



BERKS COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

*Rising to the
challenge during
difficult times*



THE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND THE YOUTH VOLUNTEER CORPS OF READING NOT ONLY AWARDED A \$4,100 GRANT TO ROCK HOLLOW WOODS ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER, THEY ALSO VOLUNTEERED TO BUILD A RAISED WALKWAY THROUGH THE WETLANDS. (SEE STORY ON PAGE 14)



The Community Foundation has awarded \$64 million in grants and scholarships since its inception in 1994.

Berks County Community Foundation is a tax-exempt public charity with a mission to promote philanthropy and improve the quality of life for the residents of Berks County. The Community Foundation invests and administers charitable funds established by people who want to help the region meet the unique challenges it faces. A volunteer board identifies those challenges and oversees the foundation.

Berks County Community Foundation administers more than 360 charitable funds for the benefit of our community. The residents of our community established these funds to support causes about which they care. At the end of June 2020, the Community Foundation had assets of \$86,733,408 and had awarded \$64,660,019 in grants and scholarships since its founding in 1994.

This report reflects grants and activities in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. Some of the activities mentioned here took place after that date, but funding for them was approved before June 30.

For regular updates on funding and educational opportunities, and to get advance notice of our activities, go to bccf.org and sign up for our monthly e-newsletter.

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Berks County Community Foundation develops, manages and distributes funds for charitable purposes in the community. The official registration and financial information of Berks County Community Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1.800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Message

FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



Berks County Community Foundation awarded about \$5.5 million in grants and scholarships to almost 1,000 organizations and individuals during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2020. In the last half of that fiscal year, much of that money aided Berks County nonprofits and residents as they struggled to deal with the ramifications of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Here are just some of the things that the Community Foundation team accomplished since the pandemic began:

- Awarded \$600,000 in scholarships.
- Released \$307,800 in emergency grants to nonprofits.
- Awarded \$72,577 to sustainable energy projects.
- Awarded \$60,000 to empower women and girls through our Power of the Purse in Berks County Fund.
- Helped feed and clothe those in need with \$36,925 in grants from our First United Church of Christ Mission Fund.
- Supported local Personal Protective Equipment efforts that provided facemasks to first responders and thousands of individuals in our community.
- Awarded \$26,200 to Opportunity House to create a food pantry.
- Supported contact tracing efforts that were spearheaded by Co-County Wellness Services.
- Funded the Berks' Best scholarship program.
- Distributed feminine hygiene products through our VOiCEup Berks fund, which operates the Youth Volunteer Corps of Reading.
- Awarded a \$6,395 grant for the county library system to create a mobile job lab for the unemployed.
- Funded the Penn Street Market.

We awarded \$600,000 in scholarships over the past year.

- Brought the work of local poets to the public online and to the streets through Barrio Alegria's "Pen Street – City of Poems" initiative.
- Funded the local Census 2020 committee, on which two Community Foundation team members served.
- Had Monica Reyes, Community Foundation Health and Human Services Program Officer, serve on the county COVID-19 Healthcare Advisory Panel.
- Awarded \$15,000 to environmental programs through our Youth and Philanthropy Fund.
- Supported local parks and playgrounds with grants of \$3,250 from our Gilmore | Henne Community Fund.

And that's just to name a few things!

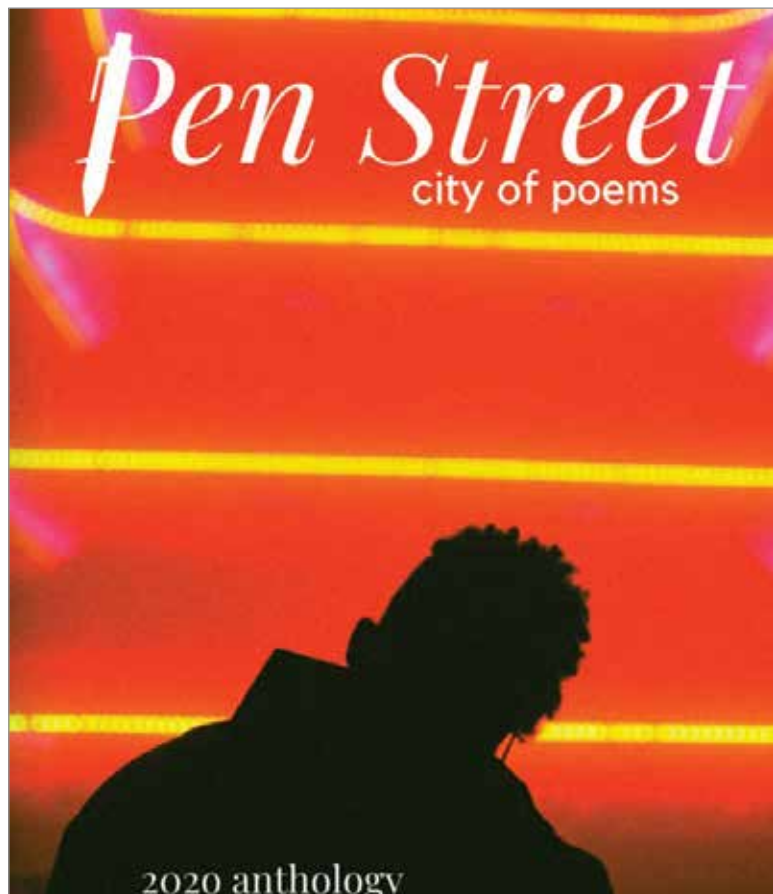
Despite a challenging year, our team has accomplished some truly remarkable goals, which would not have been possible without the generosity of our donors.

