

COMMUNITY GIVING FOUNDATION



A STORYBOOK OF  
COMMUNITY GIVING  
2021

 **WHAT'S YOUR  
COMMUNITY GIVING STORY?**



## Community Giving FOUNDATION™

Personalization and relationships are two key parts of the Community Giving Foundation story. We offer the opportunity for donors to tell their own giving story, focusing on the values and organizations they are passionate about in the Central Susquehanna region. The Foundation manages over 300 charitable funds—some regional and others focused on communities represented by our affiliates. Through the stories and charitable interests of these donors, each fund was established with a specific purpose in mind.

Telling community giving stories remains an integral part of our work. The following pages reflect a legacy of local philanthropy from our donors, nonprofits, and community partners. Our impact rests in the ability to speak with unity and work together as we continue to tell more stories of community giving.



After many experiences with clients and caregivers through their practice as certified elder law attorneys, the staff of Kreisher Marshall & Associates became Dementia Champions through Dementia Friends Pennsylvania and spearheaded the **Dementia Friendly Susquehanna Valley** initiative alongside a group of community leaders. The initiative aims to bring awareness to the region about dementia through education, advocacy, and volunteer engagement in order to better support those living with dementia and their caregivers. A community impact fund was established at Community Giving Foundation in 2021 to help support projects and activities that promote the initiative's mission.

*"Education and awareness are the foundation to making our region more dementia friendly. It's our hope that by establishing this fund for DFSV, we will be able to provide dementia awareness and specialized programs to youth, first responders, financial institutions, and service industries."*

*Marissa Marshall, Esq.*

 **BRINGING DEMENTIA AWARENESS TO THE VALLEY**

# OFFERING AFFORDABLE SUMMER CAMP



Northern Columbia Community & Cultural Center (N4Cs), located in Benton, is a true community center—it was established as a place for everyone to congregate through programs and events for all ages. Since starting its summer kids camp program in 2008, N4Cs has continued to offer an affordable and reliable summer childcare option for local families. A grant through Community Giving Foundation: Berwick supported 2021 youth programs like the summer kids camp, which included weekly field trips, educational enrichment activities, physical activities, social involvement, and more. By expanding their summer camp to include all ten weeks off school over the summer, local families continue to reap the benefits.

*"My daughter has attended summer camp at N4Cs every year since she's been old enough. It's the best thing about her summer. She looks forward to it every day, and I never have to worry about whether she is being taken care of or staying out of trouble. [The program] is such an asset to this community!"*

*Summer Camp Parent*



Lisa Canouse was a dedicated wife and mother who impacted the lives of many children in the Berwick Area School District through her passion and big heart. Following Lisa's heart to give to and care for local children, her family established the **Lisa's Kids Designated Fund** at the Community Giving Foundation: Berwick in her memory. The Fund will support Berwick life skills students (K-12) who demonstrate financial need for necessities that help them thrive as individuals.

*"Lisa impacted many students throughout her employment at the school district, and her positive demeanor and unending love for her students is deeply cherished. She had the ability to see each student's strengths and touched so many lives. Her memory and heart will live on through these grants."*

*Pamela Hegland, Director of Special Education and Student Services,  
Berwick Area School District*

**HONORING A HEART  
FOR BERWICK KIDS**

# PROMOTING COLLECTIVE PHILANTHROPY



Martz's businesses and employees have come together for many years to support charitable efforts through collective giving. After raising money to support a coworker battling cancer, employees worked together to grow the fund and support different causes and needs related to the health care field in the Sunbury community. Realizing there was an opportunity to meet even greater needs, the decision was made to establish the **Martz's Game Farm Fund** with the Community Giving Foundation: Sunbury. The unrestricted fund will promote local community giving in perpetuity.

*"By giving back, we are able to let people within our community know that we care about them and their future. We all hope to see the community that we grew up in thrive and improve the lives of future generations."*

*Martz's Employee*



A program of volunteer advocates, Susquehanna Valley CASA's mission is central to fulfilling society's most fundamental obligation to the community—ensuring a qualified, compassionate adult will fight for and protect a child's right to be safe and treated with dignity and respect. Established in our region in 2009, CASA continues to provide fact-based reports providing judges with a greater understanding of family circumstances as they advocate for children entering the system. A grant through the Community Giving Foundation: Sunbury will cover 3-months of CASA costs in the Sunbury service area. With increased reports of child abuse and neglect during extended time at home through the COVID pandemic, the services that CASA provides are needed now more than ever.

