



Community Giving
FOUNDATION™

GROWING LOCAL IMPACT

»» A 2025 Storybook of
COMMUNITY GIVING

MAXIMIZING COMMUNITY IMPACT

Serving as a community leader, connector, and changemaker is core to who we are. The Community Giving Foundation uses a data-driven community lens to ensure that we're not only responding to needs in our communities, but also being proactive in identifying gaps, increasing collaboration, and collectively creating a greater impact—*today, tomorrow, and forever.*

The Foundation's regional service area represents so many communities with both unique needs and regional opportunities. We maintain a deep understanding of our region through strong relationships with nonprofit and community partners, while also monitoring local needs assessments for ever-changing conditions and community goals.

We serve as a resource for donors, nonprofits, and all those who want to make a meaningful difference. The stories in this book are just a few examples of the powerful ways we're connecting the needs of our region with the passions and charitable goals of donors to maximize community impact.

FOR GOOD. FOR EVER. ♥





»» Identifying Community Needs

The Foundation continues to monitor, collect, and analyze data shared by our partners doing on-the-ground work across the region. Led by our Impact Coordinator, we have compiled these resources to identify ten top community needs that inform our work and maximize grant impact.

**Note: the below needs are not listed by priority ranking.*

Childcare
ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE 
Social Cohesion and Connection
SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Health Literacy and Advocacy

 **Affordable Housing**
LIVING WAGE JOBS

Mental Health Services 

 **FOOD INSECURITY**

Transportation 

For more resources and information on community needs, visit csgiving.org/data.



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REMOVING SYSTEMATIC TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS

>> Stop Hopper Service

The Foundation grants millions each year to support basic needs across our region. But we know that without transportation, our communities can't access these services and resources. Reliable and accessible transportation is vital in reaching healthcare, childcare, food, and employment.

"Transportation isn't a luxury of access—it's the first stepping-stone of opportunity and the glue holding daily life together," explains Becky Stugart, Foundation Impact Coordinator. **"Without that secure foundation, the pathways to essential human needs remain only possibilities, not realities."**

Supporting solutions that provide transportation for our community is a win for all—and **Stop Hopper**, a service offered by **rabbittransit**, is doing its part. Stop Hopper offers flexible, on-demand public transit using neighborhood-friendly-sized vehicles at a minimal (and sometimes free) cost. In 2024, grantmaking from the Foundation's Amazon-directed fund sparked a new Stop Hopper zone in the Berwick area, connecting access to neighboring zones in Bloomsburg and Danville and countless resources. Over the last two years, Foundation funds across five counties have awarded \$60,000+ in grants to continue growing this work.

In a 2024 survey of Columbia and Montour County riders, 33% said they have no other means of transportation, and 78% rated Stop Hopper as "extremely important" to their travel needs. The primary purpose of riding included medical appointments (29%) and employment (22%). But the true measure of Stop Hopper's success is in the voices of community residents whose lives have fundamentally changed with access to reliable transportation

- > **"It has made things a lot easier for me as a single mother without reliable transportation."**
- > **"Now I can be more independent."**
- > **"It allows me to go to a job I love and wouldn't have transportation to otherwise."**
- > **"It gets me to my medical appointments—between office visits and cancer treatments, I use it a lot."**

These are just a few examples of the impact we can have together when systematic transportation barriers are removed. Riders can maintain their health, keep their jobs, support their families, and reclaim their independence.



HONORING A CREATIVE LEGACY

>> Lisa Derr Fund for Kingdom Kidz

The Central Susquehanna region is home to over two hundred nonprofit organizations providing diverse services to all generations in our communities. Some nonprofits, like **Kingdom Kidz**, are using the arts to tackle a wide range of topics and teach valuable life lessons.

Kingdom Kidz was founded twenty-five years ago by Donna Bridge. Using interactive, live performances with puppets and other creative artistry, the organization provides educational experiences for children of all ages to foster creativity and show them that every person matters. With a vision to “*live generously*” and invest in local youth, these programs continue to reach hundreds of people in Watsontown and surrounding communities each year.