We engage in this work to make our home a better place for all of us today and for generations to come. Read on for more details about some of these accomplishments and for some other ways that the Community Foundation is enhancing Berks County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Al Weber". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light grey rectangular background.

Al Weber, Chair of the Board



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A GRANT FROM THE FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST MISSION FUND PROVIDED FOOD TO THOSE IN NEED; THE VOICEUP BERKS FUND DISTRIBUTED FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS; LOCAL POETS' WORK WAS DISPLAYED ONLINE AND ON THE STREETS THROUGH BARRIO ALEGRIA; THE GILMORE | HENNE COMMUNITY FUND SUPPORTED LOCAL PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS.

PRESIDENT'S *Message*



Dear Friends,

This annual message usually contains some of my personal favorite highlights from the past fiscal year at the Community Foundation. But, thanks to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the last half of that fiscal year felt more like a decade that is almost impossible to sum up.

So I want to share two messages with you that are equally important at this time.

1) The resources of our community are strained as we continue to battle the effects of a global pandemic. But, as always, the residents of Berks County are finding ways to help, from distributing food to checking on neighbors.

Since this crisis began, our staff has been receiving the same question, again and again: "Where is the most need in our community?"

We've been in touch with hundreds of charitable organizations to assess local conditions.

Some of our social service agencies, particularly those that address hunger, are struggling to meet a huge demand

for food and volunteers.

Our arts and cultural organizations have canceled performances, exhibits, and other activities that have cost them revenue, even as they have continued to offer services as best they can.

So how can you help?

Our best guidance is to make as generous a contribution as you comfortably can to the organizations that matter most to you and your loved ones.

All of the organizations we've contacted are still able to receive and process checks and online donations.

So, give. Please.

This simple but important act is the most important thing any of us can do to support charities that contribute so much to our community and to be sure they will still be there in the months and years to come.

2) This pandemic will end, and when it does, Berks County's upward trajectory will continue.

Recent Census numbers showed that average household income in Berks

County increased 20% between 2015 and 2019, from \$56,122 to \$67,708.

In Reading, the numbers showed a shocking level of improvement during that period. Average household income increased 50%, from \$26,531 to \$39,670.

At the same time, the percentage of people in Reading who are living in poverty fell from 38.8 percent to 24.7 percent.

Most major economic issues related to a pandemic are transitory in nature, so there's no reason to believe these trends won't continue for our community.

Looking past the pandemic, the future of our region looks very bright indeed.

One of the greatest sources of economic vitality for regions like ours is "eds and meds" (higher education and medical care) and we're scoring big in that area.

Through a partnership between Drexel University and Tower Health, work continues on a new medical college set to open in 2021 in West



ALVERNIA UNIVERSITY IS MOVING AHEAD WITH ITS PLANS FOR COLLEGETOWNE, A NEW CAMPUS ON PENN STREET.

A NEW MEDICAL COLLEGE
IS SET TO OPEN IN 2021 IN
WEST READING.

Reading. Alvernia University is moving forward with its plans for CollegeTowne, a new campus on Penn Street housing an engineering program and the university's existing business school. While it's impossible to overstate the impact that these two developments will have on our community, we can note that the activity by Alvernia has already caused other private developers to acquire several downtown buildings with plans to renovate them for additional housing, retail and restaurants.

As amazing as this growth will be, there's even bigger news brewing with the possibility (a real possibility for once) of bringing back rail service from Reading to Philadelphia.

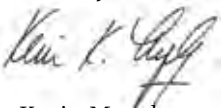
The urban core of Berks County (Reading and West Reading) has struggled for decades from a flight to suburbia and government disinvestment in urban areas. It's been a battle to reverse that trend. The battle's not over, but the tide is shifting.

West Reading is a vibrant part of Berks County's urban core.