*"CASA volunteers target children's physical and mental health by providing advocacy on a child's behalf to help them lead lives in which they can thrive. Foster care is meant to be temporary, not a permanent way of life. A CASA volunteer can literally change the trajectory of a child's life in so many ways—continuing to increase our staff hours and volunteer corps ensures that even more children entering the system experience advocacy for their futures."*

*Tammy Sempko, Executive Director*

# ENGAGING KIDS THROUGH SUMMER READING



Summer reading programs are critical for children to maintain their reading progress and avoid the “summer slide” of lost reading skills—a trend especially concerning for lower income families who don’t have access to a variety of reading materials. The Orangeville Public Library aims to fill the gap for area families through their free summer reading program. Children are engaged through exciting stories, fun activities, and prizes for completing reading logs over the course of a six-week in-person program. In response to COVID restrictions, a take-home kit option that included books and activities was also available to families this year. Both options were made possible through a grant from Community Giving Foundation: Bloomsburg.

*“We are thrilled to be able to encourage a love of reading and lifelong learning in children during the summer months through our library programs. We believe reading materials and opportunities to engage in learning together should be accessible to all—through grants and community support, we are able to continue offering these opportunities to our community for free. Thank you for your partnership.”*

*Pam Simpson, Librarian*





With more than 10,000 Greek alumni of Bloomsburg University living across the country, the Bloomsburg Greek Alumni Association was formed to maintain a strong connection between alumni, support the recruitment and retention of new members, and advance professional development and career pathways for all members. The group partnered with the Community Giving Foundation: Bloomsburg to create the **Bloomsburg Greek Alumni Scholarship Fund**, leaving a positive impact on student life, the Greek system, and the greater community of Bloomsburg. The first scholarship from this Fund was awarded at BU Homecoming this year.

*"This fund was created to bolster the Greek community by offsetting the significant costs of a college education. Our Greek alumni have a strong passion for the culture of Greek life and want the community to realize its benefits, helping current students experience the same kind of life-long bonds we experienced. The Foundation is the perfect vehicle to help us efficiently maintain and grow our scholarship fund."*

*David Decoteau, Greek Alumni and Local Businessman*

# EMPOWERING WOMEN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



The Women's Giving Circle of the Community Giving Foundation empowers, connects, and inspires women and girls by supporting initiatives and resources that better their lives. Established in 2017, this dynamic group of women continues to engage in new relationships, provide valuable grants to local organizations, and share their passions with the community. This year, the group awarded \$20,000 in grants during its fourth annual competitive grant round.

*"In just three years, the Women's Giving Circle has provided grants to nonprofit agencies supporting women in such extreme and various ways, mentored and been mentored, showcased women in the region with our lunch panels, and provided a sense of calm during the pandemic by reaching out to our members with mindfulness topics. Being part of this wonderful group means I am part of something bigger in our region."*

*Holly Morrison, Foundation President/CEO and Women's Giving Circle Founding Member*



High school students from 11 school districts focused on the importance of philanthropy during trying times through the 2020-2021 **Youth in Philanthropy** program. Engaging students through education and team building activities, the program considered the question, “What would happen if philanthropy was put on hold?” as nonprofit organizations adapted to life during the pandemic. Students met virtually to learn about the meaning of community giving and the role of the community foundation in our area. For their community service project, students created signs to display in the community thanking first responders. A year-end celebration was held virtually for students to connect with program funders and the organizations selected as grant recipients.

