

FIGHTING FOR GOOD

COMMUNITY ACTION

LEHIGH
VALLEY



2021
2022

ANNUAL REPORT

FIGHTING FOR GOOD

COMMUNITY ACTION LEHIGH VALLEY

OUR PROGRAMS & SUBSIDIARIES

ABOUT Community Action Lehigh Valley is an anti-poverty nonprofit serving the greater Lehigh Valley through programs focusing on Youth, Neighborhood Revitalization, Housing, Food Access and Nutrition, Business Start-up and Development, and Advocacy.

MISSION The mission of Community Action Lehigh Valley is to improve the quality of life by building a community in which all people have access to economic opportunity, the ability to pursue that opportunity, and a voice in the decisions that affect their lives.

HISTORY Community Action Agencies are private nonprofit or public organizations whose development was encouraged by the federal government in 1964 to combat poverty in their local communities.

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Generation Next
SHE

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Community Action Development Allentown
Community Action Development Bethlehem
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and Northeast Pennsylvania
The Seed Farm

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Racial and Ethnic Justice



Cover Photo: Amirah Mitchell of Sistah Seeds at The Seed Farm

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COLLABORATION

Collaboration can be scary. It means not only trusting someone else to work with you, perhaps alongside you, and sometimes to even take the lead - but it can also mean admitting that you cannot, should not, or choose not to do it alone.

There are over 350 nonprofits in the Lehigh Valley. Most are vying for funding from the same corporations, foundations and donors. So why not collaborate, work together, join forces? Many of us do it all the time. During the pandemic, more than a dozen nonprofits and grassroots organizations created a "Strategic Response Team" to bring agencies across the Valley together to collaborate and figure out who did what best. We didn't care who got the glory, we cared about helping people get the services they needed. We put our egos aside to work together in the best ways possible. Each had an expertise and the heart to do the work, knowing that the most important thing in the end was assisting the people in the community who needed it.

Community Action has collaborated with hundreds of organizations in our many years of doing this work. Knowing how to cooperate well with others helps to achieve better outcomes. Organizations that collaborate well are likely to be more financially successful, more culturally aligned, and have higher engagement rates.

There's an old African proverb that says, **"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."** Together, we collaborate with other organizations to help create affordable housing, bring people out of homelessness, start new businesses, strengthen the economy, save homes from foreclosure, help students get into college, give kids programs that keep them safe and that teach them to be proud of who they are, feed tens of thousands of people, and talk about the importance of an equitable society. That's what collaboration is all about. **It's about loving people, loving our community and lifting people up.**

The economy has been challenging. Rising costs continue to erode Americans' paychecks and wreak havoc on household budgets. Higher gas prices, rents, energy costs, and food at the grocery store has made it difficult to make ends meet. Throughout the pages of this Annual Report, we hope to show you ways we have partnered with dozens of organizations, companies and community partners throughout the Lehigh Valley in both the for-profit and not-for-profit industries to spur innovation, assist our neighbors, revitalize homes and businesses, create hope, fulfill dreams, and frankly, make our piece of the world a better place to live.

If you haven't already, we hope that you will collaborate with us! Please consider joining us to change lives, uplift families, encourage individuals and give people hope.

We invite you to support our efforts to make the Lehigh Valley a better community in which we all work together.



Dawn Godshall
Executive Director



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JULY 1, 2021 – JUNE 30, 2022

FINANCIAL STATEMENT*



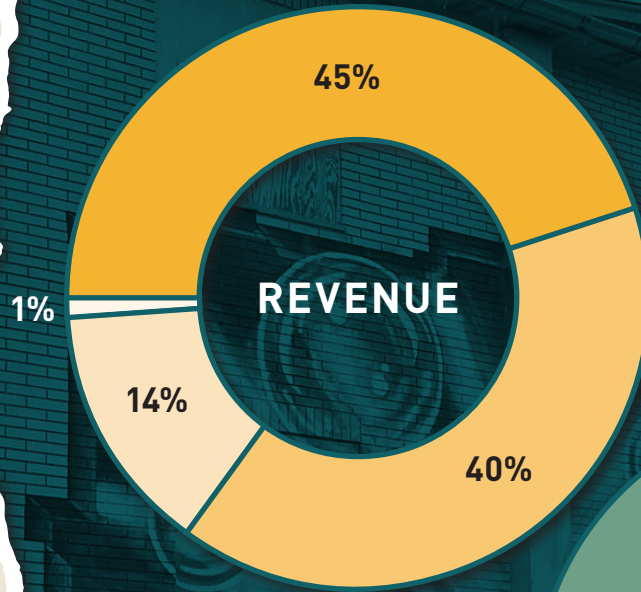
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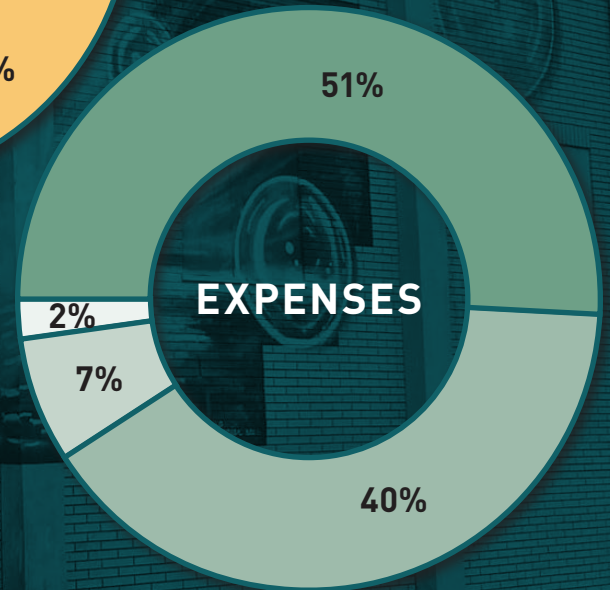
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Federal	\$30,776,990
Private	\$27,124,308
State	\$9,925,465
Local	\$714,671

Direct Assistance	\$34,549,050
Admin. / Fundraising	\$26,894,266
Program Staff Costs	\$4,449,612
Other Program Costs	\$1,517,321



