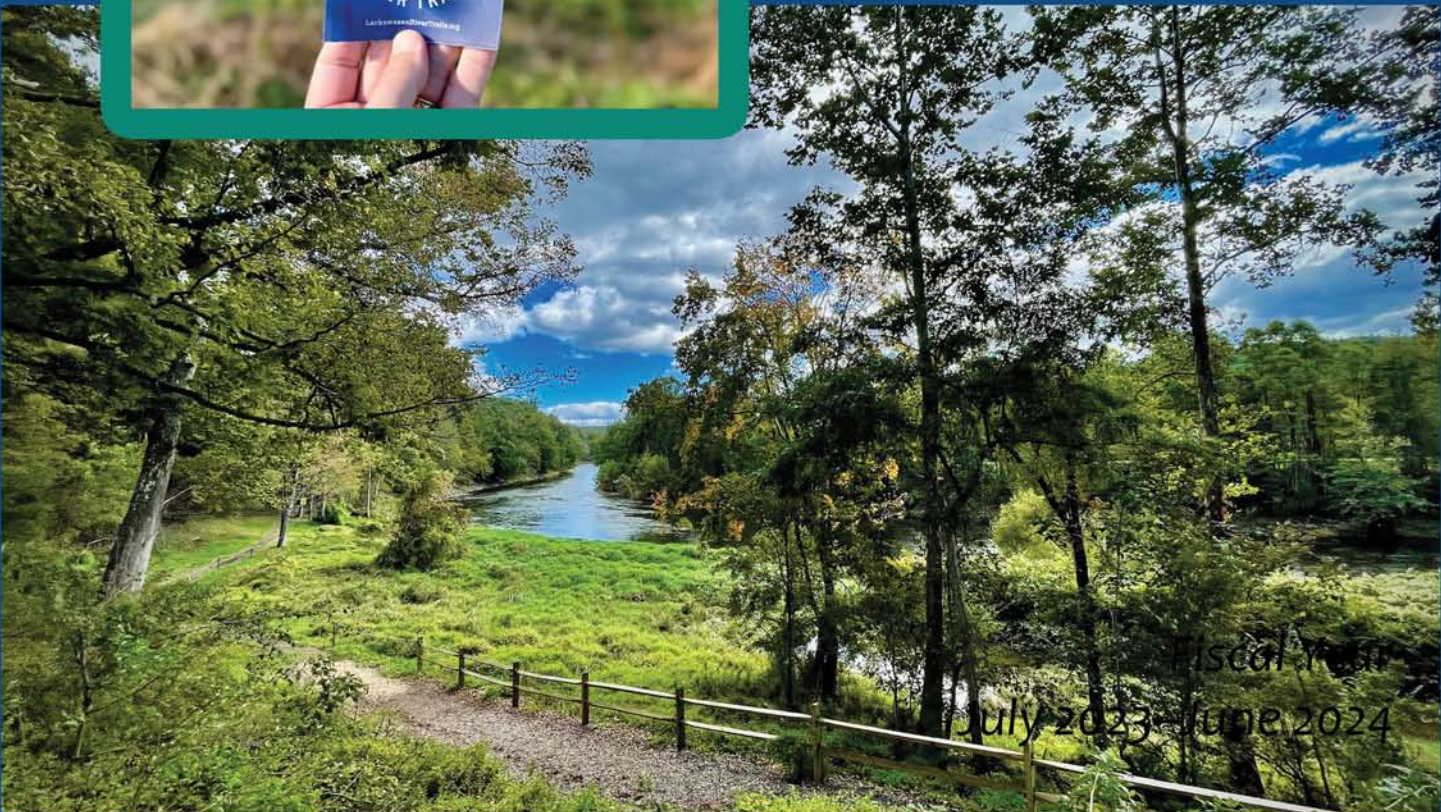


THE WAYNE COUNTY  
**COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**  
Investing in Our Future



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Fiscal Year  
July 2023 - June 2024





## VISION

Wayne County Community Foundation envisions supporting a thriving, collaborative, and vibrant Wayne County.

## WHY SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION?

**Money is both the means and the end for community foundations.**

**When we grow, the community benefits.**

When donors choose a community foundation as a vehicle for a donor-advised fund for their charitable giving, the whole community benefits. Community foundations help nonprofits be more effective at serving the needs of our community. Unrestricted gifts to a community foundation support grantmaking in the community, grant writing for projects across the county, and technical assistance and training for nonprofits.

Each donor is unique, and we're here to help you fulfill your charitable interests. Community foundations are partners to donors, nonprofits, financial advisors, accountants, and attorneys.

**We're here to help you invest in our future.**





## Strategic Plan – 2024–2027

### Our Mission

The mission of the Wayne County Community Foundation is to connect people with financial and non-financial resources to improve the quality of life for all people in Wayne County.

#### **Objective 1:** To facilitate an increase of financial resources distributed in Wayne County

Goal A: Increase unrestricted giving

Goal B: Increase planned giving to the foundation

Goal C: Diversify funding sources

Goal D: Increase community engagement and outreach

#### **Objective 2:** Strengthen operations and align the organization to the needs of the community

Goal A: Retain and grow staff

Goal B: Strengthen administrative policies and procedures

Goal C: Maintain and improve board governance

#### **Objective 3:** Increase and mobilize philanthropic resources in order to address the needs of the community

Goal A: Increase community reach and resource connectivity

Goal B: Increase nonprofit learning opportunities and nonfinancial resources

Goal C: Continue strategic support of regional initiatives including

Wayne Tomorrow!

