

# 2024 WISH BOOK



THE  
**Luzerne**  
FOUNDATION  
Here for good.™

# HOW CAN YOU HELP?

The question during this holiday season remains, “What can I do to support those in need who are less fortunate than I?” The Luzerne Foundation’s best answer is to back the nonprofits that work tirelessly for this community every day.

Welcome to The Luzerne Foundation’s 2024 Wish Book! This digital pamphlet provides a dedicated platform for small to mid-sized local nonprofit organizations to highlight their missions and impact and share them with our fundholders, constituents, and community. We hope you will look it over with your family and find a cause that speaks to you.

These nonprofits continually inspire and motivate us as we work with you, the members of our donor family. Together with you, our Board of Directors, and the organizations featured in this book, we are committed to enhancing the lives of Luzerne County residents. This year’s Wish Book presents 30 nonprofits

working in key critical areas:

Arts & Culture, Health & Wellness, Social Services, Historic Preservation & the Environment, Youth Issues, and Neighborhoods & Community Development. When you give to these nonprofits, you are helping to make their work possible and demonstrating your trust in their expertise to meet the greatest needs of our community.

The Luzerne Foundation’s 2024 Digital Wish Book is dedicated to supporting nonprofits in their work by raising general operating dollars for staffing, utilities, and other needs that help them fulfill their missions.

To contribute, contact the Luzerne Foundation to make your donation to the organization of your choice. Your grant, no matter the size, will make the holiday special for those in need. From all of us at the Foundation, thank you for helping our community to thrive and making sure that we are *Here for Good*.

PASSION LED US HERE

## HOW TO DONATE

To make an online donation, visit [www.luzfdn.org/wish-book](http://www.luzfdn.org/wish-book) or scan the QR to the right and click on the the organization's wish you would like to contribute to. Fundholders of the Luzerne Foundation can process their requests by calling 570.822.2065.

Your grant, no matter the size, makes a special holiday, anniversary, or birthday gift.

From all of us at the Foundation, thank you for helping our community to thrive."



The background of the page is a composite image. The top half shows a dark night sky filled with numerous stars. In the bottom right corner, there are some dark, leafy branches. The bottom half of the page shows a dark silhouette of a forest line. Below the forest, a body of water reflects the lights from a city or town in the distance. The lights are colorful, with prominent red, blue, and yellow lights, and their reflections are clearly visible on the water's surface.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS


**Arts & Culture: 6**

**Health & Wellness: 14**

**Social Services: 23**

**Historic Preservation & the Environment: 33**

**Youth Programs: 41**



**“Everybody can  
be great because  
everybody  
can serve.”**

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**



# ARTS & CULTURE

---

In Concert With The Arts 8

Fine Arts Fiesta 9

Hazleton Art League 10

Little Theatre of Wilkes-Barre 11

PATAsphere 12



## IN CONCERT WITH THE ARTS

In Concert for the Arts is dedicated to transforming Northeast Pennsylvania into a thriving hub of creativity and cultural engagement. We recognize that arts and artists are not only vital contributors to our rich cultural tapestry but also dynamic entrepreneurs who significantly enhance our local economy. By fostering opportunities for arts education and encouraging collaboration across diverse artistic mediums, we aim to stimulate growth in multiple sectors, including education, tourism, and small business development. Through our initiatives, we empower artists to showcase their talents, provide essential resources for arts education, and cultivate a vibrant community where creativity flourishes. By investing in the arts, we are not just enriching lives; we are building a more innovative, resilient, and economically vibrant Northeast Pennsylvania for generations to come. Join us in championing the arts as a cornerstone of community development and economic vitality.

**Impact Statement:** In Concert with the Arts promotes all genres of the arts in both large and small events. We recently held a Spring Showcase at Little Theatre and in Sept provided a “Books as Art” project to children ages 8-12 free of charge. In the past we have given out scholarships to students pursuing a career in the arts.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000





## FINE ARTS FIESTA

The Fine Arts Fiesta is a full-scale multi-disciplinary festival of the arts. Fiesta is a free gift of the arts to the community in celebration of diversity, talent, creativity and the richness displayed through the arts. The Fine Arts Fiesta marks its 69th year in 2025 and is committed to presenting thoughtful, tasteful, and diverse representations of the visual and performing arts. This four-day festival includes adult and student juried art exhibitions, children's programs, musical and dance performances and much, much more. To provide an event of this size and duration, support is needed. Community arts engagement realizes social connections, fosters inclusivity and community spirit.