*These unaudited figures include revenues from Community Action's subsidiary nonprofit community development corporations as well as the value of food we distribute through the Second Harvest Food Bank. Our audit was conducted by Buckno Lisicky & Company. Our audited financial statements can be obtained at communityactionlv.org

A copy of the official registration and financial information for Community Action may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling, toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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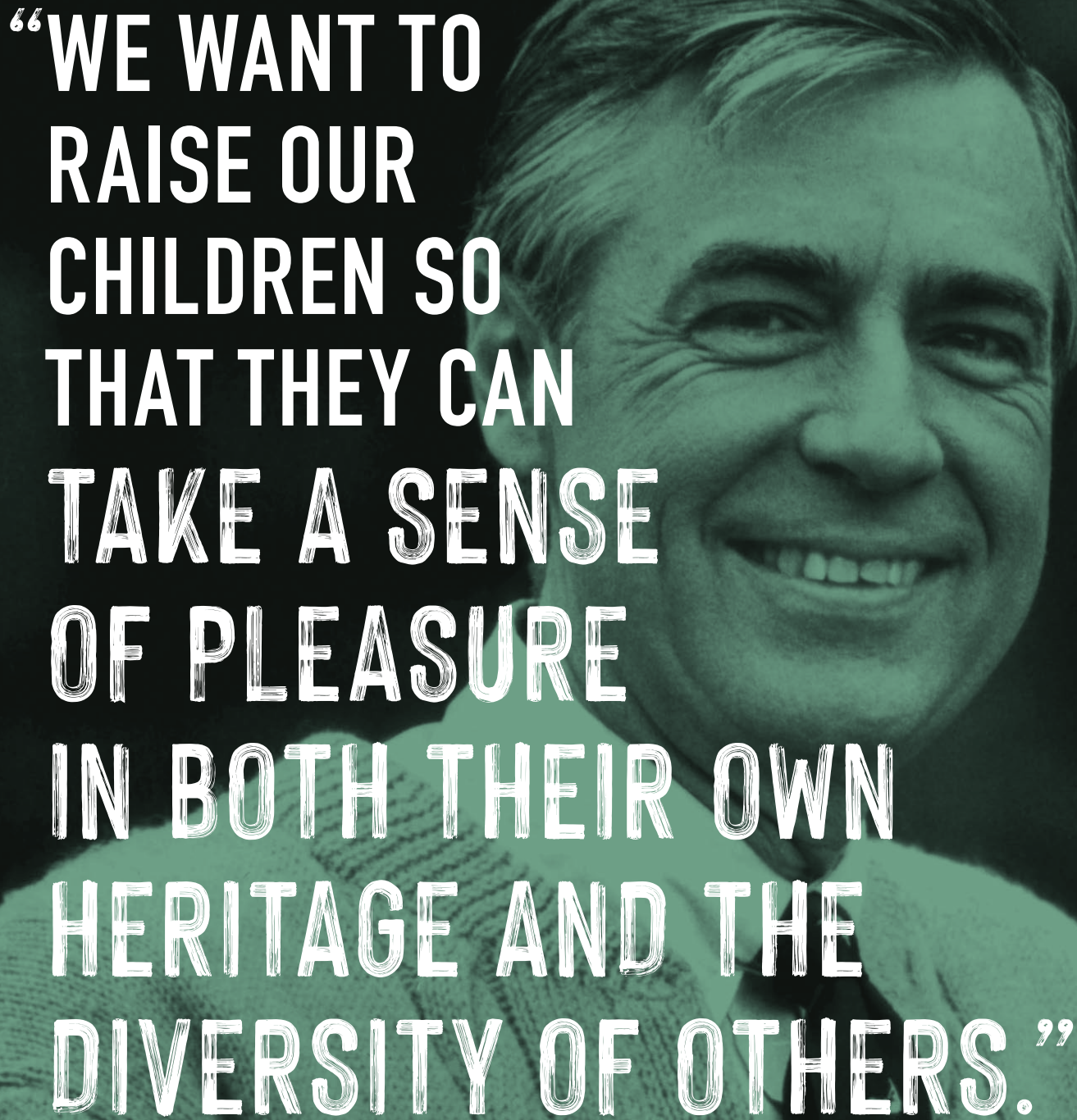
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

Community Action Lehigh Valley provides administrative support to a variety of entities that perform important work in our community. They include the following:

- ★ **Fiscal support to Lehigh County** in its administration of a clearinghouse that makes payments for housing for people in need.
- ★ **Fiscal support to Northampton County** for its clearinghouse.
- ★ **United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley partnered with Community Action to provide key professional staff support for the Lehigh Valley Food Policy Council, a collective impact initiative of dozens of stakeholders.**

The Council works toward goals of a 5-year strategic plan (2018-2022) to address the root causes of hunger and food insecurity, lack of access to fresh, healthy food, diminishing farmland, and barriers prohibiting the success of local food producers and entrepreneurs.





“WE WANT TO
RAISE OUR
CHILDREN SO
THAT THEY CAN
TAKE A SENSE
OF PLEASURE
IN BOTH THEIR OWN
HERITAGE AND THE
DIVERSITY OF OTHERS.”

— Fred Rogers "Mister Rogers"

NEVER NEVER NEVER GIVE UP!



YOUTH

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

GENERATION NEXT

Generation Next is a college readiness, access, and completion program created to correct disparities in education. It ensures that students of color, first-generation college students, and/or low-income students have increased access to opportunities that will further their education. The program works with students to achieve college admission, integrate into college life, and complete a post-secondary program.

650 students participated in the Generation Next Program.

Partnered with 4 schools in the Allentown Area School District, Bethlehem Area School District, and Easton Area School District.

Curriculum included college applications, FAFSA Night, SAT Prep, Time Management/Stress Management, savings match program, and life skills such as choosing friends, healthy relationships, decision making, diversity and inclusion, community leader guest speakers.

100% of seniors graduated from high school.

