As always, it would not be possible for us to do what we do without you! Many thanks to our fund holders, Board of Directors, friends, and donors who, through their efforts, truly make our community a better place.

Here for Good. ™

Tom Kennedy
Board Chairman

The Luzerne Foundation is a community foundation, but what does that mean? In simple terms – We are a philanthropic leader, a community resource and a financial steward. The Luzerne Foundation supports donors with their charitable giving, helping them invest strategically in causes they care about and in ways that make a difference in our community. However, unlike other organizations, a community foundation is focused on developing funds that will live on in perpetuity providing support to the community for generations to come. That is why we are, *Here for Good.*™

We're Committed to our Community ...

caring...

Our mission is to enhance the lives of the people living in our community. We do this by supporting seven key areas that together support a healthy and sustainable community including:

▪ Social Services ▪ Education and Scholarships ▪ Arts and Culture
▪ Health and Wellness ▪ Youth Issues ▪ Historic Preservation and the Environment
▪ Neighborhoods and Community Development

Traditionally this has meant assisting donors of all kinds in creating funds. These include Unrestricted Funds, Donor Advised Funds, Field of Interest Funds, Designated Funds, Scholarship Funds and Organizational Endowments. We work with individuals, families, companies, civic groups, nonprofits and professional advisors to discuss the various ways to give. We also provide information about existing funds or local nonprofits that may fit their charitable giving goals.

convening...

As a philanthropic leader in our community it is also our mission to offer information and resources. The professional staff at The Luzerne Foundation is very knowledgeable about the various programs and services provided by nonprofit organizations in our region and has access to national and regional organizations through which almost any donor question can be addressed.

We provide educational seminars covering trends in philanthropy, tax and legislative changes, and other pertinent topics free of charge to the community. By partnering with other local organizations such as The Nonprofit & Community Assistance Center (NCAC) and Northeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), respected experts in the field will make their way to our community. The Luzerne Foundation has always acted as a catalyst to bring diverse groups together to address local needs and foster greater collaboration. The Foundation is in a unique position to deepen its collaborative efforts across our community. Our extensive knowledge of diverse local needs and of the nonprofit organizations working to address them, positions The Foundation as a logical clearing house to promote efficient use of resources and effective communication. Together we can do so much more.

creating...

Established in 1994, The Luzerne Foundation is the center of philanthropy in our community. To date, more than $84 million in grants have been distributed to nonprofit organizations locally and around the world and more than 300 funds have been created. With more than $30 million in assets, The Foundation is positioned to do good today ... and tomorrow.

Kathleen Button 2015 Mary Bevevino Community Award Recipient

Kate Button is a woman of her word, according to her many admirers in our community. When it comes to giving, she not only gives generously of her time and energy, but she also stands ready to lead a cause. At the top of her list, and near and dear to her heart, is Camp AsthmaCadabra, an overnight camp for children ages 7 to 12 who have asthma. It was the tragic death of her own daughter, Lorraine Button Tracy, to asthma – as well as the equally tragic loss of her grandson Max Tracy to the same illness 11 months later – that inspired Kate's son-in-law, Michael Tracy, to develop the idea of a camp that would enable asthmatic children to enjoy a true camping experience in a medically supervised and safe environment. The camp is fully staffed, 24 hours a day, with doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, respiratory therapists, camp counselors, and volunteers. Kate embraced the cause. Later, the American Lung Association became a co-sponsor of Camp AsthmaCadabra, and The Luzerne Foundation was selected to manage its funds.

Kate has also been an advocate and a ray of light for other organizations in our community, including the McGlynn Learning Center, an after-school program for at-risk children and teens, located at the Boulevard Town Homes and Mineral Springs Village. She has been more than generous with her infamous "Money Trees," which she so graciously donates to golf tournaments and, most recently, an event honoring Sister Miriam Stadulis and Betty Griesmer.

Kate Button's name appears near the top of any list of those who give selflessly to their community. Not content to limit her commitment solely to serving as a member of the board of the YMCA, Kate branches out into the community to help raise funds to sustain the YMCA as a community center that offers fitness activities and services to all age groups. A member of the Heritage Society of the YMCA, she is also a long-time member of The Luzerne Foundation's Millennium Circle. In 2008, the Wyoming Valley Woman's Club named her "Woman of the Year."

Sister Miriam Stadulis, one of Kate's many admirers, says, "When you meet Kate Button, you know that you have met an 'unassuming angel' who quietly reaches out to help others in her community. Her love and concern extend far beyond children living in poverty or those afflicted with asthma. I have witnessed her as a 'beacon of love and hope' to many. Kathleen is a blessing to all, and I am honored to call her 'my dear friend Kate.'"

A woman of unquestioned character, compassion and kindness, Kate is someone whom friends and colleagues struggle to find the proper words to describe. But all of them speak of Kate with one voice when they extoll her penchant for standing up and leading a cause. " It is what she does best," says Beverly Johnston, "and we are grateful beyond words for all that she has given back to so many in our community."

MAX & LORRAINE FOUNDATION

"Kate is the most perfect example of unconditional giving. Her work and devotion at Camp AsthmaCadabra is exemplary. No matter how she may be feeling we always know she'll be there early in the morning with a smiling face and hands full of food and supplies for the camp. 'She is the camp' and area children with asthma owe her a great deal because of her dedication to them. " Tony Delonti, Program Specialist, American Lung Association

"Kate is one of the nicest people I have ever met. In her quiet unassuming way she helps everyone without ever needing to be asked. The amount of good that she brings to our community is immeasurable." Jim Thomas, Executive Director, Wilkes-Barre Family YMCA

"From the moment you meet Kate, you are greeted by her warm smile and gentle spirit. She immediately endears herself to you and instantly you sense her genuine love and compassion for others." Charles M.Barber, President & CEO of The Luzerne Foundation

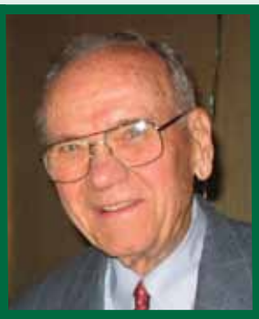
Mary Bevevino Community Service Award History

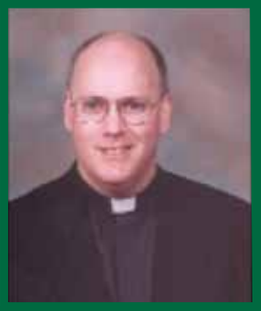
Since 2000, The Luzerne Foundation has honored Luzerne County residents and groups who have made a significant positive impact on our community. The Mary Bevevino Community Service Award is The Foundation's highest tribute as this recognition reflects the unwavering dedication, commitment and spirit of its namesake. The 2015 Mary Bevevino Community Service Award is presented to Kathleen Button.