**Impact Statement:** The Fine Arts Fiesta is the oldest festival of its kind in Pennsylvania. Each year approximately 35,000 or more guests attend the festival to view incredible artwork, listen to musical performances, participate in children's programs, and view student artwork and dance performances.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



## HAZLETON ART LEAGUE

The Hazleton Art League (HAL) enriches the community by providing accessible art education, creative events, and cultural programs for all ages and backgrounds. Through classes, workshops, gallery exhibitions, youth art camps, and special events, the Art League fosters artistic expression and brings people together to celebrate creativity and diversity. Funding will expand HAL's mission, enabling affordable programming, outreach initiatives, and enhanced facilities to better serve artists and the public. With support, the Hazleton Art League can continue inspiring artistic growth, supporting local talent, and creating a vibrant cultural hub, benefiting the entire community by making art a central, unifying presence in downtown Hazleton.

**Impact Statement:** The Hazleton Art League has been bringing the Arts to the community through education, exhibitions and cultural events for over 77 years.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



## THE LITTLE THEATRE OF WILKES-BARRE

For over 100 years, The Little Theatre of Wilkes-Barre has staged high-quality plays and musicals with local casts, crews, and orchestras. Audiences enjoy “Broadway in Your Backyard” at an affordable cost, while performers welcome a friendly, inclusive place to do what they love. While our most valuable resource is the time and talent of our many volunteers, the cost of producing community theatre continues to rise despite careful expense management. Our large and historic 1940 building must be maintained. For many years, we have been grateful for the generous support of local individuals, businesses, and foundations to keep ticket prices low and production quality high. \$1000 would be a major contribution to our operating budget.

**Impact Statement:** The eight musicals, comedies, and dramas we stage each season attract over 5,000 theatre lovers, but there’s a special place in our hearts for the free workshop we hold each summer for children 5-17.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



## PATASphere

Make Learning Happen



## PATASphere

PATAsphere places a strong emphasis on vocal health, a concern often overshadowed in the performing arts industry. PATAsphere's approach actively works to prevent vocal injuries. Performers also develop essential life skills, including critical thinking, problem-solving, and leadership, setting them on a path to communicate with kindness, empathy, intelligence, and respect. These skills have garnered increasing attention for their capacity to improve academic performance, foster positive social behavior, reduce emotional distress and conduct problems in schools. Additionally, these skills are correlated with increased high school and college graduation rates and positively influence earning potential. At the heart of PATAsphere is a commitment to inclusivity and neurodiversity, celebrating each individual's unique contribution to the arts. The staff is trained to deliver a learning experience that respects and embraces the diverse learning styles and needs of all participants, including individuals from typically marginalized communities, fostering an environment where every young artist can thrive.

**Impact Statement:** PATAsphere provided scholarships for instruction to over 50% of participants in 2023–2024.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



**// Service to others  
is the rent you pay  
for your room here  
on Earth."**

**Muhammad Ali**



# HEALTH & WELLNESS

---

Cancer Wellness Center 16

Help a Diabetic Child 17

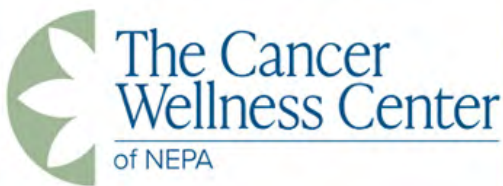
MamaBird 18

Maternal & Family Health Services 19

PAK Pediatrics Fund 20

Think Big Pediatric Fund 21

Wild Wellness Fund 22



## CANCER WELLNESS CENTER

For over 25 years, The Cancer Wellness Center of NEPA has been providing support services to cancer clients, their families, and caregivers free of charge. The services we provide address the physical, emotional, and social needs of cancer patients to enhance their treatment. Although medical advances have been made towards the elimination and treatment of cancer, little emphasis has been placed on the recovery and re-healing of cancer's physical and emotional aspects, and most importantly, the quality-of-life issues before, during, and after cancer treatment. The funds secured will be used to help keep all our services free of charge. The primary services we offer include relaxation therapies, physical fitness programs, support groups, wigs, and accessories. Every dollar we raise stays local and we support clients all throughout Northeast Pennsylvania.