94% of seniors are headed to college in the Fall enrolling in colleges such as:

- ★ Drexel University
- ★ Penn State University
- ★ Northampton Community College
- ★ Moravian University
- ★ DeSales University
- ★ Penn State Berks
- ★ Temple University
- ★ University of Pittsburgh
- ★ University of Scranton
- ★ University of Vermont
- ★ California University of Pa
- ★ Penn State Lehigh Valley

With gratitude to our anonymous donor, Generation Next **added a vocational technical component to our scholarship program in addition to college-readiness.**



Daisy, graduate of Liberty High School attending East Stroudsburg University



Breiuana, graduate of Easton Area High School attending Pennsylvania State University



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

SHE

SHE, an acronym for “self-esteem, health and education” is a school-based program that encourages girls to see the many possibilities ahead of them by developing life skills that promote self-esteem, personal well-being, resilience, healthy relationships, teamwork, leadership, and interest in academic success.

125 students participated.

Partnered with 5 schools in the Allentown Area School District and Bethlehem Area School District.

Curriculum topics included decision making, mindfulness, community involvement, refusal skills, teamwork, colorism, diversity and inclusion, choosing friends, tolerance and acceptance, self-efficacy, hygiene, empathy and gratitude.

Program highlights included student-led community service projects, historic Bethlehem site visits, summer camp and ropes courses, assemblies, community leader guest speakers and other self-esteem building activities.

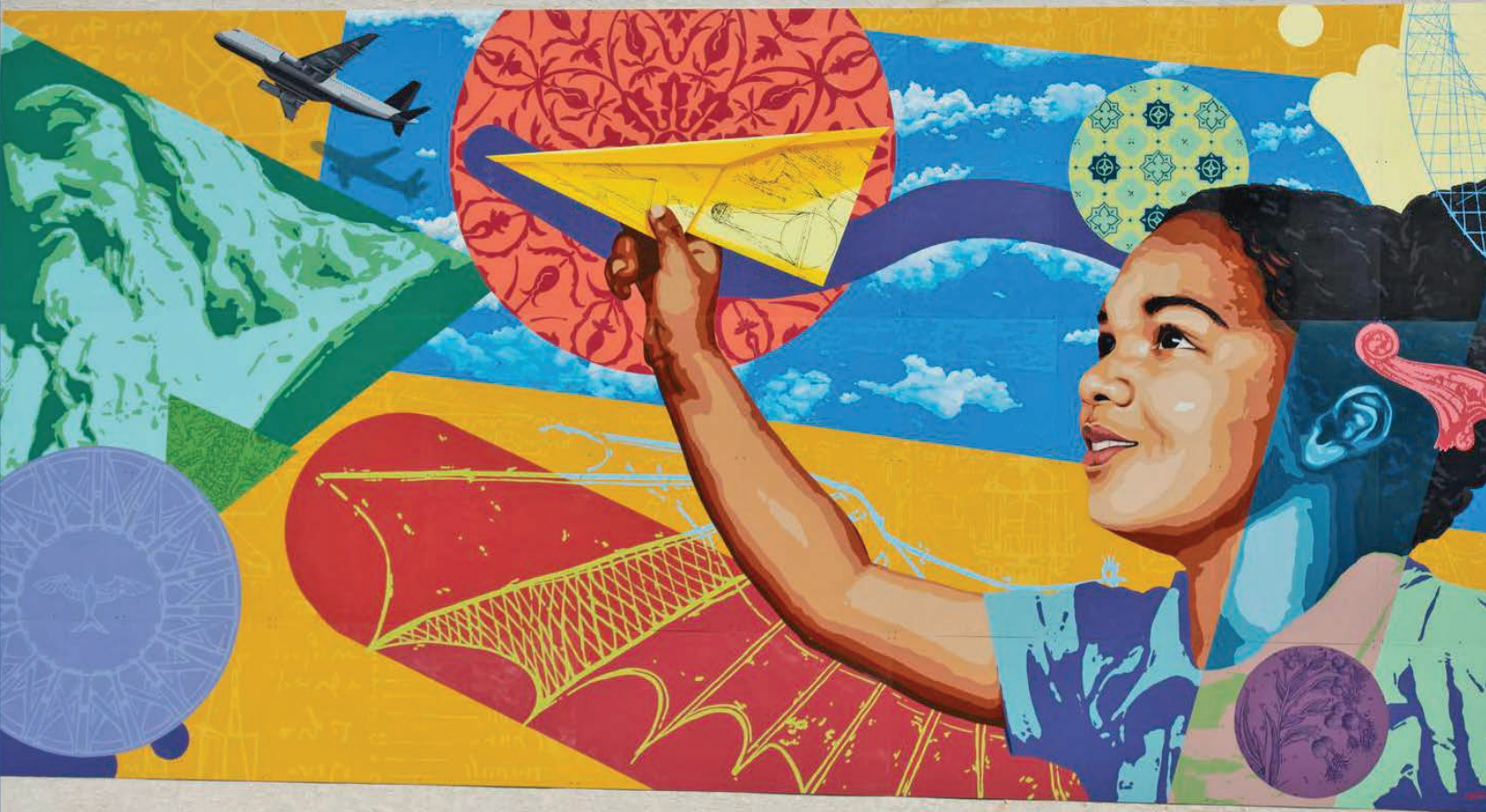




“TO BRING ABOUT
CHANGE,
YOU MUST
NOT BE
AFRAID TO
TAKE THE
FIRST STEP.

WE WILL FAIL WHEN
WE FAIL TO TRY.”

— Rosa Parks



NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

CA DEVELOPMENT ALLENTOWN



Community Action Development Allentown elevates and empowers residents by actively promoting neighborhood revitalization, which strengthens the neighborhood economy, improves the quality of life and is inclusive of all residents.

Completed Year 2 of the Allentown's Core Neighborhood Partnership Program in collaboration with multiple youth serving community partners.