I believe that the added presence of a couple of hundred college students and med students would transform the economics of our region. Throw in passenger rail service and we are going to see an explosive transformation and economic growth.

Our community – and the world – may be struggling right now with a global pandemic. But when that's over, there won't be much to hold us back.

Sincerely,



Kevin Murphy,
Community Foundation President



*After decades of flight to suburbia
and government disinvestment in
urban areas, the tide is shifting.*

Starting a fund is easy.

Since 1994, Berks County Community Foundation has been helping individuals, families, organizations and businesses achieve their charitable goals by setting up funds and scholarships to benefit others. If you decide to join them and start your own named charitable fund at the Community Foundation, you will be in good hands.

A community foundation is a nonprofit corporation that serves as a civic leader for a region by developing, managing, and distributing funds to meet existing and emerging community needs. Today, there are more than 900 community foundations across the United States.

Since Berks County Community Foundation was founded in 1994, we have grown to manage hundreds of charitable funds. Each year, those funds distribute grants and scholarships to support nonprofit organizations, various causes, and local students.

Here's an example from this past year about how a donor used their own charitable fund at the Community Foundation to make an impact.

A grant from The Boomerang Fund at Berks County Community Foundation allowed Rock Hollow Woods Environmental Learning Center in Robeson Township to more than double in size this past year. The grant purchased 45 acres, bringing the nonprofit center's total acreage to 77.

This donor was able to make a tremendous gift while remaining anonymous.

Many funds are named after their donors or to honor a loved one.

For instance, the Albany Township Tomorrow Fund was created in honor of Pauline Levan Hamm and Gloria Longenberger Hamm and their lifelong efforts to support and improve the Albany Township community.

When Walter Hamm started the fund, he explained why he used the Community Foundation: "When I decided to provide charity to Albany Township, I knew I did not want to do it by myself. Leave it to the professionals."

In its first year of awarding grants, the Albany Township Tomorrow Fund distributed \$8,200 for programs or projects that will benefit the entire Albany Township community.

Read on to learn how to start your own charitable fund.

WHY WORK WITH A COMMUNITY FOUNDATION?

- Compared to the complications of starting a private foundation, we offer convenience and efficiency.
- We have low management costs for our funds. We manage each fund separately, handle all of the administrative paperwork, and we offer a large tax break, too.
- We constantly monitor the needs of the community and the impact of your fund.
- We are specialists in philanthropy. We care about you, not a particular cause or charity, and we encourage you to give to causes about which you care.
- Endowment funds that we manage will live forever, and so will the Community Foundation. We won't ever leave the area or go out of business, so we will always be here making the community a better place to live.



THE BOOMERANG FUND AND THE ALBANY TOWNSHIP TOMORROW FUND WERE FEATURED IN THE READING EAGLE.



A GRANT FROM THE BOOMERANG FUND ALLOWED ROCK HOLLOW WOODS ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER IN ROBESON TOWNSHIP TO MORE THAN DOUBLE IN SIZE THIS PAST YEAR.

STEP ONE: DETERMINE WHAT YOU'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT SUPPORTING.

Some people know right away, while others may want to decide over time. In either case, we are here to help you structure a fund of your own and work with your attorney, accountant, financial advisor or trust officer to make sure it works with your estate plan or current financial goals.

STEP TWO: SIGN A FUND AGREEMENT.

Once you decide what you would like to support, you will sign a fund agreement, which is a legally binding document that says you are donating money to the Community Foundation to be used for charity and that the Community Foundation will distribute that money the way you intended both now and in the future.

STEP THREE: MAKE AN INITIAL DONATION.

Once you and the Community Foundation sign the fund agreement, you have two choices. First, you can seed the fund with an initial tax-deductible contribution of at least \$50,000 and begin making grants right away.

The second option is to wait to have the fund start until after you pass away, which can reduce the tax burden on your estate. In that case, you must name the fund as a beneficiary in your will, in your life-insurance plan, or other means within your estate. Then, when you die, the fund will begin making grants to the cause or causes you care about in your name.

Most of the funds at the Community Foundation are endowed funds, which means that each year 4.5% of the fund's fair market value will be distributed in the manner you specified in your fund agreement. The fair market value is based on the amount you donate plus any investment gains or losses.

GET STARTED.

Please give us a call to sit down and talk about your charitable goals and ideas. There is no obligation, and sometimes we may even recommend that you achieve your charitable goal in a different way. You can reach us at 610-685-2223 or email us at info@bccf.org.