Past Recipients of the Mary Bevevino Community Service Award include:

2000 - Joseph DeVizia
2001 - Wallace Stettler* & Daniel Nulton
2002 - Lt. Col. Juan De Rojas, M.D.
2003 - Msgr. Michael J. Delaney & Dr. Michael MacDowell
2004 - Frank H. Bevevino "The First Decade Award"
2005 - Operation Thank You!
2006 - Frederick J. Bloom, Jr., M.D.
2007 - Alexander (Lex) and Jennifer Sloot
2008 - Rabbi Larry and Gerri Kaplan
2009 - Rusty Flack*
2010 - Richard Maslow
2011 - David W. Kistler, M.D.*
2012 - Michael & Kathleen Hirthler
2013 - Sisters of Mercy, Dallas, PA
2014 - Founding Board Members of The Luzerne Foundation

*Deceased





"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."
Winston S. Churchill

Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)

2014-2015 YAC Group

20 Students Representing 6 Area High Schools

Nesli Akinci, Senior at Wyoming Seminary
Paige Allen, Sophomore at Wyoming Seminary
Mackenzie Bilbow, Junior at Wyoming Area
Michael Bonifante, Junior at Hanover Area
Andrew Casper, Junior at Holy Redeemer *
Sabrina Chan, Junior at Hanover Area
Maryann Chapin, Junior at Hanover Area
Michael Conlon, Senior at Holy Redeemer *
Sean Connelly, Junior at Hanover Area
Alexis Davison, Junior at Holy Redeemer *
Soprina Guarneri, Senior at MMI
Rachel Jones, Sophomore at Holy Redeemer *
Olivia Minzola, Sophomore at MMI
Madison Nardone, Senior at Wyoming Seminary
Alexis Oplinger, Senior at Lake Lehman
Carrie Pozaic, Senior at Wyoming Area *
Johnny Qiu, Junior at Hanover Area
Abigail Straub, Sophomore at Wyoming Seminary
Isabelle Updike, Junior at Holy Redeemer
Emily Wolfgang, Senior at Wyoming Area

*Denotes group leader

Where do YOU see the need?
Youth Advisory Committee of The Luzerne Foundation

YAC's Mission:

To empower high school youth to identify community needs and help fund them responsibly.

Charities that collectively received $16,000 from YAC

Ruth's Place with Team Conlon

Children's Service Center with Team Davison

The United Way of Wyoming Valley with Team Jones

Cori's Place with Team Pozaic

For more information about YAC and how to apply, please call 570.714.1570 or email diane@luzfdn.org

Grants Since Inception

2001 - $10,000 grant for 28 'Follow Your Dreams' motivational presentations by Robb Armstrong at 8 local high schools

2002 - $10,000 grant to Diamond City Partnership for Downtown Wilkes-Barre revitalization

2003 - $10,000 grant to Candy's Place, a community support center for cancer patients and their loved ones

2004 - $15,000 grant to 'Friday's Child', a program for autistic children and adults at the Jewish Community Center, Wilkes-Barre

2005 - $20,000 to McGlynn Center for educational programs for at-risk children in Wilkes-Barre

2006 - $25,000 to Luzerne-Wyoming Counties' Drug and Alcohol Program for prevention services delivered in classrooms at all public school districts in Luzerne County

2007 - $30,000 grant to Volunteers in Medicine, a program providing health care services to the 'working poor,' and under-insured area residents

2008 - $30,000 grant to Care and Concern clinics in Pittston for facilities enhancements

2009 - $22,000 grant to Ruth's Place to assist with renovations and repairs to the women's homeless shelter

2010 - $20,000 grant to Family Service Association for 'Help Line', a 24/7 Help Line, Family Service Association of Wyoming Valley's information and referral program

2011 - $20,000 grant to CEO-Commission on Economic Opportunity to support the 'Dinners for Kids' Program.

2012 - $20,000 grant to the Anti-Bullying Coalition of Luzerne County

2013 - $20,000 grant to Family Service Association of NEPA – 'Help Line –PA 211 Transition'

2014 - Our first-ever tie! $10,000 each to Ruth's Place, Emergency Shelter for Women and CEO/ Weinberg Regional Food Bank Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan Center for Healthy Living

2015 - Where do you see the need?

Join us for our Annual Luncheon on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 beginning at 11:30 PM at Genetti Hotel & Conference Center in Wilkes-Barre

The Millennium Circle Fund of The Luzerne Foundation

The Millennium Circle Fund of The Luzerne Foundation was created as a special group of donors whose one-time gifts of $2,000 play a pivotal role in helping The Luzerne Foundation identify significant unmet community needs. The ultimate goal is to have 2,000 members and a fund that would present grants to our community totaling $200,000 or more each year.

Each member of The Millennium Circle serves as the eyes and ears of The Foundation recommending areas of need and nominating causes and programs. All of the many nominations are reviewed by the Millennium Circle Advisory Committee which chooses finalists to be presented at the Millennium Circle annual lunch meeting. Every member has a vote and, because of the pooling of gifts, their initial donation turns into a substantial grant that makes a large impact in the community.

A Millennium Circle donor can be an individual, a family, a business or a civic group. Membership continues in perpetuity as gifts continue to benefit the community for generations to come. To join, simply make a one-time gift of $2,000 or commit to paying that amount over a multi-year pledge. You will never be asked for additional contributions to the Millennium Circle. But we do encourage you to invite others to join.

To join the Millennium Circle or to see a current list of members visit our website at www.luzfdn.org.

LOCAL PEOPLE identifying **LOCAL NEEDS** providing **LOCAL SOLUTIONS**

CEO/Weinberg Regional Food Bank Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan Center for Healthy Living receiving $10,000 check from representative of The Millennium Circle Fund of The Luzerne Foundation

Ruth's Place, Emergency Shelter for Women and Children receiving a $10,000 check from representatives of The Millennium Circle Fund of The Luzerne Foundation

Opportunities for Nonprofit Organizations

Forums: Each March, and in lieu of a traditional spring Grant Cycle, The Luzerne Foundation plans to host a Nonprofit Forum in which eligible Luzerne County 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations are invited to make a five minute presentation on their current needs and challenges to The Foundation's Grants Distribution Committee, Foundation leadership, multiple donors and friends, and other foundations and guests. This is a chance for nonprofits to explain, from their perspective, the most pressing needs and how they are planning to address them. The Grants Distribution Committee evaluates each of the presenters and after careful deliberation, a few larger grants are awarded. An email blast will be sent in January 2016 announcing the date and location of the 2016 Forum.

Seminars: Each year, The Luzerne Foundation offers two free seminars in May, on the day of its Annual Meeting. A "Lunch & Learn" seminar is hosted by The Luzerne Foundation in collaboration with AFP NEPA Chapter and the Nonprofit Community Assistance Center (NCAC). This seminar is geared to nonprofit professionals and board members. A second seminar, offered in conjunction with the Wilkes-Barre Law and Library Association and the Northeast Chapter of the PICPA is geared to professional advisors, attorneys & CPAs and is held in the late afternoon just prior to the start of the Annual Meeting Event.