- ★ **Conducted youth entrepreneurial training classes** with 18 attendees.
- ★ **Entered 11 students** in youth entrepreneurship "pitch contest" which produced 3 winning presenters earning prizes to further their business concept.
- ★ **Created 3 youth owned LLCs** for the retail industry and linked with business mentors.
- ★ **Supported continuation of Generation Next** at William Allen High School by enrolling 12 freshmen and retaining 4 sophomore students.
- ★ **Provided college tour for 16 youth** who received college application training as part of the SAT Boot Camps. Tour included 4 university campuses with tour guides.
- ★ **Collaborated with the Freedom School Partnership** to continue the James Lawson Freedom School at 3 sites which collectively enrolled 122 youth and served to mitigate the "summer slide" by utilizing a researched, multicultural, activity-based curriculum.
- ★ **Continued investment in the innovative anti-violence solutions** work led by Promise Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley. PNLV's staff responded to 36 acts of violence and provided support and referrals to victims and their families.
- ★ **Built capacity at 11 smaller nonprofits** via the Coalition of Difference Makers initiative, allowing them to provide services to over 500 youth and their families.
- ★ **Supported collaboration between Community Music School and Lehigh Valley Arts and Cultural Alliance** to provide musical instruction in piano, guitar, drums, or violin for all 25-summer camp youth.
- ★ **Collaborated with the City of Allentown's law enforcement staff** to implement the 8th year of its signature Youth Academy effort, focused on engaging middle school students from the Allentown School district to examine careers in law enforcement. Over a 4-week period, 42 students participated and were rewarded with trips to Franklin Institute, Leisure Lake, Lehigh Valley Zoo, Dorney Park and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary.
- ★ **Collaborated with the Baum Art School** to enroll 6 of our NPP sponsored youth graduates from their Basic Fashion Design Course into their advanced Fashion Design Program. These youth are focusing on careers in the fashion design industry or becoming a fashion industry entrepreneur.
- ★ **Partnered with the Caring Place, Fine Feather Foundation, and Lehigh Valley Arts and Cultural Alliance** to conduct an 8-week summer camp for 25 youth featuring arts, dance, vocal workshops and field trips to Crayola Experience, Da Vinci Science Center, America on Wheels Museum, and outings to Li'L-Le-Hi Trout Nursery and local parks.
- ★ **Held first community Fun Fest event** in the 500 block of 7th Street in partnership with the Allentown Parking Authority and several community partners. It featured youth arts and crafts, face painting, a bounce house, games, ethnic cuisine, a DJ, live local radio broadcasting, and a local music artist performing his original music. The event attracted several hundred residents.
- ★ **Assisted multiple community partners to provide community events and youth activities** reaching over 5,000 residents. Events included: high school basketball tournaments, Annual Dominican Cultural Festival, Annual Downtown Allentown Blues Festival, and the Annual "High Notes Gala" at Americus Hotel, which featured musical performances by Allentown School District students.
- ★ **Funded start-up of the Promise Food and Wellness Center** at the Brigadier General Anna Mae Hays Elementary School.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

PROMISE FOOD & WELLNESS CENTER

In March 2022, Second Harvest Food Bank partnered with Promise Neighborhood Lehigh Valley and Allentown School District (ASD) to open the **Promise Food & Wellness Center** at Brigadier General Anna Mae Hays Elementary School. This pantry, open Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and the first and third Saturday of every month, marks a monumental beginning for the Allentown community. Community partnerships are essential in the fight to end food insecurity, and Promise Food & Wellness Center was created with the community in mind. When ASD began blueprinting this new elementary school, they surveyed the area with plans to include resources that residents need, in addition to a food pantry.

What makes Promise Food & Wellness Center so unique is that it operates on an “order ahead” system. This system allows participants to use a mobile app to select food items from the pantry’s inventory. The order ahead system is a convenient and streamlined approach to distributing food, while exemplifying the “choice pantry” model recommended by Feeding PA’s Healthy Pantry Initiative. A choice pantry empowers participants to select the food they receive, ensuring they can maintain dignity and autonomy. Choice Pantries also reduce food waste and are proven to improve the overall diet of participants. When participants are empowered to choose their own food, families receive the food they want and can eat, considering food allergies, dietary restrictions, and cultural practices. **This approach to fighting food insecurity means we are not only providing community members with food, but working to attain food justice by ensuring all people have access to food that allows them to live healthier lives.**



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

COOKING MATTERS®

Helping Families Lead Healthier Lives For the past 30 years, **Cooking Matters®** has helped educate children, seniors, and adults on the importance of healthy living. Second Harvest offers Cooking Matters® in partnership with Share Our Strength, a national anti-hunger organization that aspires to end hunger and poverty in the United States. The 6-week cooking and nutrition education program inspires families to make healthier and more affordable food choices. These weekly interactive classes cover meal preparation, food budgeting, grocery shopping, and nutrition taught by our Nutrition Educator, Tamyah Brice.

Our Cooking Matters® courses also create lasting community partnerships and allow our team to interact directly with participants that may use our resources.

Some community partners include the Sixth Street Shelter, Rodale Institute, Allentown YMCA and Lincoln Elementary School. The lasting impact Cooking Matters® has on its participants is significant. After taking part in the class, 17% of families reported gaining more confidence in stretching their food dollars. Others communicated being more confident in cooking abilities and experienced fewer barriers to making a healthy, affordable meal. Providing nutrition education to our participants is another vital part of our mission to obtain food justice.

By helping community members bridge the gap in their cooking abilities and fostering an appreciation for cooking, we can educate them on using more nutritious ingredients and empower them to make healthier choices while working within the confines of their financial boundaries.



SUBSIDIARY SPOTLIGHT

CA DEVELOPMENT BETHLEHEM

Community Action Development Bethlehem has worked together with our neighbors to advance a neighborhood-based vision of community and economic development that builds on the strengths and assets of our diverse community in Bethlehem. We seek to improve the quality of life in South Bethlehem and Northside 2027 neighborhoods by empowering residents and expanding economic opportunity through small business support, housing rehabilitation and advocacy, and community development projects.

Funded 4 residential facades that were completed on the Southside.

Engaged 1652 residents in neighborhood initiatives through volunteering, committee work, and community planning meetings.

Funded 2 youth programs that served 100 youth through after-school programs in the arts, sports, and recreation.

18 businesses participated in the weekly Greenway Farmer's Market.

Supported the maintenance and growth of **4 community gardens**.

60 residents utilized the Tool and Seed Library through our partnership with Bethlehem Area Public Library.

Developed a neighborhood brand for the Northside 2027 neighborhood, "Northside Alive."