**Impact Statement:** Since our inception 25 years ago, thousands of cancer patients and their caregivers, family, friends and supporters, have benefited from our programs and services.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



# HELPING KIDS BE KIDS



## HELP A DIABETIC CHILD

Help A Diabetic Child (HADC) covers the cost of insulin, diabetes medical supplies and services which include Dr. visits (endocrinology) and emotional support for underserved and uninsured children and young adults who struggle financially and can't afford their diabetes care. HADC works directly with school nurses, hospital staff, Dr.'s offices and other professionals who know of children and young adults who are in most need. These grant funds will be used for HADC's general operations of our organizational programs which will allow HADC to assist more children and young adults in Luzerne County who need our services and resources. HADC continues to grow its program resources across the states of Florida and into Pennsylvania.

**Impact Statement:** Help A Diabetic Child (HADC) has assisted over 5,000 children and young adults covering the cost of hundreds of thousands of glucose testing meters, glucose test strips, lancets, syringes, pen needles, ketone strips, alcohol wipes, glucose tablets, continuous glucose monitors (CGM) sensors and other diabetes medical supplies along with thousands of units of insulin and glucagon (emergency insulin).

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



## MAMABIRD

MamaBird is a volunteer-driven nonprofit founded by a mother who saw a critical need for diapers and feminine hygiene products in the community. In just two years, we have provided diapers for over 2,900 children and hygiene supplies to 6,000 women, supporting community health and dignity. We've since expanded to offer a diaper exchange program, period kits for teens, and postpartum kits for new mothers.

As Luzerne County's only diaper and feminine hygiene bank, we rely on donations to sustain and grow our impact. Your support allows us to purchase supplies in bulk, reaching more underserved families, seniors on fixed incomes, and individuals with limited access to hygiene essentials. Contributions also help cover essential logistics and storage, ensuring every dollar makes a difference. By supporting MamaBird, you're helping us provide vital relief to those in need and uplift our entire community.

**Impact Statement:** Since 2023, MamaBird has provided over 5,000 period kits to Luzerne County students.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



Maternal & Family  
Health Services

## MATERNAL & FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES

MFHS is an innovative health and human service organization dedicated to meeting the needs of the community through information, education, and quality care. For over 50 years, MFHS has worked to provide programs focused on the prevention of disease, the promotion of wellness, and the empowerment of Northeastern Pennsylvania (NEPA) women, children, men, and families to realize the promise of better health. Today, MFHS provides combined care and services to over 90,000 low-income, uninsured, and underinsured individuals across 17 NEPA counties through the administration of federally and state funded programs including the Title X Reproductive Health Program, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC), the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) Home Visitation Program, and the Healthy Beginnings Plus (HBP) prenatal program. Many services are embedded at co-located MFHS health and nutrition centers through a model that allows for referrals, coordination of care, and ongoing sharing of knowledge and resources across programs to support and strengthen families. In addition, MFHS has a strong and well-established referral network that connects individuals and families served through each program to health care and social services in the various communities that the agency serves.

**Impact Statement:** In 2024, MFHS began serving over 50,000 participants monthly in the WIC nutrition program. Serving 17 counties across PA, MFHS is the largest provider of WIC benefits in the state.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



## PAK PEDIATRICS FUND

Our vision is exceptional innovative care for the next generation. PAK is an Independent Pediatric Practice Bettering Children's Lives By: Uniting PAK Family with yours to deliver personable care; Leading the way with pride and compassion; Partnering with our community to make a difference. Wish Book funding will help us continue to serve our community via PAK Provisions - Food Insecurity program including our monthly 'Fresh Food Family Market' community food distribution events and 'Healthy Pantry' for provisions that are available in all our locations during business hours. As a partner agency for CEO - Weinberg Food Bank, we provide our families and community with healthy food options that support our 'Food Is Medicine' model.

**Impact Statement:** Our monthly Fresh Food Family Market - Community Food Distribution event typically provides ~10,000 lbs of fresh produce and provisions to ~300+ families, consisting of ~700+ children and adults from our community. So annually, we distribute ~120,000 lbs (60 tons) of provisions, to ~3,000+ families consisting of ~8,000+ children and adults.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



## THINK BIG PEDIATRIC FUND

ThinkBIG Pediatric Cancer Fund is celebrating 10 years of serving pediatric cancer patients and their families in 2024. ThinkBIG, along with an army of volunteers, is dedicated to raising awareness about pediatric cancer.