Grantmaking Funds of The Luzerne Foundation

These Funds support general purpose and program grants. Notifications are sent to over 800 nonprofits throughout the region in the fall each year. The Luzerne Foundation's Grants Distribution Committee evaluates the submitted grant applications on the basis of relevance, impact, numbers of people served and benefit to the overall welfare of the community. All monies awarded serve the people of Luzerne County.

Benjamin Franklin Trust

Ben Franklin practiced what he preached! "A Penny Saved is a Penny Earned." Benjamin Franklin's legacy lives on in Luzerne County through The Luzerne Foundation. In his will, Franklin directed that after 200 years, half of the accumulated funds of his estate go to the State of Pennsylvania to be used for whatever the public officials felt was necessary. The State Legislature split the money among most of the community foundations across the state. The Luzerne Foundation's $30,000 "Ben Franklin Trust" predominately benefits young people and educational programs within the county.

Daylene Burnside Administrative Endowment Fund

This Fund was named in honor of Daylene Burnside, the first Executive Director of The Luzerne Foundation, serving from its inception in 1994 through June 2000. This administrative fund helps to defray a portion of the operational expenses of The Foundation such as employee expenses, phone, rent, postage, etc. The intent of this Fund is to allow The Foundation to be as self-sustaining as possible, with cost-effective financial management, administration, tax reporting and audits for those funds established within The Foundation. This Fund is intended to maximize the quality and efficiency of philanthropy so to maximize the good for the community. All distributions from the Administrative Endowment Fund are used to defray operational expenses of The Foundation. Contributions are always encouraged.

Celebrity Luncheon Fund

Celebrity Luncheon was a program established in 1994 to enrich and enhance the cultural life of our community. The program brought four nationally recognized speakers to the area each year. The Fund was established from program proceeds. Grants support education, environmental preservation, economic development, and encouragement of the Arts in Wilkes-Barre, Scranton and Hazleton areas.

The Fund for Luzerne County

www.burnsidephotographic.com

This Fund accepts grant applications from nonprofit organization within or primarily serving the residents of Luzerne County. The Fund makes grants to where our Grants Distribution Committee and our professional staff determine our community's needs are most significant. Donors who chose to give to unrestricted funds give to the future needs of the county, no matter what those needs may be. Contributions are always encouraged.

The Health Fund of The Luzerne Foundation

The Health Fund grew out of a collaborative effort by area hospitals and health care providers to improve the health of persons in our broad community. In the mid to late 90's, area hospitals and other health care organizations joined together in a regional effort to study and evaluate the most pressing health care needs of our population. This collaboration resulted in a bi-county program focusing on prevention and wellness called The Healthy Northeast Initiative.

At the same time, leadership from several area health care organizations including Wyoming Valley Health Care System, Mercy Health Partners and Hospice Community Care committed to supporting this effort and came together to form the Health Fund of The Luzerne Foundation. Each year grants for innovative and collaborative programs are given to area agencies that are working to improve the health and wellness of persons in our community.

Historic & Landscape Preservation Fund

The Historic and Landscape Preservation Fund provides grants to support activities within this field of interest. This fund is specifically dedicated to historic and land preservation within the entire county. Contributions are always encouraged.

Maslow Fund for the Arts

The Fund for the Arts was created to encourage and develop skills in the visual, graphic and performing arts. The role of the fund is to find essential ways to support and encourage artists of all ages and abilities - thereby enriching the community and homegrown creative endeavors. The Maslow family provided initial funding, but all who are interested in developing and nurturing the artistic opportunities and talents of Luzerne County residents are encouraged to contribute.

McGowan Fund

This Fund was established by Msgr. Andrew J. McGowan during his life to support a multitude of organizations in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Monsignor delegated to The Luzerne Foundation primary discretion over distributions because of his trust in the organization's knowledge of the often changing and most pressing needs in Luzerne County.

Donor Advised Funds vs. Private Foundations

When compared to a private foundation, a donor advised fund at The Luzerne Foundation is a smart way to achieve your philanthropic goals with greater tax advantages, fewer administrative hassles, more cost savings and a highly comparable level of grantmaking flexibility.

Private foundations that transfer assets to The Luzerne Foundation enjoy immediate excise tax relief, freedom from reporting requirements and lower administrative costs. This often means that more of the foundation's assets can be used for true philanthropic purposes.

Topic	Donor Advised Fund	Private Family Foundation
Control	• Donor recommends grants to Foundation's Board for approval • Foundation is responsible for asset management	Board of trustees have complete control of grantmaking distributions and responsibility for asset management
Investments	• Foundation's Investment Committee oversees investment policies	Foundation's financial advisor
Distribution Requirements	None	5% of net asset value annually
Costs	None to establish	Significant costs for legal, accounting and filing fees to establish
Time to establish	Immediate	Several months
Minimum Contribution Recommended	$5,000	$5 Million
Taxes	None	Excise tax up to 2% of net investment income, including net capital gain
Administration / Reporting	• All record keeping and accounting performed by Foundation staff • Tax exempt status already established • Public reporting performed by staff • Director/Officer liability insurance in place	• Must file annual tax returns including detailed financial schedule (Form 990-PF) • Must establish tax exempt status with IRS • Must prepare reports for general public • Must obtain director /officer liability insurance
Deductibility of Gifts	• Cash gifts deductible up to 50% of the adjusted gross income (AGI) • Gifts of appreciated property deductible at fair market value (up to 30% of AGI)	• Cash gifts deductible up to 30% of the adjusted gross income (AGI) • Gifts of appreciated property deductible at fair market value (up to 20% of AGI)
Grantmaking	• Donor has access to Foundation staff for due diligence, research and expertise; recommends grants • Foundation staff oversees evaluation	• Board and staff must do research, due diligence, review and monitor proposals • Board and staff must develop evaluation process

Donor Advised Funds

The Friedman Family Charitable Fund

Established by Sidney, Pauly and Rob Friedman, in conjunction with Anne Friedman Glauber, this fund carries on the Friedman family charitable legacy and provides continued support to a variety of worthy organizations in northeastern Pennsylvania. Recent grants benefitted the Penn State (Wilkes-Barre) campus, as well as Volunteers in Medicine. "My mother Pauly stressed the importance of giving back," said Rob Friedman. "She convinced the family to invest with The Luzerne Foundation. For us, The Foundation provided a much simpler opportunity to start a family fund. We're thrilled with how it's expanded." Pauly Friedman was known for her support of local schools and universities, but she also initiated "Friends" of Family Service Association of NEPA, which still carries on its tradition of fundraising through the Pauly Friedman Walk/Run held every August.

The Pauly Friedman 5K Family Walk/Run was established to ensure that proceeds would benefit Family Service Association's Help Line/211. To date, the Walk/Run has raised over $60,000 to support Help Line/211 and still continues today with our next race taking place on Sunday, August 9th at Misericordia University in Dallas.

The Friedman Family epitomizes the words leadership and compassion, as their family continues their long tradition of community commitment.

a simple, personal and powerful way to give ...