The organization experienced a tremendous loss when their dedicated general manager, Lisa Derr, unexpectedly passed away in October 2023. Lisa was more than a team member—she was the heart of Kingdom Kidz. With over fifteen years as a puppeteer, Lisa brought joy and an unwavering spirit of service to every puppet show and community event she led. Her compassion, generosity, and faithful smile were trademarks of her character, and a true reflection of the values Kingdom Kidz holds.

Lisa’s light continues to shine through the lives she touched and the mission she loved. To honor her legacy with Kingdom Kidz, the organization’s board and other community members came together to establish the **Lisa Derr Fund for Kingdom Kidz** at the Community Giving Foundation. Each year, the fund will support ongoing sustainability, operations, and programs to ensure that Kingdom Kidz continues to serve the community for years to come.

Donna Bridge, organization founder and president, shared: “**Lisa was loved by everyone she met. What a creative person she was! Remembering her legacy through this fund helps us share her love for youth and puppetry. As this legacy grows, Kingdom Kidz will continue to show our youth how creative they can be and that they matter.**”









CONNECTING TOP NEEDS WITH GIVING LEGACIES

>> Jack and Helen Wanich Fund

Jack and Helen Wanich loved the Danville community and wanted to see it thrive, both during their life and long into the future. The couple left a generous estate gift to the Foundation to do just that, providing flexibility for the local Danville board and Foundation staff to make funding decisions based on Montour County's needs, maximizing local impact.

In its first year of grantmaking, the **Jack and Helen Wanich Fund** distributed \$52,599 in grants to nonprofits driving community change around affordable housing, childcare and mental health—three top needs in Montour County determined using area needs assessments and one-on-one nonprofit site visits. Recipients included AGAPE, Central Susquehanna Opportunities, Danville Area Community Center, Danville Child Development Center, and The Gate House.

The flexibility of the Wanich Fund allowed the Foundation to address the interconnectedness of community needs, building stable footing for many of the community members served by these organizations.

"It's so important to a person's well-being that they have a community and feel that they belong. A lot of the issues that people walk through our doors with are generational," explained Gate House staff. **"What we're doing through our shelter, case management services, and educational resources is changing lives because we're helping individuals break those generational barriers and build self-worth and confidence to make it in the world."**

"As we continue to collaborate with partner organizations to grow our capacity and serve more effectively, we hope the community will see that they can work together as well to make a difference," added Karla Alexander, AGAPE.

Thanks to the forethought and generosity of the Wanichs, their giving legacy will remain rooted in Montour County, connecting top needs with flexible funding to transform the community—*today, tomorrow, and forever.*



IGNITING A PATH FOR BRIGHT FUTURES

>> Youth and Education Impact

Many believe that our hope for the future lies in the next generation. Local youth hold the potential to create positive change in our communities, and many donors and nonprofits across the region are doing their part to ignite a path for these bright leaders.

Some donors are committed to meeting basic needs, giving our youth a solid foundation to live, play, learn, and dream. The Hedrick Family took this approach with their **donor advised fund**, awarding a 2024 grant to the Snyder County Coalition for Kids to provide additional meals for Selinsgrove and Middleburg elementary students who participate in the free and reduce meal program during the school year.

Other donors use scholarships as an impactful way to help local students pursue their passions. Patricia and Richard Garman chose to establish a **scholarship fund** at the Foundation to forever invest in the next generation of changemakers. Clementine Asmuth-Day, one of the Garman Scholarship recipients in 2025, expressed her future dreams and gratitude for the Garman's support.

"Through my degree in mechanical engineering, I would like to solve problems and provide creative solutions for my community. It is inspiring to be supported by a family who cares so much about helping the community through this scholarship. I hope that when I am older, I will be able to help my community and the youth within it to achieve their goals in a similar way."

The collective generosity of our region empowers high school students through the Foundation's **Youth in Philanthropy program**. This fall marks a regional milestone for the program—the participation of all public schools in the Foundation's 5 ½ county service area. Over 250 students from 20 school groups will work together to create visible impact in their communities, collectively awarding \$100,000 in grants this spring through their own youth-led grant rounds.