As a parent, imagine hearing the word, “Your child has cancer.” There are no words that can ease the stress of this situation. While it has been said that it takes a village to raise a child; it takes caring, courageous people to help a family battling pediatric cancer.

ThinkBIG’s mission is to relieve the stress of everyday financial expenses so families battling pediatric cancer can concentrate on treatment and healing. Because caregivers often must take time off work during their pediatric cancer treatment, families of children with pediatric cancer struggle with unexpected out-of-pocket expenses. By providing financial support for everyday living expenses and unpaid medical bills, ThinkBIG® aims to minimize this stress.

**Impact Statement:** ThinkBIG has supported nearly 260 families residing in 32 PA counties by providing \$1.5 M in financial support.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000

# Outdoor Fun for Everyone!



## WILD WELLNESS FUND

Wild Wellness NEPA, a fund of the Luzerne Foundation, is dedicated to making the outdoors enjoyable for everyone. Our mission is to offer outdoor programming that makes the therapeutic benefits of nature accessible to all, regardless of age, income level, or ability. Through community events, guided hikes, festivals, and a variety of wellness workshops, we promote inclusivity and environmental stewardship while inspiring a love for nature and healthier lifestyles in our community.

This winter, Wild Wellness NEPA is partnering with Ski Shack and Montage Mountain to offer free skiing and snowboarding to underserved youth in our region. We are seeking wishes of \$250 each which will help us outfit one participant in the program with cold weather gear ensuring they are warm and dry as they enjoy these winter activities. Through these experiences, we promote personal growth, resilience, and improved mental health, helping to cultivate a supportive environment where everyone can thrive.

**Impact Statement:** Since its founding in May 2024, Wild Wellness NEPA has donated over \$4,000 to local nonprofits to provide access to outdoor programming and wellness, supporting holistic well-being and encouraging time in nature.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



# SOCIAL SERVICES

---

Adopt A Single Mom 25

Advocacy Fund 4 Grandparents  
Raising Grandchildren 26

Catherine McAuley Center 27

Helping Hands Society 28

Hunts for Healing 29

Parenting Autism United 30

Victim's Resource Center 31

Willow Foundation 32





*"These lift my spirits and help me through the tough days - please keep them coming!"*

## ADOPT A SINGLE MOM

Founded in 2017 by a Luzerne County single mom. Recognizing there are more than 12,300 working single moms across NEPA, Donna was compelled to create a space for working single moms who are often underserved and under-resourced.

These women are the economic backbone of our community yet many fall into the invisible gap of lacking a meaningful support system and financial safety net. We provide year-round opportunities to help close the social, emotional, and financial gaps in these families.

We know an empowered mom will thrive and allow her children the capacity for resilience to thrive as well. That is why we provide daily support to over 300 single moms through our Inspiration Text Hotline. Imagine getting a positive and uplifting message every day for 365 days to elevate your mindset and overall sense of well-being through the power of connection. Your help fulfills our "Wish" to continue to expand this service providing vital support to uplift and encourage more single moms.

**Impact Statement:** There are 17,460 single mom families in Northeastern Pennsylvania. 12,383 of them are in the GAP above Federal poverty level. These moms often are invisible and fall off the radar of the community because they don't qualify for many (or any) support services and subsidy programs.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



## ADVOCACY FUND 4 GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN

The Advocacy Fund 4 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (AF4GRG) is the only organization in the state of Pennsylvania that provides financial assistance to grandparents/kin caregivers who must retain the services of an attorney to initiate the legal process of gaining custody or adoption of the children in their care. There are over 95,000 grandparents raising their grandchildren in Pennsylvania with approximately 2,000 grandparent families in Luzerne County. In addition, AF4GRG also sponsors a monthly support group for all grandparents/kin caregivers who meet to discuss common issues and offer information and support. AF4GRG is a totally volunteer organization, and any funds received will be utilized in support of our need for additional informational materials.