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

SLATE BELT RISING

Slate Belt Rising is a neighborhood revitalization initiative designed to integrate and capitalize on the substantial assets of the individual Slate Belt boroughs of Wind Gap, Pen Argyl, Bangor, and Portland. While Slate Belt Rising specifically targets these 4 boroughs, some initiatives promote development and the coordination of services for the entire region.

Completed 5 façade projects on commercial and residential properties across all 4 boroughs.

Secured \$30,000 in funding for upgrades to the Bangor Memorial Park Pool.

Awarded \$3,000 in scholarship funds to 6 local high school students to help them pay to further their education.

Hosted vendor markets with Blue Flame Events to help support local small businesses.

Supported a mural project at Cycle Masters bike shop in Wind Gap.

Submitted a new 6-year plan for approval that will guide future project work.



A portrait of Stacey Abrams, a Black woman with curly hair, looking directly at the camera with a calm expression. The background is a solid, warm yellow-gold color. The quote is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters, with a slightly distressed or hand-drawn texture. The quote is positioned on the left side of the image, overlapping her face and shoulder.

“WE ARE STRONGEST WHEN WE SEE THE
MOST VULNERABLE
IN OUR SOCIETY,
BEAR
WITNESS
TO THEIR
STRUGGLES,
AND THEN WORK TO CREATE SYSTEMS TO
MAKE IT BETTER.”

— Stacey Abrams



HOUSING

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

COMMUNITY ACTION HOMES

Community Action Homes helps people acquire and remain in quality, affordable homes. We partner with local municipalities to improve the quality of the affordable housing stock in the Lehigh Valley through a comprehensive housing revitalization strategy. This strategy includes the following tools: the acquisition of houses, rehabilitation of those houses for resale to eligible buyers, rehab of owner-occupied homes, and facade improvements.

Coordinated rehabilitation activities for 28 low-income households in Lehigh and Northampton counties through programs funded by Lehigh County, Northampton County, and the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency. Emphasized roof and HVAC system replacements, ensuring low-income homeowners' ability to remain comfortable in their homes and afford utility bills.

Completed 13 facade improvements to residential and commercial properties in Allentown, Bethlehem, and the Slate Belt in collaboration with Community Action Development Allentown, Community Action Development Bethlehem, and Slate Belt Rising.

Completed a gut rehabilitation of 1 home in Bangor Borough, known to Northampton County as one of its highest-priority blighted properties, for sale to a low- to moderate- income buyer.

Acquired 1 blighted twin home in Bangor Borough. Demolished both units in preparation for the construction of 2 new affordable housing units.

Began due diligence activities for a residential construction project on a high-visibility adaptive reuse site in Glendon Borough.



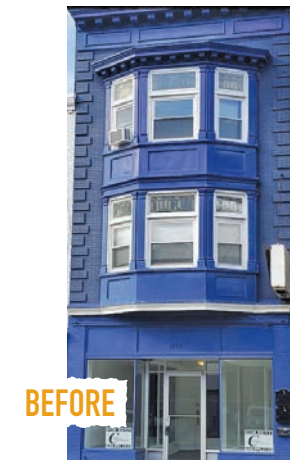
AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE

ST. LUKE'S & HABITAT FOR HUMANITY LEHIGH VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

This partnership was created based on a need to serve and provide comprehensive home repair to the Jordan Heights neighborhood of Allentown. **St. Luke's and Habitat for Humanity Lehigh Valley** began by partnering on extensive outreach within the community and defining the numerous areas of need regarding home repair. Habitat LV recently received funding for façade repairs and was searching for an additional partner to complete interior repairs. Community Action had a small amount of Keystone funding committed to this program and continued the commitment by applying PHARE funding (PA Housing Affordability Fund) for Energy Efficient Rehabs where applicable. The City of Allentown has also been invited into this partnership to bring their lead abatement program to this effort.

At this point, Community Action has impacted 3 properties' interior home repairs with our Keystone Funding. We have an additional 4 properties under consideration in our Energy Efficient Rehab Program.



CALL 610-437-5627 EXT.0
GO TO WWW.CAREERLINKLEHIGHVALLEY.ORG

VISIT
555 UNION BLVD.
ALLENTOWN, PA 18109

GetWORK JOB SEEKERS

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- Skills/Interest Assessments
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- Job Search Navigators
- Paid Work Experiences
- On-the-Job Training
- Summer Jobs
- Online Training
- Full-time employment
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- Apprenticeships
- Work Experience
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A proud partner of the **AmericanJobCenter** network

Auxiliary Aids and Services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities/Equal Opportunity Employer/Program Programs at PA CareerLink® Lehigh Valley are funded in whole or in part by federal funds. Detailed information can be found at lvwib.org/stevens-amendment. Equal Opportunity Officer: EqualOpportunity@careerlinklv.org or 610-841-8332

HOUSING COUNSELING



Housing Counseling is committed to provide low-to-moderate income families with a continuum of coordinated services in one location in order to better meet their housing and consumer credit needs and to build individual and community wealth.

Since its inception, 55 families purchased a home with assistance from Community Action's Housing Counseling Program.