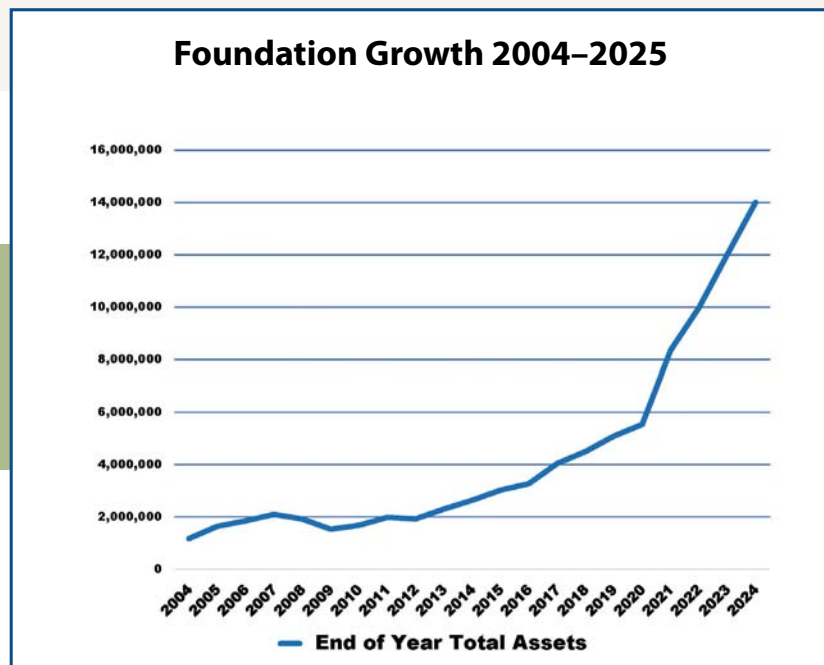
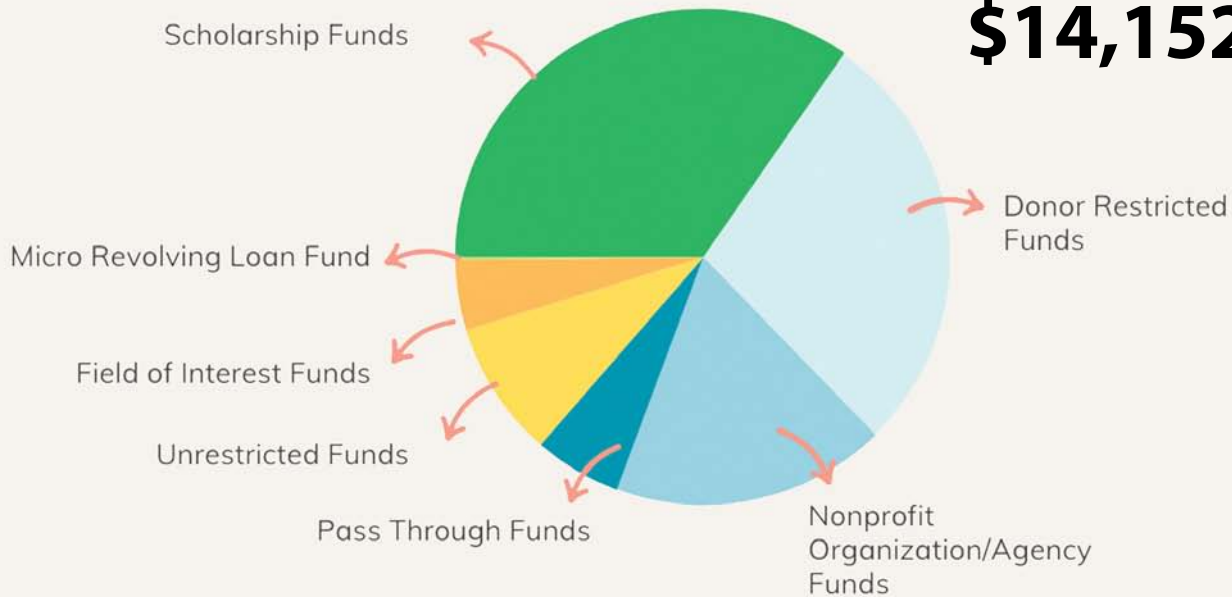
**WayneFoundation.org**  
**info@waynefoundation.org**

# FINANCIAL REPORTS

## Types of Funds

As of June 30, 2024 the Foundation's assets totaled

**\$14,152,613**



Our investments are managed by five financial institutions: The Dime Bank, The Honesdale National Bank, Wayne Bank, Morgan Stanley, and CornerStone Asset Management. CornerStone Asset Management also helps act as Chief Investment Officer for the Foundation. Their staff works closely with the local representatives at the other four institutions to communicate a comprehensive view of our investment portfolios. Our investment committee, made up of Foundation board members, meets five times a year; once with each investment partner. The financial statements of the Wayne County Community Foundation are audited each year by a certified public accountant.

*The Wayne County Community Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. EIN 23-2656896*

## HOW TO ESTABLISH A CHARITABLE FUND

Creating a charitable fund with us is as simple as 1-2-3:

1. **Select a cause area to support.** Decide what matters most to you in our community and let us collaborate with you to shape a fund that aligns with your charitable aspirations.
2. **Create a fund name that reflects your intentions.** Whether you wish to honor a cherished loved one, support a cause you're passionate about, or establish a legacy for your family, you can name the fund to mirror that intention.
3. **Contribute with a tax-deductible gift.** This can be a gift of cash today, a planned gift through your estate, a gift of stock or other asset, or invite your network of friends, family, and colleagues to join in supporting the fund's support area.

Contact our staff to establish your own fund by emailing [info@waynefoundation.org](mailto:info@waynefoundation.org).

## WHAT KIND OF CHARITABLE FUNDS DO WE HAVE?

Donor-advised Funds: You can stay actively involved in the distribution of dollars from this fund by establishing a Donor-Advised Fund. You recommend grants to the Foundation Board of Directors and the size of the grant to charitable organizations of your choosing.

Endowment Funds: You can establish an endowment fund to benefit one or more organizations you determine, but only spend from the principal of the fund (usually 3-4% yearly). This is a great way to continue annual giving in perpetuity.

Scholarship Funds: The Community Foundation manages a variety of scholarship funds ranging from those that support college studies for outgoing seniors in high school to furthering education in trades and certificate programs or master's degree programs.

Field of Interest Funds: Support nonprofit organizations within a general area of interest such as youth programming, literacy, animal welfare, arts, and culture, or a specific geographic region of Wayne County.

Nonprofit Organization/Agency Funds: These funds are created by a nonprofit organization with the goal of it lasting into the future, while having the flexibility to serve the organization's more pressing needs when they arise. It's the best of both worlds.

Pass Through Funds: The Foundation assists a variety of charitable groups that have short-term or seasonal fundraising needs. We serve as their "fiscal sponsor" and comply with federal and state fundraising regulations. **We are proud to serve these well-known groups and projects and wish them success in reaching their goals.**

BK Hope Cures Fund  
Dyberry Creek Music Festival Fund  
Wayne County Farmers Market Coupon Fund  
Friends of Honesdale Borough Parks Fund  
Honesdale Lions Pool Project Fund  
Wayne County Honoring Heroes FUnd  
Keep Hawley and Honesdale Beautiful Fund  
Known Grove SLS Fund  
Friends for Rescues NEPA Fund  
Lackawaxen River Trails Fund  
Our Kids Food Pantry Fund  
PA250 Fund

Project SEARCH Fund  
Prompton Lake Disc Golf Fund  
Unity Grange #1710 Fund  
Upper Delaware BioBlitz Fund  
Wayne County Robotics Fund  
Wayne County Creative Arts Council Fund  
Wayne County Grown Fund  
Wayne County Sheriff Canine Fund  
Wayne County System of Care Fund  
Wayne County Youth Lacrosse Fund  
YMCA New Construction Fund



# Creative Communities Art Trail

Rising up from the grounds of the Equinunk Historical Society stands a brand new sculpture park. A cascade of steel pillars showcases the work of local artists and under the shade of an old tree sits a hand-crafted picnic table, chess table, and fireplace. Near the museum's entrance is a dedicated space for Lenape artwork featuring two pieces depicting important cultural moments and a large illuminated steel map gives the context for the location, placing it among important natural and historical landmarks.

The park is part of the Creative Communities Art Trail, a county-wide initiative spanning the north-south length of Wayne County with the purpose of connecting some of the smaller towns through place-based, locally-designed public art sites. The Wayne County Community Foundation has convened a group of community nonprofit organizations including the Wayne County Arts Alliance, Equinunk Historical Society, Newfoundland Public Library, and The Cooperage Project in addition to multiple community members to create these art installations. Funding for these projects has been provided by the Wayne County Community Foundation, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, and generous donations from individuals and businesses.