Our work in the community



THIS WAS THE 20TH YEAR OF THE READING EAGLE'S BERKS' BEST SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT, WHICH IS SPONSORED BY BERKS COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION. THIS PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS THE TEENAGERS IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO STUDY, WORK AND SHARE THEIR TALENTS WITHOUT MEDIA ATTENTION. ASHLEY PEREZ ROA OF READING HIGH SCHOOL WAS ONE OF 11 WINNERS. SHE WON IN THE BUSINESS CATEGORY.

Awarding scholarships

Berks County Community Foundation awarded about \$600,000 in scholarships in 2020. That brings the total amount of scholarships awarded since the Community Foundation's inception in 1994 to more than \$10 million.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we had to cancel our annual Scholarship Luncheon to celebrate with this year's 260 scholarship recipients.

Applications for most scholarships are accepted January 15 to March 15. More information can be found at bccf.org.

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

The Met-Ed Sustainable Energy Fund of Berks County Community Foundation awarded three grants totaling \$72,577 to support the development and use of clean energy technologies and energy efficiency in the Pennsylvania service territory of the Met-Ed energy company.

Grant recipients included Fleetwood Area Public Library (renovations underway there are pictured), Greater Easton Development Partnership, and Forks Township, Northampton County.



The Metropolitan Edison Company/Pennsylvania Electric Company
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUND

Bringing culture to Penn Street

Ten organizations received \$45,300 in grants to bring arts programs to downtown Reading as part of the Community Foundation's now-completed five-year Penn Street Arts Grant program.

Productions, which mostly took place in the last half of 2019, included an interactive walking theater production and an outdoor musical with full cast and orchestra.

One of the projects was affected by the pandemic. The original design for "Pen Street: City of Poems" was for the works of original poetry by local artists to be presented on Penn Street.

But when that was scheduled to begin, the pandemic erupted, so grant recipient Barrio Alegria pivoted and produced an anthology of almost 100 verses about Reading -- available to download for free at barrioalegria.com -- and created a new online community of artists and audience members.

Journalist and poet Anthony Orozco then installed recreations of the written works in storefronts on or near Penn Street, including at the Community Foundation.

A grant from the Hawley and Myrtle Quier Fund supported the

Reading Fire + Ice Fest in January 2020. The premier regional winter festival returned to downtown Reading for its sixth year. Produced and organized by the Reading Downtown Improvement District with assistance from the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance, the Community Foundation has funded the festival each year.



Empowering women and girls

The Power of the Purse in Berks County Fund awarded \$60,000 in grants to eight organizations. That is the largest annual amount that the philanthropic women's group has distributed since it was formed in 2012.

This year's grants went to programs that help other local women and girls increase their leadership skills, sense of empowerment, educational attainment, and ability to find employment.

"Women who wanted to improve the lives of other local women and children started the Power of the Purse in Berks County," said Chiara Renninger, the group's founder. "Our donations are combined and targeted toward specific programs so that we have a greater local impact than we would if we each gave individually without a coordinated effort."

Since the group began, it has awarded \$285,903 in grants to local organizations.

The fund functions as a women's giving circle, where donations are pooled to create a bigger impact than each member would make alone. Each year, group members review grant applications, visit nonprofits and vote to determine which programs will receive grants. Members commit a minimum of \$1,000 per year if they are 35 and over, and a minimum of \$500 per year if they are under 35.

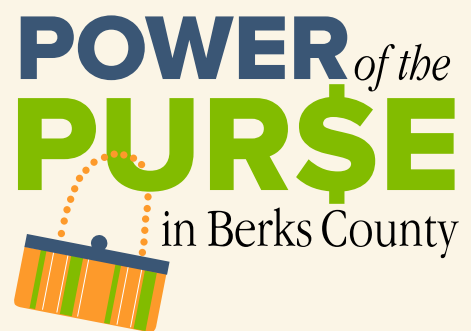
To learn more, visit bccf.org/pop/.

GIRLS ON THE RUN OF BERKS COUNTY (GOTR) RECEIVED \$4,619.50 THIS PAST YEAR FROM THE POWER OF THE PURSE IN BERKS COUNTY FUND TO PROVIDE "POWER UP" KITS TO LOCAL GIRLS DURING THE PANDEMIC. POWER UP IS A NEW AT-HOME PROGRAM BY GIRLS ON THE RUN THAT USES CREATIVITY AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY TO TEACH VALUABLE SKILLS TO GIRLS, SUCH AS HOW TO STAND UP FOR THEMSELVES AND OTHERS, RECOGNIZE THE LEADER WITHIN, BETTER UNDERSTAND AND DEAL WITH EMOTIONS WHEN TIMES ARE DIFFICULT, AND LEARN TO ENJOY AND BE PRESENT IN DAILY LIFE — ALL OF WHICH WERE INCREDIBLY RELEVANT DURING THE PANDEMIC. THE FUNDING ALSO SUPPORTED GOTR'S FALL SEASON IN BERKS.