Donor Advised Funds

A donor advised fund, or DAF, is a philanthropic vehicle that an individual or family may establish at The Luzerne Foundation. It allows donors to make a charitable contribution, receive an immediate tax benefit and then recommend grants from the fund over time. An easy way to think about a donor advised fund is like a charitable savings account: a donor contributes to the fund as frequently as they like and then recommends grants to their favorite charity when they are ready. Many donor advised funds appoint a sucessor advisor so that the original intents of the donor are carried through succesive generations.

Charles & Denny Barber Family Fund
James E. Bell & Constance L. Bell Fund
Stuart M. Bell/Luzerne Products, Inc. Fund
Bella Grazia Fund
The Berkshire Asset Management Fund
Bevevino Family Fund
Joe & Jeanne Butcher Family Fund
Marvin Carkhuff Memorial Fund
Brandon J. Case Memorial Fund
Celtic Hospice Community Care Fund
The Constellation Fund
Crisci Family Fund
Darte-Darling Fund
The Dowd Family Charitable Fund
Allen & Mary Erwine Family Hospice Fund
Flack Family Fund
Harold & Jean Flack Family Fund
The Friedman Family Charitable Fund
Gus & Val Genetti Fund
Lou Goeringer Family Fund
Omar D. Hamilton Fund

The Stewart & Sharon Harry Fund ...NEW!
The Fund will focus on nonprofit organizations and agencies delivering services to children with disabilities and agencies providing programs for youth to develop fitness and/or individual competitive events, but not exclusively.

Hazleton Kiwanis Club Charitable Fund
Frank M. Henry Family Fund
Michael & Kathleen Hirthler Fund
Insalaco Family Fund
The Allan S. Karaffa Memorial Fund
Clayton & Theresa Karambelas Fund
Ron Knouse Fund
Ken & Ann Krogulski Family Fund
Lefkowitz Family Fund
Logos Fund
The John F. Magagna Family Charitable Fund
The Makarios Fund
The Shawn C. Malone Memorial Fund
The Millennium Circle Fund
The Miner-Shoemaker Fund
The Libby K. Morris Remick Fund
The Robert A. Mugford Family Fund
The Palko Family Fund
The Corrine Pawling Family Endowment Fund
John Glenn Popple Memorial Fund
RJACK Fund
Paul & Mary Jo Rushin Fund
Jason Schilling Memorial Fund
The Nancy & Edward Shafer Family Fund
The Shafer Family Fund
Security Savings Charitable Fund
The Dr. Jen's Hope Fund
Shekinah Fund
John & Barbara Sobeck Charitable Fund
Solid Cactus Cares Fund
The Straub Family Fund
The Robert S. Tippett Family Fund
The Weinstock Family Fund

Wyoming/West Wyoming Lions Club Fund...NEW!
The Wyoming/West Wyoming Lions Fund shall be used at the discretion of the local Board to continue the club's efforts to serve community needs and causes.

The Bill & Sandi Williams Fund
James and Regina Yates Fund
The YAC (Youth Advisory Committee) Fund
Yudichak Family Endowment Fund
Yudichak Family Lighthouse Annual Fund

For more detailed information about our funds visit www.luzfdn.org

Designated Funds

The Joseph A. Turri ’45 Library and Learning Center Fund
The Barbara L. Sowers and Joseph A. Turri ‘45 Music, Drama, and Fine Arts Fund

A sense of gratitude to his alma mater, MMI Preparatory School, was the inspiration for Joseph A. Turri, an alumnus of the school in Freeland, Pa., to establish the first Joseph A. Turri ’45 Endowment Fund in 2013. The fund benefits three important programs that are crucial to the success of any school: the library, the music department and the visual arts program. “MMI was good to me,” Mr. Turri said. “Not only did my alma mater educate me very well, but it also provided me with a scholarship to attend the University of Pennsylvania, and from there I stepped into the world prepared for almost any challenge.” He added, “There’s a payback time in life, and my endowment fund for MMI is it.”

Mr. Turri explained that The Luzerne Foundation came highly recommended. “My attorney and I researched the Foundation, and we liked the perpetuity aspect of establishing this fund.” There is a need for a long-term view where charitable giving is concerned, Mr. Turri noted. “Thanks to The Luzerne Foundation, I can rest assured that my goals and wishes for MMI will live on long after I am gone.” The Turri Endowment was used to construct a new library building for MMI and is committed to annual disbursements to enhance its function.

MMI Preparatory School
Explore, Experience, Excel

A second portion of the Endowment has been set aside to support the music and arts department. A recent distribution allowed the arts department to install and activate two kilns for the ceramics program. Additional major gifts are in the planning stage.

According to Tom Hood, Head of School at MMI Preparatory, “Mr. Turri ‘45 is a distinguished graduate of MMI. As an independent school educating students in grades 6-12, generous gifts such as Mr. Turri’s allow us to continue our 130 year+ tradition of education excellence in the greater Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton area. We are grateful for his lifelong support and the support of The Luzerne Foundation.”

donors supporting causes they care about ...

Designated Funds

Designated Funds are component funds whose beneficiaries have been specified by the donor when the fund is established. The Luzerne Foundation assumes the oversight responsibility for ensuring that these funds are distributed as the donor intends. Many designated funds name a number of specific organizations. Designated Funds can be established by an individual or couple, a family, a business or any other group of people with shared charitable interests. Designated Funds allow you to personally receive a tax deduction, and at the same time benefit your community by advising the Foundation of your charitable intents in perpetuity.

Back Mountain Police Association...NEW!

This Fund supports charitable programs and causes designed to assist those in need and to foster positive relationships between law enforcement and the community and to supports events such as the Kids' Fishing Day.

The Brass Ring Fund
Castle Auditorium Fund
Coughlin Blue-Red Fund
CSC/Joe DeVizia Family Fund
CYC/ Parente Family Fund
Daylene Burnside Administrative Endowment
Disaster Recovery Coalition Fund
Rusty Flack Memorial Garden at Grace Episcopal Church

Fun Fest Fund of Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce...NEW!

The Funfest Fund of The Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce Fund wasestablished for the operations and sustainability of a free, family-friendly community event that occurs the second weekend in September in downtown Hazleton, PA. Funfest is coordinated by the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce.