In addition to the park in Equinunk, another location is in the works in Newfoundland which is set to open later this fall and features a tile mosaic depicting the town's history set against the four seasons.

To learn more about the Creative Communities Art Trails project, visit [waynecountyartsalliance.org](http://waynecountyartsalliance.org)



# WAYNE TOMORROW! INITIATIVE

The Wayne County Community Foundation participates actively in the Wayne Tomorrow! Initiative. Wayne Tomorrow! is a broad, county-sponsored, community-based collaboration focused on the projects, resources, and infrastructure needed to move Wayne County, its people, its culture, and its economy into a vibrant future. It's not an entity, it's a partnership, a way of operating, and an active planning complement to Wayne County's Comprehensive Plan. This type of collaboration takes a commitment to the common goals and a willingness to focus on "we" not "me"!

In 2019, we established a Wayne Tomorrow! Fund at the Foundation to be able to accept charitable donations to support Wayne Tomorrow! activities and to be a fiscal agent for future grant applications. Additionally, Foundation involvement includes task force participation and networking to connect as many dots as possible to help advance goals related to agriculture, housing, transportation, and other vital components of our Wayne County ecosystem.



For more information about  
Wayne Tomorrow!  
visit [waynetomorrow.com](http://waynetomorrow.com)



This past year, we lost our friend and colleague with the passing of Mikki Uzupes. Mikki was a relentless advocate for community development in Wayne County. She was a true believer in the power of partnerships and collaboration. Those values are held dear by the Community Foundation as well and our team worked closely with her on many projects. We cherished our time working with Mikki and will carry her inspiration forward as we continue our work helping make quality of life improvements in Wayne County.

## LACKAWAXEN RIVER TRAILS



The Wayne County Commissioners and the Lackawaxen River Trails group marked the official opening of the county's first public river access on the Lackawaxen River on Friday, October 27, 2023.

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) Executive Director Tim Schaeffer and PFBC Board President William Gibney joined commissioners, state and local elected officials, and others who made the project a reality.

DCNR and PFBC have partnered to fund grants submitted by Wayne County Commissioners for three river access sites in all. The one to be opened October 27th is located in White Mills, Texas Township. Two others will be constructed next year, one in Honesdale and one in Indian Orchard.

The Wayne County Community Foundation is thrilled to be the fiscal sponsor for the Lackawaxen River Trails Fund which the Lackawaxen River Trails uses to accept charitable donations for matching grants and other projects along the river. For more information about the trails, visit [lackawaxenrivertrails.org](http://lackawaxenrivertrails.org)



# Investing in the Future of our Community

The following grants were made possible through donations to our General Fund, the Florence Longmire Treat Fund, the Wayne Tomorrow! Fund, and the First Responders Fund. Multiple donor-advised funds also issue grants to nonprofits and charitable causes throughout the year.

Grantmaking from all of the funds managed by the Foundation totalled over 1 million dollars!

|                |  |   |
|----------------|--|---|
| <b>\$1,000</b> | The Hideout Elves, Inc.                                    | Support families with essential needs   |
| <b>\$1,500</b> | Lake Alden Watershed                                       | Study and treatment for Hydrilla  |
| <b>\$5,000</b> | Child Hunger Outreach Partners                             | Setup backpack food program for Wayne Highlands School District                             |
| <b>\$5,000</b> | Growing Older Together                                     | Programmatic / capacity building support  |
| <b>\$3,500</b> | Family Service Association                                 | Funding for 211 call center   |
| <b>\$4,150</b> | Fair Hill Riding Therapeutic Riding Center                 | Provide equine therapy classes for foster and adopted children                              |
| <b>\$5,000</b> | Hancock Fire Department                                    | Purchase of new side-by-side  |
| <b>\$5,000</b> | Our Kids Food Pantry                                       | Holiday meals for Wallenpaupack students  |
| <b>\$5,000</b> | The Institute  | Support of regional research and evaluation   |
| <b>\$1,500</b> | Children Service Center                                    | Purchase waiting room items   |
| <b>\$4,500</b> | Wayne County Public Library                                | Install AEDs in all 7 county libraries  |
| <b>\$5,000</b> | Workforce Wayne, Inc. dba<br>Wayne Pike Workforce Alliance | Hire a consultant to help Wayne and Pike Counties<br>establish a Community Technical Center |
| <b>\$2,000</b> | Upper Delaware BioBlitz                                    | Funding for in-person environmental biology event   |







|                 |   |   |
|-----------------|---|---|
| <b>\$2,000</b>  | Black Bear Conservatory of Music            | Free public guitar lessons and building repairs                 |
| <b>\$1,000</b>  | Project SEARCH                              | Internship expenses for young adults in program                 |
| <b>\$5,000</b>  | Browndale Fire Company No. 1                | Laptop, printer, and refrigerator                               |
| <b>\$2,500</b>  | Victims Intervention Program (VIP)          | Cybersecurity and technology upgrades                           |
| <b>\$3,000</b>  | Wayne County Creative Arts Council (WCCAC)  | Purchase larger equipment trailer for park concert series       |
| <b>\$1,000</b>  | Wallenpaupack Youth Lacrosse                | Purchase equipment to lend out to players to reduce their cost  |
| <b>\$10,000</b> | Wayne County Sheriff's Department / K9 Unit | Fund the training of and support for a police K9                |
| <b>\$3,500</b>  | Unity Grange #1710                          | Repairs to the Grange Hall building                             |
| <b>\$5,000</b>  | America250PA                                | Installation of Semiquincentennial Bell at the Hawley Silk Mill |
| <b>\$8,188</b>  | Delaware Highlands Conservancy              | Construction of exit driveway                                   |
| <b>\$10,000</b> | Lacawac Sanctuary Foundation                | Purchase of educational laboratory trailer                      |
| <b>\$15,000</b> | Farm Arts Collective                        | Construction of pole barn performance and work space            |
| <b>\$1,000</b>  | Damascus Twp Historical Society             | Signage and print materials                                     |
| <b>\$1,000</b>  | Dyberry Creek Music Festival                | Summer chamber music concert series expenses                    |
| <b>\$2,000</b>  | Camp Freedom LLC                            | Support for extended stay program                               |
| <b>\$2,000</b>  | The Salvation Army                          | Support for emergency relief assistance program                 |



# WOMEN IN PHILANTHROPY

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. TRANSFORM.

In 2024, the Wayne County Community Foundation was thrilled to partner with the Scranton Area Community Foundation to establish a Women in Philanthropy Fund.

Investing in women and girls is one of the best, proven methods of fighting poverty and stopping the cycle of poverty from spreading from one generation to the next. By targeting major issues that impact women and girls, this fund provides support for innovative projects that will help address the root causes of poverty and inequality. Women in Philanthropy (WIP) will empower and transform the lives of women and girls in Lackawanna and Wayne Counties.