**Impact Statement:** In Pennsylvania over 95,000 grandfamilies are raising an estimated 200,000 children.

**Wish Requested:** \$500



## CATHERINE MCAULEY CENTER

Established in 1984, the Catherine McAuley Center provides housing and supportive services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness and housing instability, in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties. Programs and services include: emergency shelters (for single women and men with children and families with two heads of household) rapid rehousing, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing, and single room occupancy for single women which also includes the Women Leaving Prison program. The Center also offers various community programs including the Family Support Program that provides individualized case management and referrals to internal programming and external social service programs, a food pantry in partnership with Friends of the Poor, a Period Project that provides education and free period products, and holiday gift give-away in partnership with Friends of the Poor and Catholic Social Services.

**Impact Statement:** In 2023, the Catherine McAuley Center (and their community partners) provided Christmas gifts to over 5,000 children.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



## HELPING HANDS SOCIETY

The Helping Hands Society feels a strong obligation to reach out to meet the needs of the children who would benefit immeasurably from the infant/early preschool program. Having an occupational therapist on staff will allow us to greatly expand the scope of our current program for our families and our community at large. The Society's Infant program is an early intervention program serving children who have developmental challenges from birth to three. The Society's early preschool program serves the children who have developmental delays between the ages of 2 to 3, which is individually designed to introduce them to the structure of a preschool setting, addressing each child's developmental needs, and providing specialized instruction with adaptive materials in a small group setting. The Society is determined to continue these programs, offering the highest level of services.

**Impact Statement:** The Helping Hands Society is a non-profit agency which believes in the creed that all people with disabilities regardless of race, type of disability, financial status, or place of residence are entitled to the services needed for maximum development of their potential as accepting and contributing members of society.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



## HUNTS FOR HEALING

Hunts for Healing is a small non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to recreating the small squad experience for wounded veterans through mentored outdoor challenges. If you are a post 9-11 combat vet who was injured in the line of duty or who is struggling to adjust to life stateside, our goal is to help you find some healing in the great outdoors.

Hunts for Healing host a variety of multi-day events year-round during which all needs are accommodated including home-cooked meals, supplies and sleeping quarters. The events are limited to small groups and every participant is paired with a mentor. While the mentors and volunteers come from all walks of life and backgrounds, many are vets themselves.

Through this experience Hunts for Healing can aid in the physical, emotional and spiritual healing of wounded vets and help ease the transition back into daily life.

**Impact Statement:** Since 2009, we have helped over 500 veterans.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



## PARENTING AUTISM UNITED

Parenting Autism United is dedicated to serving all ages and abilities, tailored to autism spectrum disorder. We provide support, programs, and events for the community to help provide an inclusive, positive environment for everyone. Adults with ASD visit our office during the day and assist with meaningful, dignified volunteer hours as well as enjoying their time with art or playing board/video games. Newly diagnosed families receive support and up-to-date resources in our area. PAU's events cover all age ranges from our Dragon Tales Reading Program to our teen socials and our summertime lemonade stand that helps provide job coaching opportunities and life skills. Any funds that come our way are appreciated and help maintain our sensory friendly space in Dallas. Our space is used for meetings, community service providers like Early Intervention, and fun programming and events such as music nights, parties, seasonal events, and more for our community.

**Impact Statement:** AUTISM NONPROFIT helping families and the community through creative programming and events serving over 2000 families throughout the last year.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



## VICTIM'S RESOURCE CENTER

Victims Resource Center (VRC) is celebrating 50 years of service to the community this year. We are a comprehensive victim services organization. It has been our mission to provide direct services to victims of crime, advocate for their rights, and promote practices to reduce the causes of violence in our community. VRC provides services to victims of crime in Luzerne, Wyoming and Carbon Counties. The types of crime victims served include child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence (only in Wyoming County), fraud, assault, human trafficking and family and friends of homicide victims. The services provided include a 24-hour hotline, crisis counseling, support groups, accompaniment to police, hospitals and court proceedings and assistance with filing crime victims' compensation claims. Funding will help us to keep our offices and staff available to provide crucial services to victims of crime in our community

**Impact Statement:** Last fiscal year we served 1,555 victims of crime and their families and provided 738 prevention education programs to 15,276 students. In recent years we have been providing services to an increasing number of human trafficking victims. Between January and September of 2024, we have served 40 victims.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



## WILLOW FOUNDATION

Willow Foundation advocates for locally driven, collaborative solutions to end homelessness and eradicate hunger in Northeastern Pennsylvania through a diverse array of resources, programs, and initiatives. Willow Foundation's Heartwood Center is the first and only drop-in center/day shelter in the Greater Hazleton Area, which encompasses southern Luzerne County and portions of Schuylkill and Carbon Counties. Heartwood Center provides case management, housing assistance, employment development, financial literacy, life skills education, onsite access to partner organizations, and peer support. Heartwood Center offers daily access to breakfast and lunch, personal care items, and an on-site food pantry.