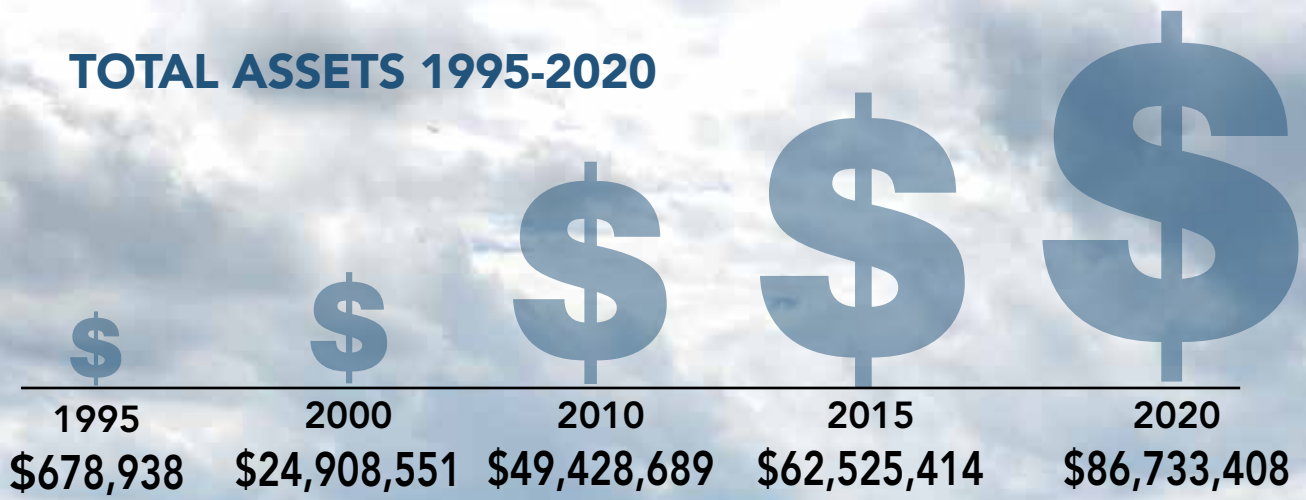




THE READING RECREATION COMMISSION RECEIVED \$10,000 THIS PAST YEAR FROM THE POWER OF THE PURSE IN BERKS COUNTY FUND FOR ITS GIRLS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM, WHICH EMPOWERS YOUNG WOMEN IN READING. THE PROGRAM ADDRESSES PEER PRESSURE, BULLYING, SELF-WORTH AND SELF-CONFIDENCE. GIRLS PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS SUCH AS FOOD AND CLOTHING DRIVES. THE PROGRAM INCLUDES SPEAKERS, FEMALE MENTORS AND FIELD TRIPS.



TOTAL ASSETS 1995-2020



CUMULATIVE GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SINCE INCEPTION



ENGAGING YOUTH

In the fall of 2019, the Youth Advisory Board of the Youth Volunteer Corps of Reading (YVC) and the Youth Advisory Committee of Berks County Community Foundation merged to become YAB: the Youth Advisory Board, a program of the Community Foundation and the Youth Volunteer Corps.

The new program combines the YVC's emphasis on volunteering with the Community Foundation's focus on philanthropy.

Meeting regularly throughout the school year, the 35 YAB members worked on service projects that addressed issues such as environmental sustainability, education, homelessness, and substance abuse. After choosing the environment as the key issue on which to focus their efforts, YAB developed a campaign to educate their peers about the environmental impact of textile waste and to redirect hundreds of pounds of textiles away from landfills. The YAB members also reviewed grant applications from nonprofits and awarded \$15,000 from the Community Foundation's Youth and Philanthropy Fund to organizations with programs that protect or restore the environment in Berks.

The programs that received funding:

- Berks Nature was given \$5,900 to encourage the community to plant 100 mature

trees to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

- The Delaware Riverkeeper Network was awarded \$5,000 to collect water-quality data for streams in Berks, secure stronger protections for streams and improve management for local streams.

- Rock Hollow Woods Environmental Learning Center was given \$4,100 to renovate a barn to provide a year-round indoor facility for environmental programs.

Since 1998, the Youth and Philanthropy Fund has distributed 110 grants totaling \$343,258.

YVC is run by VOiCEup Berks, which operates as a fund of the Community Foundation.

One of VOiCEup's primary purposes is to connect student volunteers with meaningful projects that teach them something about their world.

Despite considerable challenges this year, YVC experienced a 53% growth in the number of student volunteers, engaging 592 students from 18 school districts in 5,900 hours of service.