Women in Philanthropy is composed of individuals who want to be actively involved in making decisions that impact the well-being of women and girls in our community. Currently, over 25 donors have supported the Women in Philanthropy Fund at the Wayne County Community Foundation – with many donors choosing to make recurring contributions throughout the year!

This year, the Women in Philanthropy Fund awarded \$11,000 to support the following programs that directly impact women and girls in Wayne County:



**\$6,000 to The Cooperage Project** to support two of its out of school programs, Coop Camps and Pop-Up Club.

**\$3000 to Wayne Pike Workforce Alliance** to support EmpowerHER, a pilot program designed to foster participation and advancement of women in STEAM fields.

**\$1,500 to Lacawac Sanctuary Field Station** to support Pathways in Ecological Research (PiER) mentorship program.

**\$500 to Penn State** to support mental health programming for women and girls.





# SCHOLARSHIPS

*This year, the Foundation issued more than \$154,750 in scholarships to graduating seniors and worthy recipients.*

## **Gayle Akers Koropchak Scholarship**

Karliegh Weist

## **Akers Scholarship**

Carter Kennedy

## **Edwin Barton Scholarship**

Maria Donado

## **Tim Bell Memorial Fall Music Festival Scholarship**

Emily Lescinski

## **Jeri Bigart Memorial Scholarship**

William Dwyer

Ryan Janssen

## **Jake Burkhardt Memorial Scholarship**

Alison Swingle

## **Dr. Betty and Lawrence Caruth Scholarship**

Peyton Cook

## **David M. Cavalieri Memorial Scholarship**

Collin Bailer

Lucy Lombardi

Emily Matoushek

Sarah Spinelli

## **Edwin J. Thomas Memorial Scholarships**

Adrian Agnello

Bryce Dressler

Molly Vennie

## **Mike Chesna Fall Music Festival Scholarship**

Lucy Lombardi

## **James R. Clift Memorial Scholarship**

Cosette Gombita

## **Robert F. Diehl, Jr. Memorial Scholarship**

Joel Landry

## **David Dulay Memorial Scholarship**

Caleb Dodson

## **Forest City Alumni Association/ David St Ledger Scholarship**

Yingjie Chen

## **Greene Dreher Alumni Scholarships**

Nicholas Bajadek

Mackenzie Billbe

Alexis Borer

Isabella Coyle

Molly Dickerman

Alyssa Glatz

Taryn Hensel

Danielle Holzapfel

Caitlyn Mulcahy

Katie O'Brian

Kimberlee Peet

Kai Puma-Stehlik

Brady Reynolds

Jordan Santiago

Ayumi Schuster

Michael Soskil

Kyla Story

Francesca Toppi

Cameron Troch

Jacqueline Webe

## **Tony and Sharon Herzog Scholarship**

Pooja Patel

## **HHS Boys Basketball Scholarship**

Cosette Gombita

Nathaniel Greene

## **HHS Friends of Soccer**

Avery Ohliger

## **Honesdale Lions Club Vision Scholarship**

Gillian Goldstein

## **Hopkins Family Scholarship**

Cole Chesna

Rally Cruz

## **Freedom Lodge #88 Scholarship**

Nathaniel Greene

## **Joyce Swendsen Schwinn**

## **Summer Music Camp Scholarship**

Blaine Bolella

Daniel D'Albora

## **Lady Hornets Basketball Fund Scholarship**

Elyse Montgomery

## **Kelley Lalley Honesdale Biddy Basketball Scholarship**

Jack Eisele

Peter Modrovsky

## **Dr. Philip and Rosita Liu Scholarship**

Isabella Coyle

## **John E. and Marjorie L. Marshall Scholarship**

Carter Kennedy

Joel Landry

Corey Matoushek

## **Dr. Lorraine, Rick and Patrick McAndrew Memorial Scholarship**

Caroline Pickard

## **Osborne Scholarship**

Braden Hall

## **Pat Spoor/Mitzi Clintock Fall Music Festival Scholarship**

Alexander Seretis

## **Pleasant Valley Grange Scholarship**

Carter Kennedy

## **Earl R. Reifler Scholarship**

Juliana Olver

## **Luke Rickard Memorial Scholarship**

Peter Modrovosky

## **John G. and Eleanor Pe. Rickert Memorial Scholarship**

Rozalyn Mikulak

## **Rowe/Box Scholarship**

Jillian Penn

## **Reed Sandercock Memorial Scholarship**

Gillian Goldstein

## **Karllina Schmitt Memorial Scholarship**

Madison Gentes

## **William E. Schwarz Memorial Scholarship**

Bruce Kohut

## **Leon Scudder Scholarships**

Henry Baronowski

Benedict Bateman

Karina Booths

Amilia Gordon

Autumn Gordon

Cameron Hedgelon

Natasha Hencrickson

Jillian Penn

Carly Schott

Jacob Schott

## **Seelyville Church Scholarship**

Cosette Gombita

## **Ann Marie Simons Sportsman Scholarship**

Erika Badner

Kyle Carrubba

## **Mimi Steffen Scholarship**

Brayden Hall

## **Joseph and Kathleen Sterchak Scholarship**

Lucy Lombardi

## **Inger and Robert Stovall Scholarship**

Jack Daniels

## **Swendsen Scholarship (Engineering)**

Cameron Hedgelon

## **Swendsen Scholarship (Health Occupations)**

Cianna Tyler

## **Wallenpaupack Area Medical Foundation (Health Care) Scholarship**

Kelly Hotailing

## **Wallenpaupack Area Medical Foundation (High Science) Scholarship**

Michael Soskil

## **Wayne County Bar Association**

Francis Incavido

## **Wayne County Community Foundation Paul Edwards Scholarship**

Lilly Bernardi

Claire Campen

Rhayni Carroll

Jack Eisele

Ty Mazzga

Allie Pauler

## **Wayne-Pike Medical Society Scholarship**

Alexa Kapschull

## **Alice Welker Music Legacy Scholarship**

Ty Mazzga

## **Megan E. Wilcox Memorial Scholarship**

Cosette Gombita

## **Jim Willow Fall Music Festival Scholarship**

Angelina Martinelli

## **Aaron Winans Memorial Scholarship**

Kailynn Peck

## **Robert Zabady Scholarship**

Isabella Azzato



# LIST OF FUNDS

## Donor-Advised Funds

Altemier, Roger C. and Ruth Community Fund

American Legion 254

Bethany UMC Fund

Boy Scout Troop 111 Fund

Bryant, Michael J. Memorial Fund

Cambridge, Thomas Philanthropic Fund

Chapman Family Fund

COAL Fund

Community Memorial Fund

Engstrand, Theodore Memorial Fund

Fall Music Festival Fund

Forest City Educational Foundation Mini Grant Fund

Gruber Family Fund

HHS Alumni Fund

Honesdale Area Ministerium Fund

Honesdale Rotary Fund

Houghtaling Book Club Fund

Kempton, Mark and Mary Fund

Kilgore Family Fund

NEPA Circle of Aunts and Uncles

Pleasant Valley Grange AG Fund

Propst, Peter Memorial Fund

Reynolds Family Fund

Roark Family Fund

Schloesser Family Fund

Settlers Hospitality Fund

Spall, John and Cathleen Fund

Treat, Florence Longmire Fund

Upper Delaware River Valley Fund

Waymart Boy Scout Fund

Waymart Historical Society Fund

Waymart Lions Club Fund

Wayne Area Sports Hall of Fame Fund

Wayne County Drug Court Fund

Woodloch Employee Crisis Fund

## Scholarships

Akers Family Fund

Barton, Edwin M. Memorial Scholarship Fund

Bigart, Jeri Memorial Fund

Burkhardt, Jake Memorial Fund

Caruth, Drs. Bette and Lawrence Fund

Cavalieri, David Scholarship Fund