From March to May of 2024, Heartwood Center served 3,847 meals—representing a 54% increase as compared to the same period in 2023. Funding will ensure that Heartwood Center kitchen is supplied with eight dozen eggs each week—a cost averaging \$20—in 2025 and is able to meet growing demand and demonstrated need.

**Impact Statement:** Willow Foundation is seeking \$960 dollars total—\$20 per week, or \$80 per month—to supply Willow Foundation's Heartwood Center kitchen with eggs throughout 2025.

**Wish Requested:** \$960





# HISTORIC PRESERVATION & THE ENVIRONMENT

---

Diamond City Partnership 35

The Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine  
Reclamation (EPCAMR) 36

Eckley Miners' Village Museum 37

The Lands at Hillside Farms 38

North Branch Land Trust 39



## DIAMOND CITY PARTNERSHIP

The Diamond City Partnership (DCP) is Wilkes-Barre's 501C3 nonprofit downtown management organization, serving as the caretaker of our community's vision for Downtown Wilkes-Barre.

Since 2001, when almost 1,000 citizens met to craft strategies for a better Downtown, DCP's work has improved the livability and vitality of the neighborhood, that's the civic and economic heart of the Greater Wyoming Valley.

Through DCP's signature initiatives – including the Downtown Ambassadors (who provide supplementary on-street cleaning and safety services), our floral beautification program, special events, and capital improvements – our work simultaneously enhances Downtown's environment, image, and economy.

Your contributions allow DCP to:

- Ensure that Downtown Wilkes-Barre is consistently clean, safe, and attractive.
- Help Downtown's existing businesses and venues recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- "Improve the product" by creating lively, interesting, high-quality places.
- Market those places to the people we wish to attract.
- Plant the seeds for new economic growth.

**Impact Statement:** During 2023, DCP's Downtown Ambassador Team Maintained 186 hanging baskets and 20 ground planters, removed 12,647 lbs. of trash, and removed 26 graffiti tags and 125 bills and stickers.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



## THE EASTERN PA COALITION FOR ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION (EPCAMR)

The Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR) mission is to reclaim abandoned mine lands, restore our rivers and streams polluted by abandoned mine drainage (AMD), educate youth in our underserved coalfield communities, and advocate for the support of economic development opportunities throughout northeastern and northcentral PA's coal region to improve the regional economies and quality of life for our communities. We build partnerships, coalitions, networking opportunities for collaborations within our coalfield communities to actively engage our community members in advocating for and actively participating in capacity building and community-based environmental assessment, cleanup, water monitoring, environmental education, tree planting, stream restoration, and wildlife habitat improvement projects for both waterfowl and fish species. The funding will be used to help us cover costs for conducting outreach through staff, marketing, and branding of our organization and our events and community volunteer opportunities to a larger regional audience on social media outlets.

**Impact Statement:** EPCAMR has also scanned over 25,000 surface and underground mine maps for the Commonwealth of PA into their Mine Map Atlas to ensure that communities living over an abandoned mine have the opportunity to properly assess their risk in determining whether or not they should purchase Mine Subsidence Insurance for their home, if they qualify, under the Commonwealth's Mine Subsidence Insurance Program.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



## ECKLEY MINERS' VILLAGE MUSEUM

Eckley Miners' Village tells the story of those immigrant mining families whose labor in Luzerne County's coalfields fueled America's industrial rise. The 90-acre open-air museum features more than 50 homes, churches, and civic buildings dating as early as Eckley's 1854 founding, making it Pennsylvania's most complete anthracite mining town and one of the best-preserved 19-century mining towns nationwide. For more than 50 years, we have stewarded this historic landscape and offered educational programs that foster meaningful connections with our industrial past. Eckley is committed to serving underprivileged communities by offering low- or no-cost admission to many programs and a traveling exhibit for schools that cannot afford field trips to the village. This funding will help us continue these efforts and establish a new travel scholarship fund to subsidize transportation and admission costs for under-resourced schools, ensuring that all students have the opportunity to engage with their region's proud heritage.