One ongoing YVC project -- "Girls supporting girls. Period." -- was chosen out of thousands of projects across the United States as "Project of the Year" by YVC National Headquarters.



The project seeks to address a lack of access to feminine hygiene products, which has been identified as a significant problem among Berks County women and girls in low-income households and shelters.

Following school shutdowns due to the pandemic, YVC students worked on ways to thank community heroes, such as postal workers and medical professionals. They organized efforts to send letters and cards to elderly residents who had limited visitors. And they led a summer-long project discussing racial injustice and discrimination.

Another summer project had YVC students build a raised walkway through designated wetlands in the Schuylkill River watershed at Rock Hollow Woods in Robeson Township.



Cystic Fibrosis Fund
OF BERKS COUNTY

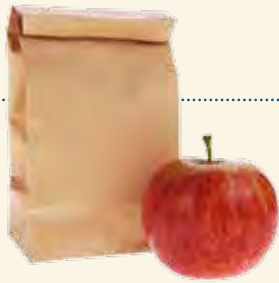
Battling Cystic Fibrosis

When 8-year-old Javien Ortega was hospitalized over the winter holidays in 2019, he raised money for the homeless in his hometown of Reading, Pa. In February 2020, Berks County returned the favor when the Cystic Fibrosis Fund of Berks County Community Foundation presented Javien and his 24-year-old sister Monique Ortega — both cystic fibrosis patients — with two AffloVests for their treatment. The \$34,000 gift of the vests that was made at the annual Valentine’s Gala for Cystic Fibrosis will greatly improve their quality of life. The custom-fit portable vests free patients from other machinery.



BRIAN F. BOLAND, CO-CHAIR OF THE CYSTIC FIBROSIS FUND OF BERKS COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, CONGRATULATES JAVIEN ORTEGA, LEFT, AND HIS SISTER, MONIQUE ORTEGA, RIGHT, ON THEIR NEW AFFLOVESTS TO AID IN THEIR TREATMENT FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS.

The AffloVests will greatly improve their quality of life.



OLIVET BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF READING AND BERKS COUNTY RECEIVED \$5,000 FROM THE FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST MISSION FUND TO HELP FEED THOSE WHO WERE IN NEED DURING THE PANDEMIC.



Helping those in need

The mission of the former First United Church of Christ in Reading continued this past year. A charitable fund that the church established before closing awarded 12 grants totaling \$36,925.

Beneficiaries of the First United Church of Christ Mission Fund were organizations that feed and clothe those in need, provide activities for children and seniors, and make minor home improvements for residents.

In 2017, after 264 years of serving the community, First United Church of Christ closed. The church transferred its endowment to the Community Foundation to continue the church's mission.

Since the fund was established, it has awarded more than \$100,000 in grants to local organizations.

TRAINING FOR TRAUMA

Many employees of nonprofit organizations confront tragedy and trauma every day. They may work with abused children or animals. They may work around domestic violence. Or they may counsel crime victims.

The jobs can be quite stressful. This can lead to burnout and/or produce phenomena known as "vicarious trauma."

Berks County Community Foundation teamed up with the Berks County Office of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities to help organizations better support these employees.

A free program on "trauma training" was offered to local nonprofits in January 2020 at the McGlinn Conference Center.



Bettering Boyertown

The Boyertown Area Charitable Program of Berks County Community Foundation awarded \$64,741 in grants to six projects.

One grant of \$20,000 went to the proposed General Carl Spaatz Regional Army Air Corps Museum to purchase video monitors, virtual reality equipment and software, and other technology to create an interactive museum to honor Spaatz. Born in 1891 in Boyertown, Spaatz played a critical role in World War II and was the first commandant of the U.S. Air Force.

Other grant recipients were Boyertown Lions Community Ambulance Service Inc., Boyertown Area Multi-Service, the Wellness Council of Boyertown for its Stress Less for Students yoga program (pictured) in the Boyertown Area School District, Abilities in Motion, and Gilbertsville Fire and Rescue Company.



Measuring progress

Berks Vital Signs provides information about our community that can be used to improve the local quality of life and to better understand when things are going well.

At BerksVitalSigns.com, you can explore data sets, which include a variety of ways to compare areas within the county, with surrounding counties, and with the state and nation.

The site also serves as a repository for community research, making important reports and documents available in one location.

BERKS VITAL SIGNS



SENIORS AT THE MIFFLIN LOCATION OF BERKS ENCORE WERE GIVEN 200 ACTIVITY BAGS FROM CLAY ON MAIN THROUGH A GRANT FROM THE RUSSELL L. HILLER CHARITABLE TRUST OF BERKS COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION. "THIS HELPED ME DURING THE PANDEMIC," SAID GLORIA SCULL, A PARTICIPANT AT THE SENIOR CENTER. "IT HELPED MY STRESS LEVELS, AND GAVE ME SOMETHING TO DO. IT WAS LIKE GETTING A PRESENT EVERY WEEK. IT WAS TRULY SIGNIFICANT."