Clift, James R. Memorial Scholarship Fund

Diehl, Robert Memorial Fund

Dulay, David Memorial Scholarship Fund

Forest City Educational Foundation Alumni Scholarship Fund

Freedom Lodge IOOF

Friends of Honesdale High School Boys Basketball Fund

Green-Dreher Scholarship Fund

Herzog, Tony & Sharon Scholarship Fund

Hocker, Aaron Memorial Fund

Honesdale Lions Club Fund

Honesdale Soccer Fund

Hopkins Family Fund

Koropchak, Gayle Akers Fund

Lady Hornets Basketball Fund

Lalley, Kelley Memorial Fund

Lipperini, Albert Memorial Fund

Marshall, John E. & Marjorie L. Fund

McAndrew Scholarship Fund

NEPA Audubon Society Berry Burcher Scholarship Fund

Rickard, Luke Memorial Fund

Rickert, John G. and Eleanor P. Memorial Scholarship Fund

Riefler, Earl Memorial Fund

Rowe, James & Alice Box Memorial Fund

Sandercock, Reed Memorial Fund

Schmidt, Karllina Memorial Scholarship Fund

Schwarz, William Memorial Fund

Scudder, Leon Fund

Simons, Anne Marie Sportsman Scholarship Fund

Smith, Scott Memorial Fund

Steffen, Mimi Scholarship Fund

Sterchak, Joseph and Kathleen Scholarship Fund

Stovall, Robert and Inger Fund

Swendsen, Jerry and Marilyn Fund

Thomas, Edwin Memorial Fund

Wallenpaupack Area Medical Foundation Fund

Wayne County Bar Association Fund

Wayne Pike Medical Society Fund

Welker, Alice Music Legacy Fund  
Wilcox, Megan E. Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Winans, Aaron Memorial Fund  
Zabady, Robert Fund

### **Endowment Funds**

Ben Franklin Fund  
BK Hope Cures Endowment  
Rutsch, Herman H. Memorial Fund  
Tully, Jerome & Edith Marks Fund

### **Field of Interest Funds**

Educational Endowment Fund  
Farms to Families Fund  
First Responders Fund  
Founders Fund  
Substance Abuse, Education and Awareness Fund  
Wayne County Discretionary Housing Fund  
Wayne County Historical Preservation Fund  
Wayne County Worker Crisis Fund  
Wayne Tomorrow! Fund  
Women in Philanthropy Fund

### **Pass Through Funds**

BK Hope Cures Fund  
Dyberry Creek Music Festival Fund  
Wayne County Farmers Market Coupon Fund  
Friends of Honesdale Borough Parks Fund  
Honesdale Lions Pool Project Fund  
Wayne County Honoring Heroes Fund  
Keep Hawley and Honesdale Beautiful Fund  
Known Grove SLS Fund  
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Prompton Lake Disc Golf Fund  
Unity Grange #1710 Fund  
Upper Delaware BioBlitz Fund  
Wayne County Robotics Fund  
Wayne County Creative Arts Council Fund  
Wayne County Grown Fund

Wayne County Sheriff Canine Fund  
Wayne County System of Care Fund  
Wayne County Youth Lacrosse Fund  
YMCA New Construction Fund

### **Agency/Organizational Funds**

Bethany Library Fund  
Children and Youth Advisory Board Fund  
Children's Christmas Bureau Fund  
Texas 4 Fund  
The Cooperage Project Endowment Fund  
East Dyberry Cemetery Fund  
Foundation for Harmony Presents Fund  
Glen Dyberry Cemetery  
Greene-Dreher Historical Society  
Himalayan Institute Community Fund  
Honesdale Area Jaycees Fund  
Honesdale Fire Department Fund  
Hose Company #1 Fund  
Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management Fund  
Newfoundland Library Community Fund  
Radio Catskill Endowment Fund  
Ritz Founders Fund  
Tusten Volunteer Ambulance Fund  
Victims Intervention Program Fund  
Wayne County Family Center Endowment Fund  
Wayne County Workers YMCA Endowment Fund  
Wayne Libraries Future Fund  
Wayne Library Authority Fund

### **Unrestricted Funds**

Bellamy, Rita Memorial Fund  
Ferro Fund  
General Fund  
Robb, Viola Fund

### **Micro Revolving Loan Fund**

NEPA Circle of Aunts and Uncles



# Building Home Libraries

A good book can open our eyes and show us so much more of the world than what we can see in our day-to-day lives. Stories take us to new places, introduce us to new people, and give us just a little glimpse into someone else's life. Reading is one of the most important skills we can have, and a love of reading is a special gift.

We're determined to give every K-8 student in the Wayne Highlands, Western Wayne, Forest City, and Wallenpaupack school districts a book to take home and keep through our Building Home Libraries project. This year we distributed over 3,000 books in schools with an additional 5,000 going out into the community!



## Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program

The Wayne County Community Foundation acts as a conduit to support highly academic innovative and challenging STEM programs and dual enrollment at Wayne Highlands, Wallenpaupack, Western Wayne, and Forest City Regional School District. A total of \$135,500 was donated for the 2023/2024 school year by The Dime Bank, PPL Electric Utilities, The Honesdale National Bank, NBT Bank, FNCB Bank, Waste Management, Weis Markets, Maple City Anesthesia, Wayne Bank, and the First National Bank of Pennsylvania to support the program.



# Youth Advisory Committee

The mission of the Youth Advisory Committee of the Wayne County Community Foundation is to familiarize Wayne County youth with the potential of philanthropic activities by providing the opportunity – through cooperative leadership – to give financial support to projects designed to improve the youth community.

The intent of the Youth Mini-Grants Program is to introduce the concept of a Community Foundation and its work while supplying educational and funding opportunities to students. Grants of up to \$1,000 are available for projects or programs that will benefit elementary and secondary age students in Wayne County schools and/or community groups. Grants for the 23/24 school year included:

|              |                          |                |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| WAHS         | Morgan's Message         | \$500          |
| HHS          | Kid's Care               | \$1000         |
| RDW          | I Can Focus Project      | \$514          |
| EGE          | Flexible Seating Project | \$500          |
| WWHS         | Color Guard              | \$500          |
| WWHS         | Drama Club               | \$975          |
| WHMS         | Legos Project            | \$480          |
| WWHS         | Aavidum                  | \$500          |
| RDW          | Coffee Cart Project      | \$200          |
| WWHS         | Classroom Without Walls  | \$831          |
| <b>Total</b> |                          | <b>\$6,000</b> |

Grants from the Youth Advisory Committee are supported from contributions to the Florence Longmire Treat Fund and Ferro Fund.