**Impact Statement:** Eckley Miners' Village is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and interprets Northeastern Pennsylvania's anthracite mining heritage for more than 10,000 annual visitors, including more than 800 K-12 students in 2024.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



## THE LANDS AT HILLSIDE FARMS

The Lands at Hillside Farms is a historic non-profit educational dairy farm synonymous with hope and learning. With a deeply rooted mission to teach life choices that are healthy and sustainable, Hillside is committed to guiding children towards a future where logical decisions harmonize with the environment. Our farm-based lessons provide a rich tapestry of interactive experiences designed to enlighten young minds on the intricacies of science, biology, math, and history, all through the lens of farming. Our teachings include pivotal elements of sustainable agriculture and animal welfare. We believe in nurturing empathy and understanding towards all living beings, instilling values that promote animal welfare alongside agricultural education. By connecting children with the land, the animals, and the very food they eat, we aim to cultivate an awareness of the interconnectedness of our world, encouraging life choices that fortify the health of our planet and all its inhabitants.

**Impact Statement:** In 2024, The Lands at Hillside Farms compassionately served 2,794 students from six counties by providing vital farm-based educational programs. Remarkably, 58 percent of these students were at-risk or vulnerable, underlining the program's crucial role in offering supportive, nurturing experiences to those most in need of care and attention

**Wish Requested:** \$900



## NORTH BRANCH LAND TRUST

North Branch Land Trust (NBLT) partners with landowners, communities, and stakeholders to conserve and care for Northeastern Pennsylvania's lands and waters. NBLT's approach to conservation is regional, focused on the needs of the Susquehanna and Upper Lehigh Watersheds, and cross-curricular, inviting a variety of perspectives to the conservation conversation. Funding will support ongoing NBLT conservation and stewardship activities in Luzerne County and the watersheds that flow into Luzerne County as well as our ongoing educational and community outreach. Previous NBLT events and publications have engaged researchers from Longwood Gardens to speak on native orchid conservation near Hazleton, artists to lead botanical drawing courses, and naturalists to guide hikes that highlight the beauty of our outdoors as well as the conservation needs of our native resources. We conserve precious lands... forever.

**Impact Statement:** North Branch Land Trust has helped to conserve and care for over 23,000 acres in eight counties in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



**“ Help the life of one person and you can help the community.”**

**Steven Sawalich**





# YOUTH PROGRAMS

---

Beyond Grateful Fund 43

Big Brothers Big Sisters 44

Dinners for Kids 45

Greater Pittston Santa Squad 46

Wyoming Valley Children's Association 47



## BEYOND GRATEFUL FUND

Beyond Grateful is a Luzerne County nonprofit dedicated to fostering an inclusive world for children with disabilities. We believe all children deserve access to essential therapies, enriching programs, and assistive technologies, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Our non-profit organization will help foster environments where everyone is accepted and included and children with disabilities learn how to enjoy and participate in activities similar to their peers.

Your support will help us provide:

- Enrichment programs: Developing crucial skills through programs like “Learn to Play, Play to Learn” and “Handwriting Heroes.”
  - Respite care: Offering families much-needed breaks while ensuring their children receive quality care.
  - Speech and occupational therapy: Bridging the gap for children with Medicaid who need vital therapies.
  - Summer camp scholarships: Enabling children to experience the joy and growth of summer camp.
- By funding Beyond Grateful, you empower children with disabilities to thrive and reach their full potential.

**Impact Statement:** Beyond Grateful is less than one year old. In just a short time, we were able to provide 8 full scholarships to neurodivergent children to attend summer camp with their peers. With your support, we hope to provide many more inclusive opportunities to children in Luzerne County.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



## BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeastern is a one-to-one youth mentoring program. Our mission is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationship that ignites the power and promise of youth. Our vision is that all youth achieve their full potential. We partner with parents/guardians, volunteers, and others in the community and hold ourselves accountable for each child in our program achieving: Higher aspirations, greater confidence, better relationships, avoidance of risky behaviors, and educational success. The funding will help our agency to provide games and activities for our school site-based programs.