*“Youth in Philanthropy has opened my eyes to a bigger world. People need help in many ways, and this program has given me the opportunity to offer my time and talents to help them. It feels great to give back to the community—I am glad I can call myself a philanthropist.”*

*Youth in Philanthropy Student*

# REMEMBERING FAMILY ROOTS IN SELINSGROVE



Despite spending the majority of their lives in Western New York, Patricia and Richard Garman never forgot the community they came from. The former Snyder County couple made the thoughtful decision to leave an estate gift to benefit youth programs in the Selinsgrove, Richfield, Freeburg, and Mt. Pleasant Mills communities. Their experiences, successful careers, and giving nature will be remembered in perpetuity through this legacy in our region. Over the past several years, the **Patricia H. and Richard E. Garman Fund** has supported programs like Camp Cadet, Summer SEALS Day Camp, Snyder County Libraries, DJ Choices, and Youth in Philanthropy.

*"As an advisor of the Youth in Philanthropy program in Selinsgrove, I have observed a change in the high school students' attitudes towards nonprofits and volunteer-based opportunities. Students are more willing to participate and promote these programs because they feel a connection. I am proud of their decisions and increased involvement in the community, made possible by the donors to the Youth in Philanthropy program."*

*Tracy Hepner, Selinsgrove Area High School Teacher*



Established in 1983, Birthright of Sunbury serves mothers and families struggling to raise their infants within poverty-level households. Many of the mothers served do not have infant toiletries ready and available upon arriving home from the hospital. Through a Community Giving Foundation: Selinsgrove grant, Birthright was able to purchase and assemble infant toiletry bags with towels, bodywash, shampoo, lotion, ointment, and combs to distribute in the Selinsgrove area. With these bags, parents and infants are able to engage in good hygiene and tactile stimulation, promoting healthy early child development and family bonding.

***"At Birthright, we see the positive impact these grants for toiletries and supplies have on our local families. By lessening the burden for many struggling parents, we are able to help improve the quality of life for infants in the Selinsgrove area. Thank you."***

***Dolores Romine, Birthright Director***

## PROVIDING SUPPLIES FOR NEW MOMS

# CREATING A “HOME AWAY FROM HOME”



For 40 years, the Ronald McDonald House of Danville has been a “home away from home” for parents and families of critically ill children, many of whom are hospitalized or receiving outpatient care for the treatment of cancer and other serious illnesses. Since 1981, the House has served over 410,000 individuals, keeping families close so they can focus on the health and well-being of their child. Community Giving Foundation: Danville partnered with the House this year through a grant for their Adopt-a-Room program, offsetting costs to provide families with a guest room, home-cooked meals, and above all a comforting atmosphere when it is needed most.

*“The Ronald McDonald House of Danville was our great lifesaver. It became our home, a comfortable place after being at the hospital all day, to unwind. The donations go beyond what happens in the House. It helps the families be at the hospital for their children and that helps each child thrive even more. We will be forever grateful to all the staff, volunteers, and donors.”*

*Dalton Family*



The Royer family has always shown a commitment to education and service in the local community. At the prompting of a local Danville educator and business owner, siblings Brent, Chris, and Heather chose to set up a scholarship fund at the Community Giving Foundation: Danville in honor of their father, Dr. Thomas Royer, and in memory of their mother and sister, Mary Jane Ferdinand Royer and Dr. Gwyneth Royer. Each was committed to the success and community feeling in Danville through careers and volunteerism. The **Royer Family Scholarship Fund** will continue to carry on the family name and values by supporting Danville seniors pursuing a career in the Arts.

*"Our parents and sister always demonstrated the importance of community and educational opportunities. It's our desire to give back by providing support for deserving students as they pursue their dreams. While this fund celebrates our family's commitment to these values, it also honors the great community that Danville continues to be and the quality education it offers local students."*

*Royer Siblings*

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CELEBRATING A COMMITMENT  
TO FAMILY VALUES



Community Giving  
FOUNDATION™

## YOUR COMMUNITY GIVING STORY AWAITS ♥

Like each of the stories in this book, you have your own community giving story. The Community Giving Foundation is here to help you discover your story—investigating your passions, values, and options for your philanthropy in partnership with us. Whether you are just learning about community foundations or are ready to take the next step in establishing a legacy in your community, we can help.

Learn more at [csgiving.org/giving-workbook](http://csgiving.org/giving-workbook).

You have the opportunity to be an integral part of the giving story in our community, making a positive difference long into the future. It's time to write your community giving story!