## Members 2024

### WALLENPAUPACK AREA HIGH SCHOOL

*Seniors:* Sophia Burbridge, Xaiden Schock

*Juniors:* Ty Lounsbury, Hunter Sasala

*Sophomores:* Max Edwards, Katherine Pettinato

*Freshmen:* Maya Walek, Carlos Urgiles

### HONESDALE HIGH SCHOOL (Wayne Highlands)

*Seniors:* Lucas Murray, Ava Patrisso

(Co-chairpersons of student committee)

*Juniors:* Caden Hinkley, Lily Head

(Co-chairperson of student committee)

*Sophomores:* Liam Platt, Margarer Becker

*Freshmen:* Logan Meyers, Alina Shanfelder

### WESTERN WAYNE HIGH SCHOOL

*Seniors:* Jamie Chapman, Elizabeth Washine

*Juniors:* Logan Vinton, Audrey Agnello (Secretary of student committee)

*Sophomores:* Donovan Gregorski, Maddy McClure

*Freshmen:* Kyle Matthews, Grace Owens

### ADVISORS:

William Gershey, Sarah Draidfort, Sandra Rickard, Connor Simon







## YOUR LEGACY MATTERS

*Planned gifts and legacy giving are important considerations for individuals and families to make. The Community Foundation can be a resource for those considering family estate planning.*

In honor of the enduring legacy of Daniel J. O'Neill, the O'Neill Society was established with the purpose of acknowledging and honoring individuals who choose to remember the Wayne County Community Foundation through various planned giving avenues, such as wills, trusts, life insurance, and other thoughtful arrangements. Far too often, these generous acts of giving go unnoticed because they often materialize toward the later stages of a donor's life.

However, by becoming part of the O'Neill Society, members not only receive recognition but also gain the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals who share a profound commitment to investing in the future of Wayne County. If you wish to be recognized as a member of the O'Neill Society, please contact our office and we will be pleased to help you: 570.251.9993 or [info@waynefoundation.org](mailto:info@waynefoundation.org).

### O'NEILL SOCIETY MEMBERS

- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Kathryn and Joseph Adams
- Deborah A. Bailey
- Walter\* and Marilyn Barbe
- Peter and Amy Bochnovich
- Vicky Botjer
- Jamie and Steve Brown
- Jeanne A. Brown
- Kent L. Brown Jr.
- John and Karen Burlein
- John and Tonia Carmody
- Drs. Betty & Lawrence\* Caruth
- D. James\* and Shirley Chapman
- Vincent and Roberta Conroy
- Bill & Jessie Davis
- David and Marcia Dunsmore
- Carol Dunn
- Paul J. and Colleen Edwards
- Judge Janine Edwards
- Frances and Martha E. Franco\*
- Gregory Frigoletto
- Nancy Fritz
- William J. Gershey
- George \* and Anne\* Gilchrist
- Reed Goodman and Dr. Joel Goldstein
- Louis\* and Frances Gruber
- Keith and Mariann Gunuskey
- Judge Raymond & Donna Hamill
- Anthony and Sharon Herzog
- Cal\* and Kuni\* Holbert
- Barbara\* Houghtaling
- Mark and Brooke James
- Ryanne and James Jennings
- Tom\* and Laura Kennedy
- John and Courtney Krajcovich
- Robert Kramer\*
- Kelli S. Lateer
- Thomas and Nancy LaTourous
- Charlotte A. Lent
- Joseph and Stella Macey
- Mary L. Markowski
- Kelly and Bruno Maton
- William B. McCallister
- Gloria McCullough\*
- Paul Sr. and Sandy Meagher
- Paul M. Jr. and Jenny R. Meagher
- Jet and Bob\* Mermell
- Elwood and Kathy Merring
- Michael and Kimberly Modrovsky
- Patricia Mohn
- Tim and Jennifer Morgan
- Joseph J. and Patricia C.\* Murray
- Ann O'Hara\*
- Daniel J.\* and Alice L. O'Neill
- Gerard O'Neill
- Michael and Erin O'Neill
- Kimberly and Tobey Oxholm
- David and Karen Raven
- Marty and Sandy O'Neill Rickard
- Ronald and Rebecca Rowe
- Herman H. Rutsch\*
- Rev. William Samford
- Warren H. Scholoesser
- William Schweighofer
- Tom and Victoria Sheridan
- Mike and Erin Shine
- Connor Simon
- Ronald Jay Starnes
- Nicholas and Carol Stroumtsos
- Jane Varcoe
- Derek Williams

Celebrate a *Life*  
Create a *Legacy*

**GIFTS IN HONOR OF...**

**Al Lipperini**  
Michele Saunders  
**Allison Ryan**  
Peggy and Kit Ryan  
**Arlo Pierson**  
Mariah Kramer  
**Bette Hofman**  
Joseph Hofman  
**Carmine Saldutti**  
Anthony Saldutti  
**Clients of Forthright Wealth Planning**  
Forthright Wealth Planning  
**Connor Simon**  
John & Marilynn Jaggars  
**D. James Chapman**  
Lake Region Long Beards  
Chapter N.W.T.F  
**Dad**  
Debra Mesko  
**Dennis Fleming**  
Stephen Flemming  
**Donna Barabas**  
Jay and Judy Weiss & Family  
**Dorothy Kieff**  
Paul and Monique  
Lautenschlager  
**Edward Williams**  
Christine Caramanna  
**Francis Firmstone**  
Firmstone Oil Company, Inc.  
**James Elliot**  
Gina Agderian  
**Jeff George**  
Margie and Jerry Richmond  
**Jeff Ryan**  
Monica Garrigan  
Peggy and Kit Ryan  
**Jim Jennings**  
Ryenne Jennings  
**Joe and Stella Macy**  
Suzanne and Joseph Rowe  
**Joey Montgomery**  
George and Katharine Brown  
**John C. Diehl**  
Diehl Trucking Inc.  
**Jordan Ruden**  
Joyce Castleberry  
Constance Popolizio  
Jordan and Jennifer Ruden  
Timothy and Nancy Wood  
Ronald Ruden  
Amanda and Brian Kerna  
Delia McCallen  
Eileen Russ Heltzer  
Todd Stephens  
Gregory Downer  
Barry Steele  
Ryenne and Jim Jennings  
Howard Leifman  
John and Joyce Southerton  
**Joe Mang**  
Rent-E-Quip Inc.  
**Joseph Dickhut**  
Cora Hume