Youth in Philanthropy continues to leave a lasting mark on our local youth. As one student reflected, **"It's one thing to talk about community needs in a meeting. It's something different to see how a program we funded is supporting kids like us. It's in those moments that I feel most proud—not just of what we accomplished, but how deeply this group cares about making real change."**







SUPPORTING THE JOURNEY TOWARDS SELF-SUFFICIENCY

>> Central Susquehanna Opportunities

In 2024, Central Susquehanna Opportunities (CSO) provided over 25,000 services to 11,500 individuals and 4,800 families in Columbia, Montour, and Northumberland Counties. As a community action agency, CSO provides intensive case management to individuals and families to provide opportunities, empower people, and strengthen communities. But as clients' immediate needs are met and stabilized, there is an opportunity to focus on long-term sustainability.

That's where CSO's Getting Ahead workshops come in. Certified facilitators conduct 17-week group workshops that teach financial literacy, goal setting, problem solving, relationship building, and self-sufficiency tools.

Over the last two years, nearly \$30,000 in Foundation grants has supported these workshops, which benefited recent graduates like Kristy and Jennifer. **"I signed up because the more we learn, the better off we are. I really learned a lot about myself and different aspects of my life,"** Kristy shared. The sessions on mental health and managing conflict were particularly valuable to her. **"Now I'm able to share that, especially with my teenagers."** Jennifer is the mother of four and was struggling to find employment. Getting Ahead helped her see a different future for herself and her family. After learning how to manage her schedule and build life skills, she began working as a home health aide and has dreams to further her education in healthcare. **"It made me realize there's a lot I can do, even as a mom of four,"** Jennifer explained.

At the end of the program, clients are empowered with the knowledge, skills, and support to *"level up,"* achieve their goals, and break the cycle of generational poverty. After graduation, clients are placed with a self-sufficiency coach for continued long-term goals like education, employment, and saving for the future.

"Getting Ahead provides families with new experiences and information to help support them in their journey towards self-sufficiency. Our staff is inspired by the motivation and hard work these families display, and the way the community continues to step up in support," expressed Megan Bair, CSO Chief Executive Officer. **"Graduates remind us of the power in providing people with hope, resources, and a chance to dream."**

YOUR GIVING + OUR STEWARDSHIP

We all play a part in shaping our community. Through a deep understanding of community needs and a personal, local knowledge of the nonprofits that make our region flourish, Community Giving Foundation can help you achieve your charitable goals while maximizing your impact—*today, tomorrow, and forever.*

» Partner with the Foundation

There are several ways you can partner with the Foundation to customize your giving:



1. GIVE TO AN EXISTING FUND



The Foundation manages over 385 charitable funds, each with a unique purpose. Your gift to an existing fund will work together with others to create visible community impact. To view a full list of Foundation funds and make an online donation, scan the QR code or visit csgiving.org and click Donate. Donations can also be mailed, payable to Community Giving Foundation (memo: fund name), to 725 West Front Street, Berwick PA 18603.

2. CREATE YOUR OWN FUND



You can establish a permanent legacy in your community that supports the causes and values most important to you, your family, or your business. The Foundation has flexible options for everyone! Our Giving Workbook is a simple tool to help you get started. Scan the QR code or visit csgiving.org/giving-workbook to learn more.

3. LEAVE A GIVING LEGACY THROUGH YOUR ESTATE



Choosing to make a planned gift to an existing or new fund at the Foundation reflects your ongoing commitment to your community and creates a lasting giving legacy. Scan the QR code or visit csgiving.org/legacy to learn more about including the Foundation in your estate plans.



»» Create a Giving Plan That's Right for You

Looking for other ways to give?
The Foundation can help facilitate
complex giving avenues, including
gifts of stock, real estate, and
IRA Qualified Charitable
Distributions. We can
help you create a giving
plan that's right for your
charitable goals. Visit
csgiving.org/contact
or call 570.752.3930.





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