Impacting the Governor Mifflin area

The Russell L. Hiller Charitable Trust of Berks County Community Foundation annually awards about \$80,000 in grants and scholarships in the Governor Mifflin School District area.

A bequest by U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Russell L. Hiller established the Russell L. Hiller Charitable Trust in 2003 when the 60-year resident of Shillington passed away at the age of 97. He spent 26 years as a federal bankruptcy judge in Reading.

Throughout his years in Shillington, Hiller often walked to the borough park and relaxed on a bench overlooking Governor Mifflin schools. The pursuit of education was his lifelong passion.



USING A GRANT FROM THE RUSSELL L. HILLER CHARITABLE TRUST OF BERKS COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, THE S.P.A.R.K.S. FOUNDATION ENTERTAINS AND EDUCATES STUDENTS AT CUMRU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE GOVERNOR MIFFLIN SCHOOL DISTRICT IN FEBRUARY 2020.



THROUGH A \$10,000 GRANT FROM THE RUSSELL L. HILLER CHARITABLE TRUST OF BERKS COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, THE MIFFLIN COMMUNITY LIBRARY ACQUIRED 817 NEW BOOKS AND E-BOOKS, INCLUDING THESE CHILDREN'S BOOKS.

Students and seniors have benefitted from the Russell L. Hiller Charitable Trust.

Having "A Bright Idea!"

Almost 200 local nonprofit leaders attended the sold out "A Bright Idea!" conference at the DoubleTree by Hilton Reading on October 24, 2019. This engaging day of professional development was presented by the Community Foundation in partnership with the Association of Fundraising Professionals Berks Regional Chapter.

At that event, the Community Foundation announced its intent to offer a new Nonprofit Management Certificate to Berks County's nonprofit executive directors and high-potential staff members. The 11-month professional development opportunity was scheduled to run throughout 2020, but managed to hold only its kickoff session for its 24 participants before the global COVID-19 pandemic temporarily derailed the course.

The course resumed in a virtual manner in September 2020. The classes are led by faculty members from The Nonprofit Center at LaSalle University.



Improving health

The Home Health Care Foundation became a supporting organization of Berks County Community Foundation in 2020.

"Adding the Home Health Care Foundation to our portfolio of health-related funds greatly increases our capacity to improve lives in the Berks County region," said Kevin K. Murphy, Community Foundation president. "We truly appreciate the decision by the board of the Home Health Care Foundation to affiliate with us."

In the summer of 2020, the Home Health Care Foundation Fund of Berks County Community Foundation began accepting applications for an initial round of grants totaling \$141,300.

The Home Health Care Foundation Fund provides grants for organizations and programs for one or more of the following purposes in Berks County and contiguous counties (Chester, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Montgomery, and Schuylkill):

- Programs and educational activities that promote the general health and wellness of residents.
- Organizations and programs that help residents recover from illness or disability at home.
- Organizations that provide health-related charity care to residents.
- Programs and activities that support preventative healthcare for residents and overall community health.

On January 1, 2019, Tower Health assumed the operations of Home Health Care Management, Berks Visiting Nurse Association, the Visiting Nurse Association of Pottstown and Vicinity, and Advantage Home Care.

For years, each of these organizations provided compassionate and much-needed care to the communities they served. In that spirit, the Home Health Care Foundation was created as part of the merger to support charity care and other programs for the good of the community.

Providing protection during a pandemic



The Berks PPE Resource Network is a coalition of local institutions and Berks County residents with 3-D printers working together to create and distribute Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) during the pandemic. Thousands of face shields were distributed during this effort, which was spearheaded by the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance and Albright College's Science Research Institute. Berks County Community Foundation set up a fund to support the network.



Thousands of face shields were distributed to local institutions.