**Julia Duncan and Carl Thorsen**  
Billy and Shannon Franko/  
Quinn  
Ilene Hanin  
Tim Louise Maxfield  
Schwab Charitable  
Lothe Family Charitable Fund  
Debbie Duncan  
Andrea LaRue  
**Kate Bryan**  
The Honesdale National Bank  
**Kathryn Corcoran**  
Lisa Corcoran  
**Kiersten Jaggars**  
Connor Simon  
**Kim Erickson**  
Forthright Wealth Planning  
**Leroy Spoor**  
Muriel and Jerome Kielar  
**Lynette Huber**  
Jill Steigerwald  
**Madeline Rowe**  
Suzanne and Joseph Rowe  
Teresa and Jacob Rowe  
**Martin Reafler**  
Marcia and David Dunsmore  
**Meg Welker**  
Connor Simon  
**Mr. & Mrs. Edward Wilson**  
Patricia and Timothy Wilson  
**Nancy Kiesendahl**  
Duncan Will  
**Owen and Keegan Pender**  
Donald and Margaret Pender  
**Prudence**  
Michelle Budzilowicz  
**Queen Sadie Doss**  
Andrew Murphy  
**Ron Rowe**  
Meg Welker  
**Ryenne Jennings**  
Meg Welker  
Nancy Rasmussen  
**Sally Talaga & Tom Colbert**  
Frances Gruber  
**Thomas Sheridan**  
Honesdale National Bank  
**Warren Schloesser**  
Anna Groth-Shive  
Steven Richter  
**William F. LeStrange**  
Kathryn LeStrange

**GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...**

**Al Lipperini**  
Carol Dixon  
**Alice Welker**  
Meg Welker  
**Anita Shook**  
Harold Shook  
**Ann O'Hara**  
Carol MacMaster  
Ronald Brill

**Anna D'Zarko**  
Carol Dunn  
**Audrey Malinowski**  
Leona Gaydos  
**Bernard Southerton**  
Florence Southerton  
**Byron Kay**  
Vicky Botjer  
**Christian Joseph**  
Little Family Trust  
**Clare Walker**  
Patrick Walker  
**Connie Bryant**  
Lorriane Walker  
**Daniel J. O'Neill**  
Bill and Jessie Davis  
Alice O'Neill  
**David Edwards**  
Barbara and Patrick Edwards  
**David Schweinsburg**  
Laurie and John Palkovic  
**Dorothea E. Slocum**  
Linda Slocum  
**Dorothy Pazel**  
Carol Ann and John Mesolella  
Leonard and Elizabeth  
Hauenstein  
**Dr. Barbe**  
Anonymous  
**Dr. Michael Knapic**  
Coker  
**Dwight (Jim) Chapman**  
Shirley Chapman  
**Edna and Charles Goodman**  
Reed Goodman  
**Elaine Barnes**  
Diane and Dave Buckwash  
Durande Barnes  
The Spa at Woodloch  
Regina Sikorski  
Rusan Soldano  
Joanie Harrington  
**Eric Enslin**  
Gary and Kathy Enslin  
**Ethel Ryan**  
Tara McGovern  
**Family**  
Little Family Trust  
**Franklin F. Piercy**  
Lillian Piercy  
**Genevieve Gykosky & Adeline Lennon**  
Bernadine Lennon  
**George Piercy**  
Nancy Piercy  
**Glenn Stoll**  
Marcia Nehemiah  
**Hope Shuman**  
Janna Genzlinger  
**Howard & Ruth Akers, Vincent & Helen Herzog**  
Sharon Herzog  
**Isabelle Canivan Dunne**  
Patricia Bursis  
**Jake Burkhardt**  
Cynthia Artz  
**James Clift**  
Daniel Corcoran  
Beverly Jenkins  
**James Firmstone**  
Carolyn Mackle  
Thomas and Nancy LaTourous  
Donna Bluff  
Barriger & Company  
Alfred J. and Catherine Howell  
Marlene Smith  
Danielle Schlesier  
Warren Schloesser

**Firmstone continued**  
Wallflower  
Shirley Firmstone  
IMG  
Protection Engine Company #3  
Ellen Fritz  
The Grimm Foundation  
Woodloch Pines, Inc.  
John & Karen Burlein  
Mark & Cynthia Chandler  
Deborah Fritz  
William and Diane Blewett  
Cheryl and Greg Celeskey  
Gloria Wilson  
Gerald Swendsen  
Paul M. and Sandra A. Meagher  
Highhouse Energy  
Eric and Mary Anne Linde  
Dolores O'Neill  
Kathryn Meagher  
Carl and Patricia Fischer  
Diane Zintel  
Beth Weiss  
Elk Lake Cottagers League  
Inc.  
Medical Shoppe Ltd./  
Northeast Med-Equip  
Newell Fuel Service Inc.  
**Jane McKay**  
Jane Ganatra  
**Jeanne D. Cole**  
Janice Aber  
**Jeremiah Robbins**  
Elizabeth Baerenklau  
**Jerry "Jake" Hopkins**  
Carol Hopkins  
**Jo Jo Hessling**  
Richard and Mary Hessling  
**John C. Dyson**  
Encore Outdoor LLC  
**John C. Diehl**  
Mike and Kim Modrovsky &  
Family  
Diehl Trucking Inc.  
**John Davis**  
Anonymous  
**John P. Duda**  
Sarah Duda  
**John Varcoe**  
Jane Varcoe  
**Kelley Lalley**  
Jim and Ceil Tuman  
**Leroy Spoor**  
Leigh Barnes  
Patricia Spoor  
Charles and Rosanne Alexander  
Ronald and Rebecca Rowe  
Edward Manganello  
Warren Schloesser  
The Grimm Foundation  
Paul M. and Sandra A. Meagher  
Harlan and Jacqueline Press  
Ethan Totten  
Carolyn Mackle  
Frederick and Mary Murray  
Lorraine Gregory  
Betty Taraschuk  
David Wright  
Bruce and Kathleen  
Grandjean  
Sunrise Market, Inc.  
**Luke Parry**  
Ron and Cindy Rake  
**Margery Gregor**  
Thomas and Pamela Box  
**Mark A. Graziadio**  
Sue Graziadio

**Martin & Adeline Lennon**  
Bernadine Lennon  
**Michael J. Bryant**  
Albert and Theresa Hender-  
son  
**Milo R. Gardner & Edward A. Sparrow**  
Leonard R. and Elizabeth  
A. Hauenstein  
**Mr. and Mrs Joseph Walker**  
Anonymous  
**Mrs. Josephine Salak**  
Anita Avvisato  
**Patricia Mead**  
Anonymous  
**Paul Grech**  
Laurie DeGarmo  
**Ramon Queipp**  
Vicky Botjer  
**Ray Thorpe**  
Georgia Thorpe  
**Richard & Jean K. Wood**  
Chris Wood  
**Richard VanDelinde**  
Nancy VanDelinde  
**Robert Mallay**  
Carolyn Mackle  
**Roy Thorpe**  
Georgia Thorpe  
**Russel A. Khoury**  
Glenn Khoury  
**Ruth Ann, Richard, and Josephine**  
Honesdale Mayor's Office  
**Sadie Sweetdog**  
Alan Sweetman  
**Scott Heimbach**  
Matthew & Kerrie  
Fitzsimmons  
**Sharon Hadley**  
Stanley Hadley  
**Thomas H. Kennedy**  
Christie Augustine  
**Tish Murray**  
Ronald and Rebecca  
Rowe  
**Tom Kennedy**  
Laura Kennedy  
**Walter Barbe**  
Robert B. and  
Constance T. Gross  
**William and Margaret Camarca**  
Carol Saykewicz  
**William (Bill) Murray**  
Paul M. & Sandra A.  
Meagher  
**William Gager**  
Melissa and Bruce  
Rutledge  
**William Schwarz**  
Mary Schwarz  
**Zach Finkelberg, MD**  
Heidi Finkelberg