- ★ **Conducted 7 seminars** providing 8 hours of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approved education that were attended by 199 prospective homebuyers, 175 of whom received certificates of completion. 3 seminars were conducted in Spanish and 4 in English. All 7 seminars were held virtually.
- ★ **Provided pre-purchase counseling** to 37 prospective homebuyers and pre-settlement counseling to 41 prospective homebuyers.
- ★ **10 active savers are in the Home Ownership Savings Account Program (HOSAP)** as of June 2022. The total savings balance of all 10 accounts is \$24,848.60. 6 savers have saved at least \$2,000 and will receive a \$2,000 savings match once they purchase a home. ESSA Bank and Trust partners with HCP on this initiative, which helps families purchase their first home.
- ★ **4 participants completed a 6-hour Financial Education course** that is taught with a curriculum developed by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency.
- ★ **3 participants purchased a home** using the Bethlehem Homebuyer Assistance Program. In partnership with the City of Bethlehem, this program provides down payment and closing cost assistance in the form of a deferred payment loan to first-time home buyers who purchase in the City of Bethlehem and are at 80% median income or below. As of June 2022, there are 12 participating lenders for the program.
- ★ **33 homeowners received assistance** in applying to the Homeowners' Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (HEMAP.) The housing counselors provided counseling and assisted homeowners in submitting an application to HEMAP.
- ★ **Provided default and delinquency counseling** to 23 financially distressed homeowners (13 homeowners through Northampton County's Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program and 10 homeowners through Lehigh County's Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program); saved 7 households from foreclosure through loan modifications and 1 homeowner had a partial claim. Out of the 23 homeowners served through the diversion programs, 8 cases remain under review for potential modifications. A total of 85% of families who received a modification of their mortgage or a repayment plan in 2019 are still in their home today. A total of 15% of these families were able to sell their home. None of these families lost their home to foreclosure.
- ★ **14 delinquent homeowners received Loss Mitigation services.** The housing counselors provided counseling and assisted homeowners in submitting a workout packet to their lender for a loan modification or repayment plan.
- ★ **14 delinquent homeowners received assistance in applying to the PA Homeowner Assistance Fund (PAHAF.)** The housing counselors provided counseling and assisted homeowners in submitting an application to PAHAF.



Purchased home (Geopp Street, Bethlehem)

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

WEATHERIZATION

Weatherization hires contractors to make improvements to the homes of low-income people and educates them on comfort and conservation techniques to enable them to save money on heating costs; it also repairs and even replaces failing heating systems.

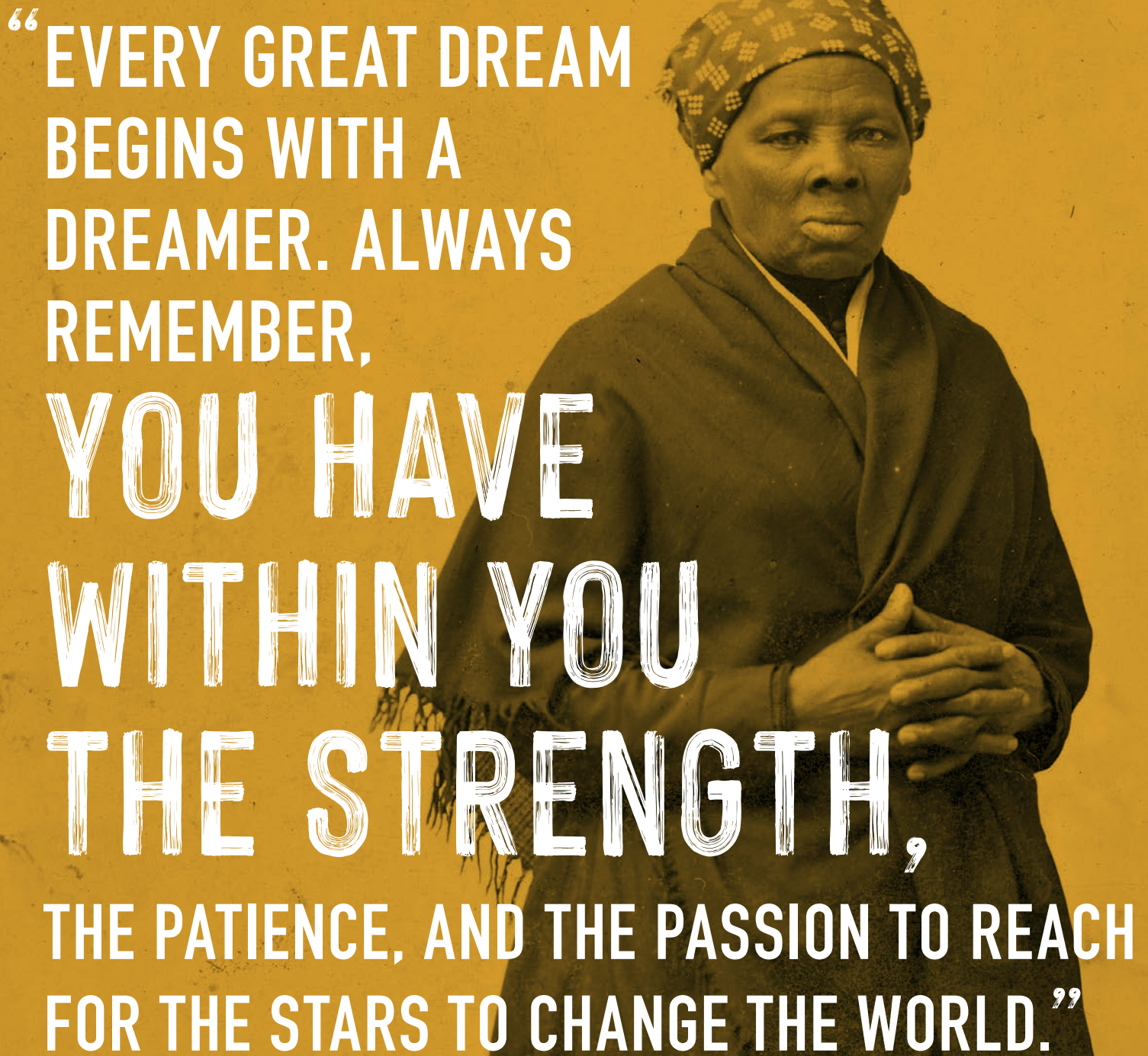
742 participants' homes visited. Through safety trainings, proper PPE use and cleaning procedures, our staff and contractors were able to work without contracting or transmitting the COVID virus.

Weatherized 343 homes, including comprehensive energy audits, blower door/ pressure diagnostics, insulating attics, walls and basements, thermal camera guided air sealing, repairing doors and windows, replacing high-energy usage appliances and, in some instances, repairing and replacing damaged heating systems.

335 heating systems were repaired, replaced, or had a preventative clean and tune through the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This was an increase of 99 heating systems over the previous year. This is due to the Clean and Tune Pilot Program, funded by ARPA, that allowed CALV to try and prevent future Crisis situations by cleaning and tuning the heating systems.

