A 2022 Storybook of Community Giving Foundation
Each person brings their own story to the giving process. Motivated by unique passions, values, and experiences, their stories are a personal reflection of what drives their philanthropy.

We can help you discover your community giving story.
The Community Giving Foundation is made up of a collection of stories. With a deep understanding of local needs and a commitment to stewardship through personal relationships with our donors, the Foundation can help you turn your own story into a legacy of community giving in our region.

The following pages highlight just a few examples of the unique ways our partners are leaving an impact—both now and for future generations.
SUSTAINABILITY
Philanthropy has always been a part of Holly’s life. The giving spirit instilled in her by her parents was carried into her own family as she and her husband, Gene, raised two children. They engaged their family in philanthropy by keeping the word “giving” at top of mind and always finding opportunities to help others.

When the Morrisons moved to Berwick, they quickly became immersed in the community and passionate about its growth and success. Holly served as a board member when the Foundation (then the Berwick Health & Wellness Foundation) was created in 1999 and fulfilled various terms and roles on the board until she transitioned to the role of President and CEO in 2015.

“When I began to think about retirement [this year], I knew supporting the sustainability of the Foundation was the right choice for my personal and family giving legacy,” expressed Holly.

The Operation Morrison Fund was established to support the operating budget of the Foundation—which currently exists from the fees collected from its charitable funds. Holly’s hope is that people will see an alternative sustainability plan for the Foundation’s future and feel encouraged to join her in supporting its work in our region, both now and for years to come.

“This Foundation has been a part of my life since it began and has been my life passion, work, and philanthropy. I am fortunate that my husband and children both share my commitment to this organization. We hope to see it grow and thrive in perpetuity.”
The students of Bloomsburg are excited to have the opportunity...to make an impact within their local community through philanthropy.

The Foundation’s Youth in Philanthropy program has been engaging high school students in the philanthropy and grantmaking process since 2004. Through teamwork, students assess community needs, exercise leadership and decision-making skills, and learn the importance of nonprofit work in our region. Contributions from generous community members allow each group to award up to $5,000 in grants to support youth programs in their schools and immediate communities.

The 2022/23 year kicked-off with 13 participating school districts. Bloomsburg Area High School was one of the additions to the program this year.

“The entire Bloomsburg educational community is excited to bring the Youth in Philanthropy program back to our school district,” writes JJ Cleaver, Bloomsburg School District superintendent.

Bloomsburg is home to many programs that serve local youth. As these organizations look to future growth and sustainability, Bloomsburg will become an annual source of support, connecting resources to the greatest needs. Bloomsburg students will conduct needs assessments and serve as an advisory committee to award grants that will benefit their school and peers in their community.

“The students of Bloomsburg are excited to have the opportunity to work with other local school districts and the Foundation to make an impact within their local community through philanthropy.”

In photo at right: Bloomsburg High School Youth in Philanthropy Students and Advisors
TRUST
“Beyond Violence saved my life. That day I called I was going to give up.”

“Beyond Violence saved my life. That day I called I was going to give up.” Melissa’s story of escaping a physically and emotionally abusive home brought her and her two children to Beyond Violence, where they found safety, support, and the resources needed to start over.

Through direct services, educational programming, adult and child counseling, and systems advocacy, Beyond Violence is more than just a shelter. Its presence in Berwick is truly a beacon of hope for so many.

“Leaving a legacy in our community means having an organization that people can rely on,” explains Jennifer, executive director. “Even if they are not in need of our services, they know that we are here.”

In an effort to proactively create sustainability for the organization, the Beyond Violence Agency Endowment Fund was established with the Foundation in 2012. Thanks to generous donors and grant support, they continue to not only keep their shelter and programs running, but also ensure that they will be a resource to the community long into the future.

“We believe that victims of domestic violence and sexual assault are truly survivors, and we respect their ability to determine what is best for themselves and their children. By providing options along with emotional and practical support, we work to empower women in the process of healing and moving ‘beyond violence.’”
“Community giving creates an even better place for their children and grandchildren to raise families, support important causes, and continue our family’s giving story.”

George and Doris Robinson were strong, community-minded residents of the Susquehanna Valley. They were active in volunteer work with local community and charitable organizations and encouraged their family to do the same. In the process of their estate planning, George and Doris created the Robinson Donor Advised Fund to support causes important to them during their lives and for future generations.

“At an early age, my grandparents taught me the importance of giving back to our community,” writes Jason Robinson. “The Foundation was a natural fit for my grandparents to help facilitate giving back. It’s a valuable resource to create a legacy in our community for many years to come.”

Each member of the Robinson Family has carried on this commitment to community giving. Through their fund, they have seen the impact of grants in their community—from supporting youth programming and college-bound students to area fire companies and recreational opportunities like the local pool. The family’s annual golf tournament even invites others in the community to join in giving back to the organizations that make their community stronger.