# 2023 Ben Franklin Community Service Award: Mary Ellen Bentler



## WHAT IS THE BEN FRANKLIN FUND?



In his will, Benjamin Franklin wrote, "I wish to be useful even after my death." When he died in 1790, he left £2,000 (the equivalent of about \$478,457.59 in 2023) in a trust fund to be specifically used and saved for 200 years. In keeping with Franklin's philosophy, the Pennsylvania General Assembly directed the perpetual "Ben Franklin Trust" be established and that the interest be used to benefit the citizens of the Commonwealth. On December 17th, 1990, Governor Robert P. Casey signed Act 1990-173 into law, approving the then sum of \$834,000 to be distributed to Community Foundations in Pennsylvania, including the Wayne County Community Foundation which received nearly \$20,000 in 1995.

Each year, a member (or members) from our community is selected for their positive impact on the betterment of Wayne County. 2023's Ben Franklin Service Award Dinner was held on November 3 in honor of Mary Ellen Bentler.

Mary Ellen Bentler is a lifelong resident of Moscow, PA, currently residing in Wayne County. She is a graduate of North Pocono High School and has taken several courses from the Pennsylvania Bankers Association.

Mary Ellen was employed at NBT Bank beginning in 1994 and retired after 27 years in March 2021. Her responsibility as Vice President and Retail Market Manager was to lead and guide branch managers in the market area on sales, business developments, and the successful operation of the branches.

Rotary International is just one of the many community involvements that Mary Ellen supports. Mary Ellen joined the board of Lacawac Sanctuary in 2015 and is still an active member serving as the Treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee. She is also an active member of the Sterling Business & Technology Park Owners Association. Mary Ellen formerly served on the board of the Chamber of the Northern Poconos, the Wayne County Community Foundation, the Salem Public Library, and the Wayne Economic Development Corporation where she served a term as President.

Mary Ellen is the mother of two children and the proud grandmother of four grandchildren. When she is not busy serving the community, she enjoys spending time with her family on her boat at Lake Wallenpaupack.

## Ben Franklin Community Service Award PAST HONOREES



|   |      |
|---|------|
| EDWIN J. THOMAS                             | 1996 |
| ROBERT AND INGER STOVALL                    | 1997 |
| WALTER AND MARILYN BARBE                    | 1998 |
| CHUCK AND WANDA JURGENSEN                   | 1999 |
| KENT BROWN                                  | 2000 |
| SALLY TALAGA                                | 2001 |
| WILLIAM AND PAULA ROOS                      | 2002 |
| ROBERT KNASH                                | 2003 |
| PETER AND MOLLY RODGERS                     | 2004 |
| JAMES AND SHIRLEY CHAPMAN                   | 2005 |
| JOE MURRAY                                  | 2006 |
| RUSSELL AND EVELYN RIDD                     | 2007 |
| WARREN SCHLOESSER                           | 2008 |
| BILL BURSIS                                 | 2009 |
| HAROLD SHOOK                                | 2010 |
| PATRICIA AND LEROY SPOOR                    | 2011 |
| CHARLES AND DOROTHY GRIMM                   | 2012 |
| KUNI HOLBERT                                | 2013 |
| ELIZABETH BAERENKLAU,<br>KATHRYN HIGHHOUSE, |      |
| VIRGINIA MOTSKO                             | 2014 |
| GARY C. BEILMAN                             | 2015 |
| ANN O'HARA, JANE VARCOE                     | 2016 |
| ARTHUR AND GAIL FREY                        | 2017 |
| DONNA DECKER                                | 2018 |
| PAUL AND SANDY MEAGHER                      | 2019 |
| FRED AND MARY MURRAY                        | 2020 |
| HENRY SKIER                                 | 2021 |
| ALLYSON AND MICHAEL CAVAGE                  | 2022 |
| MARY ELLEN BENTLER                          | 2023 |





**Officers and Directors:**

Jay Starnes: Board Chair

Kim Oxholm: Vice Chair

John Carmody: 2nd Vice Chair

Alycia Schwartz: Treasurer

Meg Welker: Secretary

**Board of Directors:**

Peter Bochnovich

Kate Bryant

Andy Lane Chapman

Sarah Draidfort

William Gershey

Raymond Hamill

Sharon Herzog

James B. Kilgore

Jonathan Kline

Sandra Rickard

Warren Schloesser

Gene Shultz

Ethan Wood

**President / CEO:**

Ryanne Jennings

**Grants & Outreach Manager:**

Connor Simon

**Community Grant Writer:**

Derek Williams

**Communications and  
Development Coordinator:**

Ana Eccles

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Community only happens with intentional effort and cooperation. Hundreds of individuals, organizations, and businesses in our region are committed to the betterment of our shared community. The work at community foundations stretches far beyond financial assistance to important projects and causes. We support local nonprofit organizations by providing skill-building opportunities and events, we convene leaders and community members around important issues, and connect donors with the causes they want to support.

But we cannot do this important work connecting and catalyzing change in our community without financial support. We can only grow and operate with donations from generous donors like you.

It is a great honor to serve as Board Chair of this organization making a positive impact in our community and region. We hope you'll find a way to connect and be part of the Foundation or one of our many funds.

Sincerely,

Jay Starnes  
Board Chair



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

When I look back at the last five years, so much has changed. The world dynamics are completely different, our organization's physical space and internal operations have grown significantly, and our region has certainly had its fair share of shifts and changes. But one thing that remains consistent is the Wayne County Community Foundation's dedication to connecting people with financial and non-financial resources to improve the quality of life for all people in Wayne County.

Community Foundations are connectors. We connect people who care to help with people who need support. We connect organizations that can facilitate the flow of information or resources. We connect funders to projects ready for funding.

The work at community foundations stretches far beyond financial assistance to important projects and causes.

We also support local nonprofit organizations by providing learning and skill-building opportunities, we convene stakeholders and community members around important issues, and connect donors with the causes they care about the most.

We are eager to connect with you and look forward to the next five years and what changes they might bring!

With gratitude,

Ryanne Jennings  
President / CEO





918 Church Street, Suite F  
Honesdale, PA 18431  
www.WayneFoundation.org  
Email: info@waynefoundation.org

OR CURRENT RESIDENT



This year, led by the Scranton Area Community Foundation, the Wayne County Community Foundation, and multiple other regional funders hosted NEPA Gives on June 6th and 7th, 2024. This 24-hour giving day raised over **\$1.2 million** to support **241** nonprofit organizations that serve Northeastern Pennsylvania.

[nepagives.org](http://nepagives.org)