The G.A.R. Blue-Gray Fund
Georgetown Settlement Camp Fund
Loyal Patriots of America Fund for Pittston
LCCEA Food & Facts Fund
Luzerne County Historical Society Funds
- LCHS – Elma C. & Bessie B. Bishop Book Fund
- LCHS – Elma C. & Bessie B. Bishop Fund
- LCHS – Dorothy D. Darte Fund - Swetland House

Leadership Wilkes-Barre Funds
- LWB - Kline Scholarship Fund of Leadership Wilkes-Barre
- LWB - Sue Kline Kluger Leadership Excellence Fund
- LWB - McGowan Leadership Fund

Lions of 14W Fund

Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18 Funds
- The LIU 18 - Education Fund
- The LIU 18 - Special Education Fund
- The LIU 18 - Behavioral Health Fund
- The LIU 18 - Student Activities Fund

Meadows Nursing Center – Ecumenical Enterprises
E. L. Meyers Blue-Gold Fund
NEPA Chapter of AIA Lecture Pass-Through Fund
NEPA Philharmonic/Flack Family Fund
Reverend Joseph Streit Fund
Shickshinny Forward Fund
Stoddartsville Preservation Society Fund
Tri-Centennial Fund of 2076

The Turri Funds

The Joseph A. Turri '45 Library and Learning Center Fund

The Barbara L. Sowers & Jospeh A. Turri '45 Music, Drama, and Fine Arts Fund...NEW!

This fund is desiganted for new enrichment activities or resources which would include such things as class trips to museums, hosting artists or performers to the school for special cultural programs and other similar enrichments to the existing fine arts programs offered by MMI.

William J. & Constance K. Umphred Fund
Vital House Fund – HASD Fund
Wyoming Valley West School District
- WVW - Athletic Fund
- WVW - Facilities Fund
- WVW - Special Education Fund
- WVW - Technology Fund

Sarah "Sally" Yudichak Endowment Fund

For more detailed information about our funds visit www.luzfdn.org

Field of Interest Funds

Eye Care Specialists Charitable Fund

The Eye Care Specialists Charitable Fund is dedicated to supporting community events and non-profit organizations in our area by fostering education, research, public awareness, screenings and other initiatives. Through this Fund, Eye Care Specialists is committed to advancing the cause of preventing blindness and supporting the local organizations and communities where their patients live, work, and play in Northeastern PA.

Grants have been made to local organizations such as Greater Wilkes–Barre Association for the Blind; Janet Weis Children's Hospital; Area Fire and Ambulance Companies; Templar Eye Foundation and Surgical Eye Expeditions, just to name a few.

Eye Care Specialists continues to advance the fields of ophthalmology and optometry through its involvement in clinical trials. They have participated in numerous clinical trials that ultimately have led to breakthrough treatments for a variety of eye diseases.

Their talented physicians hold degrees from some of the most prestigious institutions in the world. Working with the latest technology, they are committed to helping their clients obtain and maintain excellent vision and healthy eyes for years to come.

With experts in all specialties of eye care, they offer a full range of in-house eye care services for the entire family – both young and old.

targeting specific community needs ...

Field of Interest

These funds focus on areas of special interest to the donor or groups. Grants from these funds are made to meet community needs within that special area of concern, such as the arts, the environment, health and wellness, children's issues, and education. These funds are flexible to meet changing community needs.

2U – So Every Child Can Have a Happy Birthday
Anti-Bullying Coalition of Luzerne County Fund
The ATHENA Fund
The Coalition on Autism
The Debbie Darling Belenski Memorial Fund
1st Lieutenant Michael J. Cleary Memorial Fund
Concerned Parents of Hazleton Area Fund
The Cultural Council of Luzerne County Fund
Peter Degnan Memorial Endowment Fund
1LT Jeffrey F. DePrimo Memorial Fund
The District A Fund
Diversity Partnership Fund
Down Syndrome Network Fund
Earthly Angels Autism Fund
Eye Care Specialists Charitable Fund
Generation to Generation
The Lou Goeringer Family Fund for the Visually Impaired
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
Hazleton Integration Fund
HKQ Fund for Children's Advocacy
Hunts for Healing, Inc.
Luzerne-Wyoming Counties Elder Abuse Task Force Fund
The Luzerne County Keystone Active Zone Alliance
Making A Difference Fund
Max & Lorraine Fund
Gene & Lois McKeown Endowment
Miles for Michael Fund

The Phyllis Mundy Fund for Children...NEW!
This fund was established in honor of Phyllis Mundy to commemorate 24 years of service in the PA House of Representatives upon her retirement. Phyllis was a leader and a strong voice for the children of Pennsylvania. This fund will support causes and programs for children.

The Mural Fund
Rainbow Fund for Northeastern Pennsylvania
Remembering Jane Fund
The Responsibility Fund

The SHINE Fund...NEW!
This fund will receive funding to support the ongoing needs of the The SHINE program in Luzerne County. Schools and Homes in Education (SHINE) is a successful, nationally recognized afterschool program that focuses on project-based STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) activities for students in grades 1-8 and encompasses a variety of STEM disciplines, such as engineering, computing environmental science, alternative energy, biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics. Students are also exposed to the arts. The program partners and participants will include, but are not exclusive to: Wilkes University as overall Program Coordinator; the Luzerne Intermediate Unit # 18 (LIU 18) as a school facilitator; Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO) as a food and meal provider, as well as many other organizations and vendors as needed to fully implement the educational, recreational, and food/meal components of this comprehensive program.

Schiowitz Grass Roots Housing Initiative Fund
Libby Schomas Fund
Louis Claude de St. Martin Fund
The Times Leader - Book of Dreams Funds
Valley With A Heart Benefits Fund
The Wilkes-Barre General Hospital Auxiliary Fund
Wilkes-Barre Preservation Society Fund

For more detailed information about our funds visit www.luzfdn.org

Organizational Endowment Funds

Wyoming/West Wyoming Little League Endowment Fund

This endowment fund, established by then President Eileen Cipriani and Lisa Minnelli under the mentorship of Charles ("Rusty") Flack, was created to maintain and refurbish the fields and facilities of the Wyoming/West Wyoming Little League fields, now and into the future. According to Bill Petrucci, current president of the Little League, "Without The Luzerne Foundation and matching funds from friends and donors to help build this endowment, we could not have proceeded with major improvements to the fields and facilities that translate into happy milestones for many future generations of young Little Leaguers."

creating a funding reserve now and forever...

Organizational Endowments Funds

A charitable agency or nonprofit organization creates an endowment fund to provide ongoing income to that particular organization. Leaders of nonprofit agencies or organizations often turn to The Luzerne Foundation to manage their endowments, thereby freeing valuable time to concentrate on the program work they know best. The Foundation provides investment management and accountability for all fund administration and accounting as well as gift records, distributions, filing reports and tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service.

Back Mountain Recreation Fund
Bear Creek Historical Society Dam Fund
The Constance L. Bell Library Endowment Fund
Junior Achievement of NEPA Endowment Fund
Junior League of Wilkes-Barre Endowment Fund
Osterhout Free Library Endowment Fund
SPCA Jade Memorial Fund
SPCA Spay/Neuter Endowment
Stewardship Endowment Fund of the North Branch Land Trust
Wyoming/West Wyoming Little League Endowment Fund
Young Men's Christian Association of Pittston Fund

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Key Benefits of an Organizational Endowment Fund

EASY
Our professional, experienced staff provides technical assistance with planned gifts to the fund and offers oversight of the investment function of your fund.