Julie Eriksson, George and Doris’ daughter, now serves as the fund advisor for her family’s fund. She reflects on carrying the family legacy of giving in honor of her parents: “Giving back to your community—I’m sure that’s the legacy my parents wanted when they created the fund. Community giving creates an even better place for their children and grandchildren to raise families, support important causes, and continue our family’s giving story.”

In photo at right: Julie Eriksson and Jason Robinson, Robinson Family Representatives and Foundation Board Members.
Leo Ennis had a heart for encouraging children and was known for his warm smile and friendly nature. He thoroughly enjoyed volunteering as a Little League coach in Towanda for many years. A devoted father of five, Leo was quick to praise the accomplishments of his own children. “He was a good, kind and gentle man,” remembers daughter Conaley.

After his passing, Conaley and the Ennis-Visneski family felt the perfect way to honor Leo’s memory was by creating a charitable “community giving” legacy that supported local children. They established the Ennis-Visneski (Designated) Fund in 2019 to support the Foundation’s Youth in Philanthropy program in the Danville Area School District.

The Youth in Philanthropy program engages high school students in philanthropic giving through hands-on educational opportunities. Students learn firsthand about local nonprofits and work together to invest in their schools and community, effectively building a culture of community giving among their peers.

The Ennis-Visneski family was excited to award its first grant to Danville Youth in Philanthropy this year in memory of Leo and his passions. They look forward to carrying on his legacy through the program for many generations.

“We are beyond grateful for the generosity of donors and the opportunity to encourage youth in their endeavors in life while honoring our humble Dad.”
“We feel that most often the biggest satisfaction in giving is realized by the giver!”

Seeing the community grow and thrive has always been important to Cory and his family. Born and raised in the Sunbury area, Cory was introduced to the Foundation by a dear friend and mentor, Robert Mertz—one of the originators of the Foundation’s Sunbury affiliate. When Cory was invited to join the Sunbury Board in 2014, he directly saw the positive impact of charitable grants on a wide range of organizations in the community and was impressed with the dedication and care shown by the Foundation staff.

After many years of partnership with the Foundation, the Fasolds made the decision to establish the Fasold Family Donor Advised Fund to honor their family legacy and celebrate Cory and Diane’s 39th wedding anniversary. “Community giving is a way of thinking,” Cory writes. “We want to set an example for others to follow. It is comforting to know our fund was created so it will impact others forever.”

Together with their children, Linsey and Tanner, the Fasold family will support local organizations they are passionate about, focusing on programs that benefit children, conservation efforts, and care for animals. In this way, both current and future generations will impact the community they call home.

“Giving to organizations who promote our values and help those in our local community is very rewarding. We feel that most often the biggest satisfaction in giving is realized by the giver!”
“The new space will promote well-being and allow our team to recharge so we can continue to serve the community to the best of our ability.”

In recognition of the vital role nonprofit employees play in the well-being of our community, the Foundation launched an innovative “healthy workplace” grant program in the Berwick area in 2021. The program was designed to promote happy, healthy nonprofit teams while encouraging creative methods for increasing healthy initiatives and positivity in the office.

The Foundation was excited to grow the program through support from its affiliates and offer a regional healthy workplace grant round for the first time this year. Grant requests ranged from $200 - $1,000 and included supplies and equipment, programming, professional development, and more—all to boost the mental and physical health of nonprofit teams. Over $34,000 was awarded to 44 organizations in 2022.

DRIVE received a grant to create a gathering place outside of their office for staff to enjoy fresh air, sunshine, and a mental break from “office life”. Aidan, facilities manager, explains, “The new space will promote well-being and allow our team to recharge so we can continue to serve the community to the best of our ability.”

Whether creating new spaces, pampering staff, or providing unique and fun learning opportunities, the Foundation hopes this grant round is a way for nonprofit teams to feel valued and be reenergized as they continue to do good across our region.

In photo at left: Eric Pangelinan, Foundation Program Officer; Carin Wharton, Good Samaritan Mission; Aidan McDonald, DRIVE; Tara King, Berwick Dental Health Clinic; Jamie Huntley, Camp Victory
ESTABLISH A LEGACY OF COMMUNITY GIVING 💚

Like each of the stories in this book, you have an opportunity to establish your own legacy of community giving. The Community Giving Foundation is an engine for local philanthropy—made up of individual and diverse funds that were started by local community-minded people just like you. How can you get involved?

1. Give to an existing fund.
   The Foundation manages over 325 charitable funds, each with a specific purpose. With many different types of funds benefiting both regional and specific communities throughout the Central Susquehanna area, your gift will work together with others to create visible community impact.
   For a full fund list and giving options, visit csgiving.org/donate.

2. Create your own fund.
   You can establish a permanent legacy in your community that supports the causes and values most important to you. Creating a new fund does not require a large income or vast estate—there are options for everyone to tell their community giving story.
   The Foundation’s Giving Workbook is a simple tool to help you get started. Scan the QR code or visit csgiving.org/giving-workbook to learn more.
Giving is more impactful than it ever was before. Are you ready to discover your community giving story?

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