DOOR OPENER SOCIETY

Berks County Community Foundation established the Door Opener Society to honor attorneys, accountants, trust officers, and estate and financial planners who have helped clients achieve their charitable objectives through the Community Foundation. These advisors have worked effectively with the Community Foundation to optimize their clients' gifts to our community. The following are members of the Door Opener Society:

James L. Adams, CFP, ChFC, CLU
 Dennis H. Anspach, CFP
 Lisa E. Ashcroft, CTFA
 Paula K. Barrett, CPA
 Thomas A. Beaver, CPA
 Paul J. Bentz
 William R. Blumer, Esq.
 Brian F. Boland, Esq.
 Devin A. Born
 Daniel B. Boyer III
 Brian J. Bubnis
 William C. Bullitt, Esq.
 Michael P. Butterworth, ChFC, CLU
 Mark S. Caltagirone, CPA
 Linda K. Camella-Rich
 Richard S. Caputo, Esq.
 Robert M. Caster, CPA
 Lisa M. Ciotti, Esq.
 Paul D. Cohn, CIMA
 Bert Cramer, Esq.
 Susan N. Denaro, Esq.
 Walter M. Diener, Esq.
 Diana C. Dugan, EA
 Phillip J. Edwards, Esq.
 Nathaniel P. Ehrlich, Esq.
 Eric J. Fabrizio, Esq.
 J. Kittridge Fegley, Esq.
 Socrates J. Georgeadis, Esq.
 Bernard R. Gerber, Esq.
 Richard L. Graver
 Rochelle Grey, CFP
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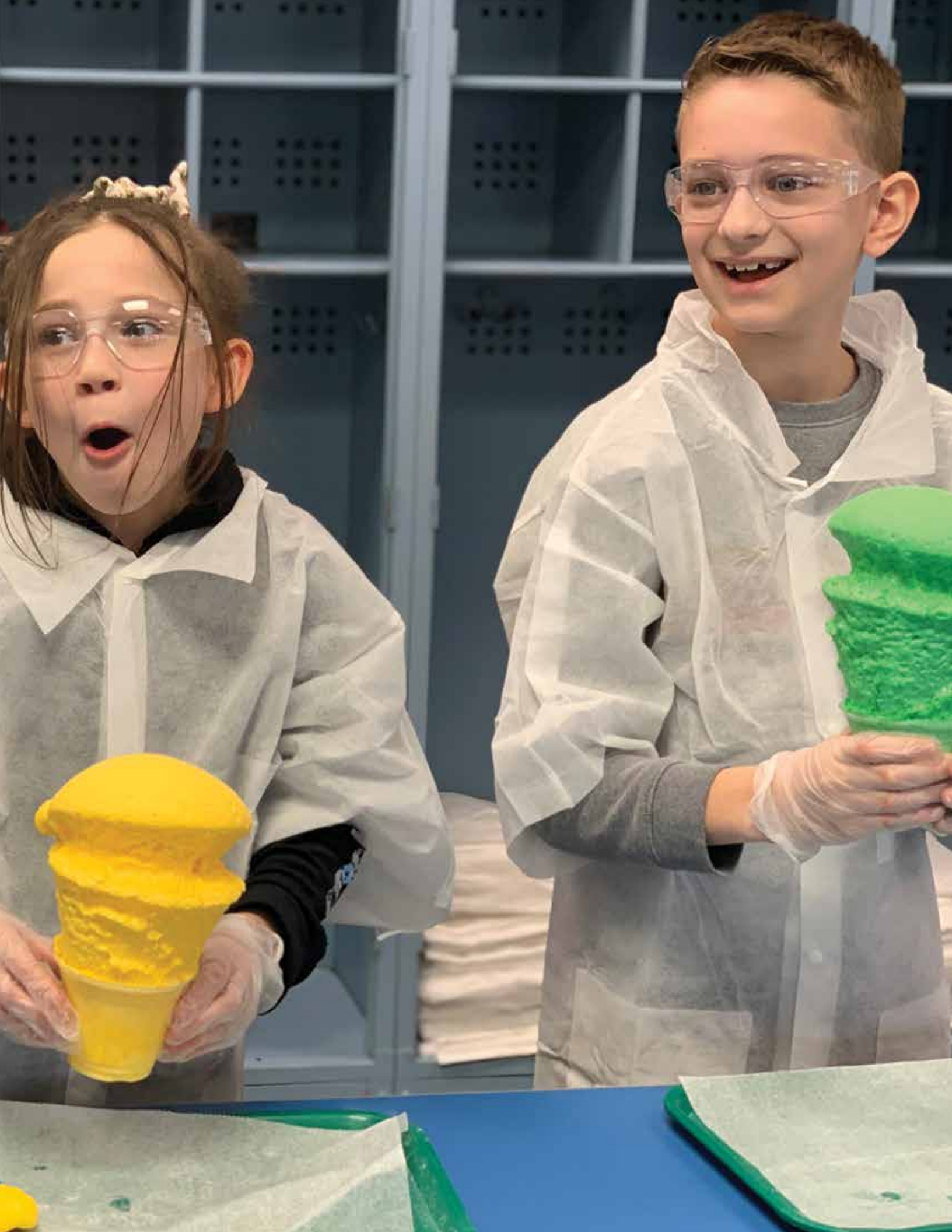


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