FLEXIBLE
Additions can be made to your fund at any time. The Luzerne Foundation can accept gifts of many types of assets, including stock, real property, and closely-held assets. You can also grow your fund through fundraising such as special events and donor cultivation for planned or current gifts.

PERSONAL
Your fund is all about your organization and its goals for the fund, whether that's long-range savings or funding for specific, mission-oriented events, scholarships, or programs.

EFFICIENT
We handle the administrative tasks of philanthropy—from keeping track of your gifts to acknowledgement letters and sending you quarterly statements of activity—all for a nominal administrative fee.

Scholarship Funds

Jeanne R. Butcher Memorial Scholarship Fund of The Luzerne Foundation

Throughout her lifetime, Jeanne Butcher was known for her lighthearted sense of humor and her quirky laugh. What many people did not know was that Jeanne was a quiet force who worked behind the scenes to help many children beyond her own brood of six. Her love of children inspired her to help kids. A gesture as simple as driving mothers and their children to doctor's appointments was second nature to Jeanne.

Education was important to her as well. Her husband Joe recalls, "When our kids completed their undergraduate studies, she quietly encouraged them to pursue an advanced degree or continue studies in their chosen profession. She gave the same encouragement to her young grandkids."

Last March, when Jeanne passed away, it only seemed fitting to honor her memory through the establishment of the Jeanne Butcher Memorial Scholarship Fund. Although Jeanne typically avoided recognition for her efforts and altruism, Joe believes that Jeanne, would have given her stamp of approval to this scholarship fund that helps make college possible for students who are active members of St. Ignatius Church in Kingston.

This is the inaugural year for the scholarships to be granted from the fund. Joe Butcher, who has been a chairman of the Luzerne Foundation Grants Committee and who has served on the Foundation board for 16 years, says he hopes the fund will grow over time so that it can continue to honor the legacy of his wife, whose memory will live on through generations of scholarship recipients.

investing in the future of our community...

Scholarship Funds

Scholarship Funds are designed to most often support the education or schooling of local individuals. They are often established in memory or in honor of a loved one, friend or beloved educator. Scholarships can be designated to students of all ages and can be awarded for a variety of causes and educational purposes and institutions.

Kerron Barnes-Whitewater Challengers Scholarship Fund...NEW!
The Kerron Barnes/Whitewater Challengers Scholarship Fund is intended to support high school graduates who are qualified employees of Whitewater Challengers, and who require financial assistance to continue their education at a university or college, or advanced career training for a trade or skill. Special consideration is given to students enrolled in an academic program related to the environment or to outdoor recreation.

Leanne Bedwick Scholarship Fund
Lisa Ann Marie Blaum Brighter Future Award Fund
The Debbie Darling Belenski Memorial Schoalrship Fund

Joan Blockus Nursing Scholarship Fund...NEW!
In her will, Joan Blockus designated that a scholarship fund for nursing students be established to benefit qualified students attending Misericordia University.

Thelma K. & Samuel Bosch Scholarship Award Fund

Jeanne R. Butcher Memorial Scholarship Fund...NEW!
This scholarship was established by the Butcher family in memory of Jeanne Butcher who passed away in March 2014. Jeanne throughout her extraordinary life was dedicated to her family, friends, and community. Jeanne treated everyone with dignity and respect. Jeanne was genuine and generous. Her caring for others was done without fanfare and with no expectations of anything in return. Jeanne would light up a room with her warm smile, easy going conversation and laughter. Jeanne was a wife, mother of six children and a grandmother who loved each one in a very special way. Jeanne embodied the meaning of unconditional love. This annual scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior or prior award recipient that best meets the spirit and qualities Jeanne possessed.

The Butterfly Scholarship Fund...NEW!
The Butterfly Scholarship Fund was established to assist individuals who have experienced sexual assault and/or domestic abuse, either physical or mental, of all genders, races, creeds or sexual orientations. The Fund is limited to legal residents of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. As the Fund's assets grow, the Advisory Committee may, at their discretion, extend the geographic reach, but only to those areas immediately adjacent to Luzerne County, as they may advise.

The Michael Carlo Book Scholarship Fund
The Brian Cashmere Memorial Scholarship Fund
Robert J. Clark Scholarship Fund
1LT Michael J. Cleary Memorial Scholarship Fund
James Cortegerone Memorial Scholarship Fund
Michael Daniel Memorial Scholarship Fund
1LT Jeffrey F. DePrimo Memorial Scholarship Fund
The James M. Desiderio, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund
The Daniel J. Distasio Memorial Scholarship Fund
Herbert L. Facher Award Fund
The Dr. Guy V. & D. Keith Ferrell Scholarship Fund
The J. J. Ferrara/Phil. Society Memorial Scholarship Fund
The Steven P. Geraci & Paul W. Penkala Memorial Scholarship Fund
The Kelci Ever After Memorial Scholarship Fund
Mickey Gorham Memorial Blue & Gold Fund
FFCF - Alice Kender Honorary Scholarship
Mary Ann Malinics Kaminski Memorial Scholarship Fund
Edward Raymond Kenzakoski, III Memorial Scholarship Fund
Dr. David W. Kistler Scholarship Fund
Knecht Scholarship Fund
Logue Family Scholarship Award Fund
Luzerne County Catholic School Education Scholarship Fund
LCCC Scholarship Fund
Carrie Martin "We Can Make the World a Better Place" Memorial Scholarship Fund
John Mashinski Memorial Scholarship Fund
John A. McCole Campership Trust for Wilkes-Barre YMCA
McGowan Cornerstone Award
The Joseph A. Moran Scholarship Fund
NEPA AIA Chapter Scholarship Fund
The Dr. Drue Paden Memorial Scholarship Fund
Frank Pasdon Memorial Scholarship Fund
Deborah Samko Pearlman Educational Scholarship Award
The Ann Marie Piasecki Memorial Scholarship Fund
Christina Mihalko Rock Memorial Scholarship Fund
Lawrence W. Roth, Esquire Memorial Scholarship Fund
Laura E. Rutkowski Memorial Scholarship Fund
Michael B. Schecter Memorial Scholarship Fund
Nathan N. Schiowitz Family -VTSC Jr. Membership Fund
Dr. Jennifer A. Sidari Memorial Scholarship Fund
Siegel Family Scholarship Fund
Judith Geer-Spitale Fund
Taylor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center – Health and Wellness Fund
The Charlotte Williams Thomas Award Fund
Wilbur Troy Memorial Scholarship Fund
Kyle Wega Memorial Scholarship Fund
Wilkes-Barre General Hospital Scholarship Fund
Fran Williams Head Start Scholarship Fund
The Leonard 'Big Red' Williams Scholarship Fund