**Impact Statement:** Big Brothers Big Sisters served over 200 children this year and expanded its service area from eleven counties to seventeen counties to help serve more children in need of a mentor.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



FIGHTING CHILDHOOD HUNGER  
WITH HEALTHY MEALS™



## DINNERS FOR KIDS

Dinners For Kids (DFK) is a volunteer-driven, grassroots program dedicated to addressing childhood hunger by delivering nutritious dinners and fresh fruit directly to the homes of deserving children. Founded with a mission to ensure no child in our community goes to bed hungry, DFK serves over 250 at-risk children across the Wilkes Barre, West Side, and Dallas areas, providing six healthy meals per week, year-round. Thanks to our team of committed volunteers and community support, we prepare and deliver more than 75,000 meals annually. Funding directly supports meal preparation and delivery, allowing us to reach even more children in need. Every dollar goes directly to the program, as we operate with no paid staff or facility costs. Additional funding will help us expand our efforts, ensuring that every child we serve gets the nutrition they need to grow, thrive, and succeed.

**Impact Statement:** Dinners for Kids provides over 75,000 nutritious meals annually to more than 250 at-risk children across three school districts. Each meal delivered offers not just nourishment, but also a sense of stability, dignity, and hope to children in need.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



## GREATER PITTSTON SANTA SQUAD

Since it's humble beginning in 2018, The Greater Pittston Santa Squad now serves Luzerne County and surrounding areas by directly assisting various children and family shelters/ organizations by providing new toys, bikes and clothing during the holiday season. In 2023 they fulfilled toy and clothing Christmas wish lists for upwards of 1500 children and distributed 120 bikes. 2024 registrations have recently begun, and we are already at 700 registered children. Monetary donations we receive help us supplement the direct toy donations we receive from the local community as we may not always have an item on hand that a child is asking Santa to bring them. Furthermore, funding is necessary for general expenses such as packaging, printing, lease of distribution site (see picture), computers, etc. We have no paid associates; it is a 100% volunteer organization.

**Impact Statement:** For 2024 we anticipate the need to assist low-income families will further grow. Family registrations have begun, and we have already registered 700 children. Our goal is to once again assist 1500+ children.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



## WYOMING VALLEY CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION

This year, we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of WVCA's founding. A century of service, 100 years of dedication to our community serving the children who needed us most. WVCA is still committed to our founding mission of helping ALL children succeed – no matter their diagnosis, no matter their economic background, no matter their circumstance. We truly believe in every child's unique potential and strive to minimize and/or eliminate the effects of developmental delays through therapeutic services and quality education. By serving ALL children, WVCA creates an inclusive environment for children to discover and develop into curious learners and compassionate citizens. We offer educational services through our Preschool, Kindergarten and Infant/Toddler programs, in addition to in-house speech, occupational and physical therapy. Our goal is to help children develop to the fullest of their ability in preparation for Kindergarten, grade school, and beyond.

**Impact Statement:** Wyoming Valley Children's Association provides the highest quality early childhood education to ensure the greatest developmental potential of ALL children in partnership with their families, including therapeutic and support services as needed.

**Wish Requested:** \$1,000



**“ Our rewards in life  
will always be in  
direct ratio to our  
service.”**

**Earl Nightingale**





# WHO IS THE LUZERNE FOUNDATION?

Established in 1994, The Luzerne Foundation is a force for philanthropy in our community. To date over \$182 million in grants has been distributed to nonprofit organizations and over 450 funds have been created. With over \$80 million in assets The Foundation is positioned to do good today and tomorrow.

The Luzerne Foundation works to enhance the lives of Luzerne County residents by evaluating and addressing community needs through strategic grantmaking, promoting responsible philanthropy, and connecting donors to causes that matter to them.

**WE ARE...HERE FOR GOOD.™**





**“ Those who are  
happiest are those  
who do the most  
for others.”**

**Booker T. Washington**



THE  
**Luzerne**  
FOUNDATION

Here for good.™

34 South River St. | Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

P: 570.822.2065 | F: 570.300.1712

E: [info@luzfdn.org](mailto:info@luzfdn.org) | [www.luzfdn.org](http://www.luzfdn.org)