34 homes participated in the Pilot Cooling Program with funding from ARPA. Homes that didn't have central air conditioners were able to receive up to 2 window air conditioners. Homes with central air conditioners had their units repaired or replaced.





“EVERY GREAT DREAM
BEGINS WITH A
DREAMER. ALWAYS
REMEMBER,
YOU HAVE
WITHIN YOU
THE STRENGTH,
THE PATIENCE, AND THE PASSION TO REACH
FOR THE STARS TO CHANGE THE WORLD.”

— Harriet Tubman

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) provided rental and utility assistance for individuals who were experiencing housing instability, directly or indirectly, related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1,056 households served.

Collaboration with lawyers from North Penn Legal Services through their eviction diversion program.

Provided approval notices to tenants so they could present to a constable or magistrate in order to prevent an eviction.

Maintained open communication with landlords to expedite approvals and prevent them from evicting applicants.



SUBSIDIARY SPOTLIGHT

LEHIGH VALLEY COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

Lehigh Valley Community Land Trust is committed to strengthening communities by providing permanent affordable housing for income-qualified households through the development or redevelopment of land and/or the purchase and rehabilitation of real estate in the Lehigh Valley.

Transferred 3 existing units from the land lease to the restrictive covenants adopted in 2020. Owners remained in residence before and after the transfers, allowing them to opt into the additional household wealth building potential of the new model.

Successfully resold 1 home, transferring it from the land lease to the restrictive covenants in the process.

Developed and implemented a new model of homeownership where permanent affordability and owner-occupancy are preserved by deed restrictions rather than a ground lease. This will allow Land Trust homeowners to own both the home and the land.

Revised the formula governing the resale of Land Trust homes to allow homeowners increased equity at resale, providing them greater access to the wealth-building potential of homeownership.

These changes reflect the first major revision of the Land Trust program since its 2010 incorporation.

SIXTH STREET SHELTER



Sixth Street Shelter
Serving Families Since 1984.

The Sixth Street Shelter is a 60-90 day, short-term transitional housing and supportive services program for families with children who are experiencing homelessness. The Sixth Street Shelter helps families secure safe housing through family-centered services, in-house programming, and referrals to community resources while advocating to end homelessness and housing insecurity in the Lehigh Valley.

During 2021-2022, 71 families resided at the Shelter and developed Family Service Plans based on their housing, educational and financial goals.

79% of community families saved money toward rent or a security deposit upon leaving the Shelter.

63% of Family Preservation Program families saved money toward rent or security upon leaving the Shelter.

76% of community families achieved their Family Service Plan short-term goals.

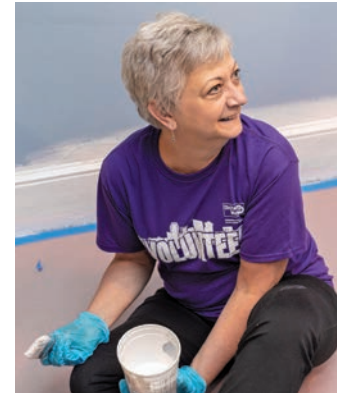
63% of Family Preservation families achieved their Family Service Plan short-term goals.

90% of families created a written budget to understand credit and money management as a part of their goal plan at the Shelter.

50% of families created a written resume to assist in their job search.

62% of families moved into stable housing upon leaving the Shelter.

Mental health is a barrier which needs to be addressed. The Sixth Street Shelter continues to connect with mental health resources such as Color Outside the Lines, Valley Health Partners Community Health Center, and Neighborhood Health Center. We have also connected with Sequential Technology and Moore Staffing Agency to assist with employment. We continue seeking outside team building and coaching to aid in solid infrastructure building.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

WELLNESS FRIDAY AT THE SIXTH STREET SHELTER

Highmark Wholecare speaks with our residents about the importance of health care and health insurance. Our representative, Adria, is bilingual and speaks directly with residents to answer questions they may have regarding insurance and medical care. **This gives our residents a safe space to speak with a trained professional who understands the healthcare system and can offer suggestions and resolutions to these questions.** She is an asset to the program and has built relationships with residents, giving them the confidence to ask questions to get the answers they need.

Wilkes University Pharmacy students visit our shelter and provide multiple services. They develop nutrition activities that engage children and teach valuable lessons about medication, nourishing food choices, the importance of good rest, and why we need to limit screen time. Wilkes Pharmacy students have also committed to providing COVID-19 vaccines, boosters, and flu shots to residents and staff. They provide the education piece that many unvaccinated folks need to become well-informed and understand the importance of immunizations. The program has offered much success and engagement with our residents. There have been a few guests at the shelter who were resistant to receiving the COVID vaccine, but after in-depth conversations with the nursing students and Adria, they requested the vaccine. These small advances are what make our program successful.

Some of the other activities have been yoga, zumba, make your own trail mix, cooking class, taste testing new foods, quizzes about sugars and testing vital signs. We have so much more planned for the fall and winter.

This partnership has enabled Shelter staff to better understand some of our residents' needs and to identify resources that facilitate a successful future. The wellness activities continue to support our residents and address public health issues in a safe environment. This environment proves to be a successful ground for listening and understanding.





“I HAVE THE AUDACITY
TO BELIEVE

THAT PEOPLE
EVERYWHERE
CAN HAVE THREE
MEALS A DAY FOR
THEIR BODIES,
EDUCATION, AND CULTURE FOR THEIR
MINDS AND DIGNITY, EQUALITY
AND FREEDOM FOR THEIR SPIRITS.”

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



FOOD ACCESS & NUTRITION

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Second Harvest **FOOD BANK**

of the Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania

Second Harvest provides nutritious food, offers nutrition education, advocates to end food insecurity, dismantles barriers to create access and works to attain food justice. Our programs provide children, seniors, and families with fresh and nutritious groceries. We also provide training and access to land for new and emerging farmers at The Seed Farm, help people enroll to receive SNAP benefits and administer supplemental nutrition programs for seniors and military families.

10.9 million pounds of food distributed.

Served residents in 6 counties across Lehigh, Northampton, Carbon, Monroe, Pike, and Wayne.

4.6 million pounds of fresh produce, perishable protein, and fresh dairy products distributed (24% increase from last year).