Members

Charles and Denny Barber
Donna Bedwick
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Bevevino
John and Renee Bevevino
Tom and Karen Bevevino
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Blaum
Joseph & Jeanne Butcher
Tom & Millie Cannon
James and Lorraine Cortegerone
Ray & Anne Crisci
John W. Dawe
Ronald & Brenda D'Eliseo
Philip and Judith Decker
Kristin Degnan
Jerome and Vivien Facher
Rusty and Kathi Flack
Gus & Val Genetti
Omar and Peggy Hamilton
Mr. & Mrs. Frank M. Henry
Michael & Kathleen Hirthler
Dr. & Mrs. David Kistler
Ken & Ann Krogulski
Sandra G. Lefkowitz
Melanie Lumia
John F. Magagna
Dick and Marilyn Maslow
Doug & Michaelene Maslow
Walter and Connie Mitchell
Rick & Roseanne Nardone
Joan Flack Nusbaum
Eugene & Connie Roth
Mary Jo Rushin
Dr. & Mrs. Benjamin Schecter
Jim & Susan Schilling
Dr. & Mrs. Rudolph Schleich
Blake & Mona Schomas
James & Joan Schonfeld
Chip Siegel
Mary Ruckno Siegel
George & Andrea Sordoni
Bill and Shelly Smulowitz
Charles & Judy Spitale
William J. and Constance M. Umphred
James & Regina Yates
Bob Yocum
John & Heather Yudichak

The Rusty Flack Society

Named in honor of of the late Charles D. Flack, Jr. "Rusty" who was a founding member of The Luzerne Foundation, longtime board member and community philanthropist. The Rusty Flack Society is a membership list of those who have named The Luzerne Foundation as the beneficiary of any type of planned or deferred gift and who choose to be listed. There is no minimum amount needed to qualify and, to date, The Foundation has received bequests, or is aware of future bequests or other types of planned gifts ranging from $1,000 to $3,000,000 from The Rusty Flack Society members. These gifts support numerous nonprofit organizations throughout the community.

"This is a fitting tribute to our good friend," noted Tom Kennedy, Esq., The Luzerne Foundation Board Chairman. "We miss his wise counsel and affable nature. We are honored that his name will forever be associated with The Foundation."

The importance of creating a lasting legacy that will continue to have impact for generations led Rusty and his family to establish The Flack Family Fund at the Luzerne Foundation and the NEPA Philharmonic/ Flack Family Fund. "Rusty always talked about the importance of doing something today that would grow and last for years to come," said Charles Barber, President and CEO of The Luzerne Foundation. "Associating his name with this legacy society is a fitting tribute to him and his family and it serves as a reminder of The Foundation's mission to support the community far into the future."

Rusty received the Mary Bevevino Award for Community Service from The Foundation in 2009.

For more information about the Rusty Flack Society please contact The Luzerne Foundation at 570-714-1570 or visit www.luzfdn.org.

Highlights of the 2015 Rusty Flack Society Gathering

held at the Westmoreland Club, February 25, 2015

Assets	2012 Audited	2013 Audited	2014 Unaudited
Cash & Pass-through Funds	$3,097,575	$4,686,785	$2,390,410
Endowment Assets			
Unrestricted - General Purpose	$1,088,328	$1,275,256	$1,324,202
Donor Advised	$9,135,180	$10,117,774	$11,084,265
Scholarship Funds	$3,571,556	$4,344,144	$4,927,839
Field of Interest Funds	$1,701,107	$2,057,463	$2,055,631
Designated Funds	$1,453,404	$2,028,453	$2,518,261
Organizational Endowments	$3,396,283	$4,072,921	$4,380,484
TOTAL ENDOWMENT ASSETS	**$20,345,858**	**$23,896,011**	**$26,290,682**
Pledges Receivable	$55,738	$36,000	$38,300
CRUT and Gifts Receivable	$234,477	$331,215	$331,215
Buildings			$1,070,000
Leasehold Improvements and Equipment	$652	$4	$4
TOTAL ASSETS	**$23,734,300**	**$28,950,015**	**$30,120,611**
Liabilities Equity			
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	$8,922	$6,435	$6,435
Payroll Taxes Payable	$4,828	$7,318	$4,828
Funds held as Agency/ Organizational Endowments	$3,297,486	$3,947,036	$4,288,964
Total Liabilities	**$3,311,236**	**$3,960,789**	**$4,300,227**
Equity			
Unrestricted	$20,188,587	$24,662,128	$24,423,286
Temporarily Restricted	$234,477	$327,098	$1,397,098
Total Equity	**$20,423,064**	**$24,989,226**	**$25,820,385**
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	**$23,734.300**	**$28,950,015**	**$30,120,611**

As a 501(c)3 charitable organization and a recognized community foundation, The Luzerne Foundation files annual Form 990 with the Internal Revenue Service. The Foundation's filed Form 990's are available on our website www.luzfdn.org or for public inspection at The Foundation offices. Audited Financial Statements are available upon request.

We're Committed to Excellence

The Luzerne Foundation works continually to maintain the highest philanthropic standards for operational quality, integrity an 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 already confirmed 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 six key areas of community foundation operations: Mission, Structure and Governance; Resource Development; Stewardship and Accountability; Grantmaking and Community Leadership; Donor Relations; and Communications.

Community foundations represent one of the fastest-growing forms of philanthropy in the United States and hold nearly $50 billion in assets, according to the Foundation Center. 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. grantmaking foundations, they account for more than 10 percent of all foundation giving!**

Confirmed in Compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations

cf NATIONAL STANDARDS™

The Luzerne Foundation
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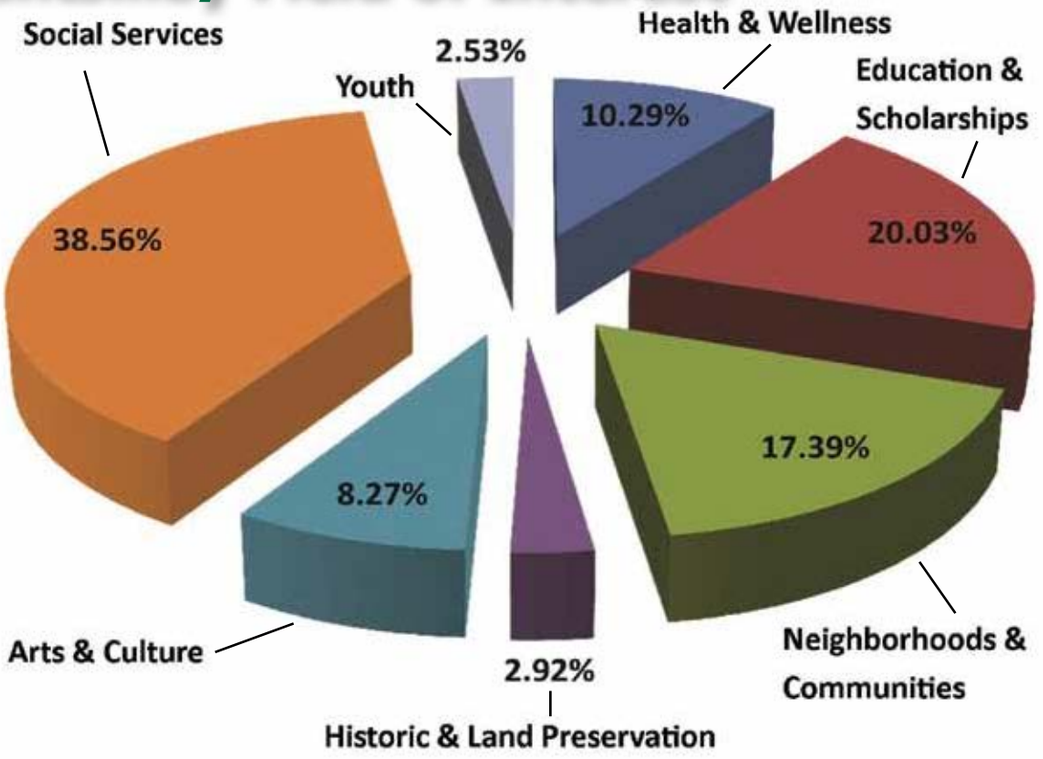
Luzerne Foundation Grants...by Field of Interest

The mission of The Luzerne Foundation requires its grant making to be as broad as possible. Nearly every type of nonprofit agency within Luzerne County and Northeastern Pennsylvania is eligible for grants – not only in the areas of health, human and social services, but also in the areas of arts and culture, youth activities, historic preservation and the environment, education and scholarships, and neighborhoods and community development. Since its inception, The Luzerne Foundation has provided funding to more than 525 nonprofit organizations throughout Luzerne County, our region and across the United States. For a complete list of grant recipient organizations visit www.luzfdn.org.



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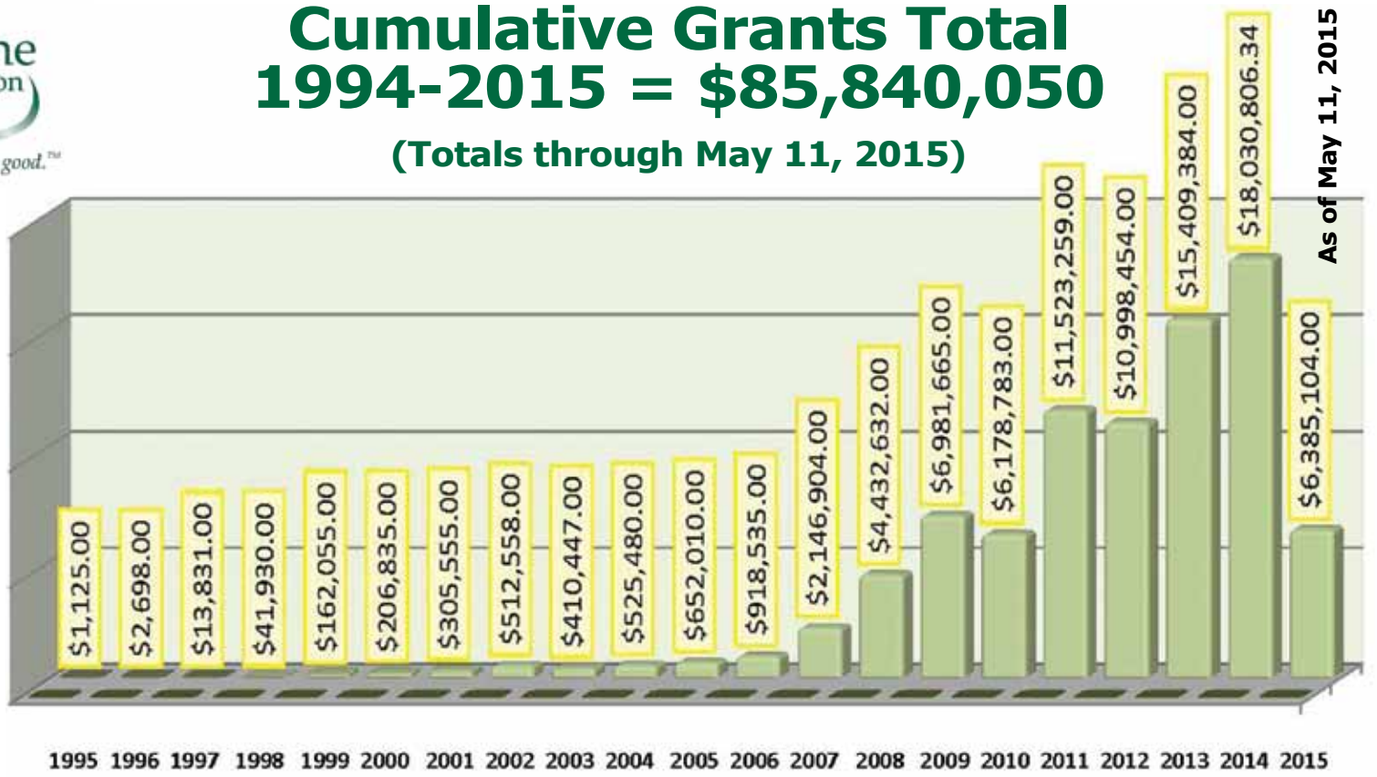
Cumulative Grants Total 1994-2015 = $85,840,050

(Totals through May 11, 2015)



As of May 11, 2015

Collaborations and Associations

Caring... Convening... Creating... three very different words, yet each requires us to get involved, to act.

Since 1994, The Luzerne Foundation has 'stepped into action' to improve the quality of life for Luzerne County residents. Each year, the needs within our community become more complex; therefore, in order to rise to the challenges we must work together, combine our resources and talents, and create solutions.

Recent community needs assessment studies suggest an alarming deficiency in our Mental Health Care System. Because of this deficiency, suicide rates are climbing, and issues of poverty, homelessness, and food insecurities have risen to an all-time high. How do we tackle these issues?

By Caring. It isn't someone else's problem…we must care enough to own these community issues in order to affect positive change.

But how do we get started? By Convening: Gathering the facts, engaging the problem solvers, and the resources necessary to create an effective strategy. Combining the talents of all those who 'care' creates a comprehensive approach. Convening means purposeful collaboration among our nonprofits. Convening does not mean competition with one another; it means that our missions complement each other and blend together the diverse skillsets and talents of the participants.

The Luzerne Foundation is already engaged in this process and working in collaboration with the Commonwealth Medical College, Family Service Association, The United Ways of Wyoming Valley and Greater Hazleton, the newly established SHINE program (Schools and Homes in Education), and we are gaining momentum. One organization working independently simply cannot accomplish all the work.

So what is the next step? Creating a solid action plan. The first phase looks something like this:

- Secure additional funding
- Develop an intake program to assess mental health needs so that no one "slips through the cracks"
- Utilize existing resources such as Help Line/211
- Expand existing services that address hunger and homelessness
- Educate our area's nonprofits and the general public about the progress.

This is no small task, but I am confident that we have the talent, the resources, and the initiative to forge ahead and to tackle the most pressing community issues by …

Caring… Convening… Creating…

Charles M. Barber, President & CEO

The Luzerne Foundation
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