5.7 million pounds of food rescued that would otherwise end up in landfills.

24,297 boxes of nutritious food distributed to low-income seniors through the PA Senior Food Box Program.

360 military families participated in MilitaryShare (double the amount served last year).

13 sites in 6 counties participated in the Healthy Pantry Initiative, a partnership program with Feeding Pennsylvania. The program's goal is to increase access and consumption of nutritious foods while also making policy, systems and environmental changes at the pantry level to reduce nutrition insecurity and improve health equity.



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PANTRY PROGRAMS AT SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK



Beginning March 2022, Second Harvest Food Bank launched a **Mobile Pantry Program** and an **OrderAhead Pantry** to bring food directly into communities facing high levels of food insecurity. The current mobile model extends the wrap around service framework that is orchestrated by the Community in Schools professionals, who work to provide families with resources that increase the success of a child's education.

OrderAhead expands access to charitable food through a discreet and convenient click-and-collect grocery ordering system that reduces the physical and social barriers encountered by neighbors facing food insecurity. The program enables individuals facing hunger to order food from a Feeding America network food bank or partner organization and pick it up at convenient community locations. It is the first of its kind in the region.

The school pantry program ensures that students facing food insecurity are met with food access, thereby increasing their likeliness to succeed in school and other social environments,

such as extracurriculars. We distribute a large variety of shelf stable items, fresh produce, dairy, and perishable proteins. **Collectively, our school pantry program distributions serve approximately 3,000 people (students and families) per month.**

The goal that truly drives our success is the aspiration to create strong community partnerships. These partnerships have been amazingly effective. The schools already serve as trusted community hubs and food distribution serves as a major draw to the schools where they can access additional wraparound services. **Mobile Distributions are held once per month at 4 separate locations:**

- ★ Raub Middle School, Allentown
- ★ Northeast Middle School, Bethlehem
- ★ Panther Valley Football Stadium, Lansford
- ★ Wallenpaupack High School, Hawley



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

THE SEED FARM

The Seed Farm provides training opportunities, access to land and equipment, and business start-up assistance to emerging farmers on our 42-acre farm in Emmaus, located in Lehigh County. Through our Farm Business Incubator program, beginning farmers with business plans may launch their own farms on our site. They produce and market their own products, while having access to land, equipment, and infrastructure at reduced rates. Incubator farmers receive continued guidance from experienced local farm mentors and Seed Farm staff.

We also provide hands-on training in areas that are critical to new farm success, such as equipment operation, production planning, food safety, and more. The Seed Farm is part of Second Harvest Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania.

Provided 468 hours of training and mentorship opportunities to new farmers.

3 beginning farmers continued in the Farm Business Incubator.

4 beginning farmers joined the Farm Business Incubator.

50% increase in land utilization.

8.25 acres leased to incubator farmers.

5,105 plants sold at the Spring Plant Sale.

200+ varieties of vegetables, herbs, and flowers sold at the Spring Plant Sale.

1,300+ plants donated to community groups like Easton Urban Farm and PromiseLand Community Garden.



FARM BUSINESS INCUBATOR PROGRAM AT THE SEED FARM

Early this spring, a second 24' x 96' greenhouse was erected at The Seed Farm. In Pennsylvania's climate, season extension is critical. Heated greenhouses are invaluable infrastructure that enable small-scale farmers to get a jump on the growing season by starting cold-sensitive plants in a warm, protected environment while temperatures are still blustery outside. When the threat of frost has passed, farmers and gardeners are ready to transplant and will begin harvesting weeks ahead of those who haven't grown out transplants in a heated greenhouse.


During the spring of 2021, The Seed Farm was gearing up for its 7th Annual Plant Sale and hosting 4 incubator farmers. The single greenhouse was utilized close to capacity. That fall, The Seed Farm accepted 4 additional incubator farmers who joined 3 continuing incubators.

"When we knew how many incubators we had coming in for the 2022 season, we thought we needed to have a second greenhouse. Based on people's business plans last fall, we anticipated that 2 greenhouses would get filled. This year, it wouldn't have been possible to host the Plant Sale or for people to start their plants at The Seed Farm if we didn't have the new house." - Neil Singh, Interim Farm Manager

Donating surplus transplants after the Spring Plant Sale has become an annual practice at The Seed Farm. **This season, the farm donated over 1,300 transplants, and they'd like to see that number increase in the coming years. With a second greenhouse, the capacity to grow has doubled.**



Mark Reid, Manager at the Easton Urban Farm, expressed his appreciation for donated transplants. **"It's been a wonderful supplement for the stuff we don't have the space to grow. Getting contributions from The Seed Farm helps us get the volume and selection to begin and maintain our season. It helps us feed people! And it's always good quality."**



“You don’t make progress
by standing on the
sidelines, whimpering
and complaining.

YOU MAKE
PROGRESS
BY IMPLEMENTING
IDEAS.”

— Shirley Chisholm

by Carmen Toro



BUSINESS START-UP & DEVELOPMENT

SUBSIDIARY SPOTLIGHT

RISING TIDE COMMUNITY LOAN FUND

Rising Tide Community Loan Fund is a community and economic development organization dedicated to creating and supporting locally owned businesses in Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton, and Upper Bucks counties. Rising Tide is a separately incorporated subsidiary of Community Action Lehigh Valley.

Delivered \$9.3 million in COVID-19 emergency grant funds as a member of the PA Community Development Financial Institutions network, along with 16 other CDFIs, to barbershops and beauty salons across the commonwealth.

Disbursed nearly \$800,000 in loans bringing the total to date to over \$10 million.

Approved 19 loans to 17 businesses: 8 were made to woman-owned businesses, 8 were made to minority-owned businesses and 12 were to businesses owned by low-to moderate-income individuals and/or located in low-to moderate-income census tracts.

Businesses that received loans: 4 trucking companies, 2 home improvement companies, 2 retail stores, 2 breweries, 2 auto repair shops, an outdoor adventure company, a bakery, a printing company, a pizza shop and a childcare center.

\$7.5 million in grants provided to more than 210 businesses through administering Lehigh and Northampton counties' COVID-19 Hospitality Industry Recovery Program.



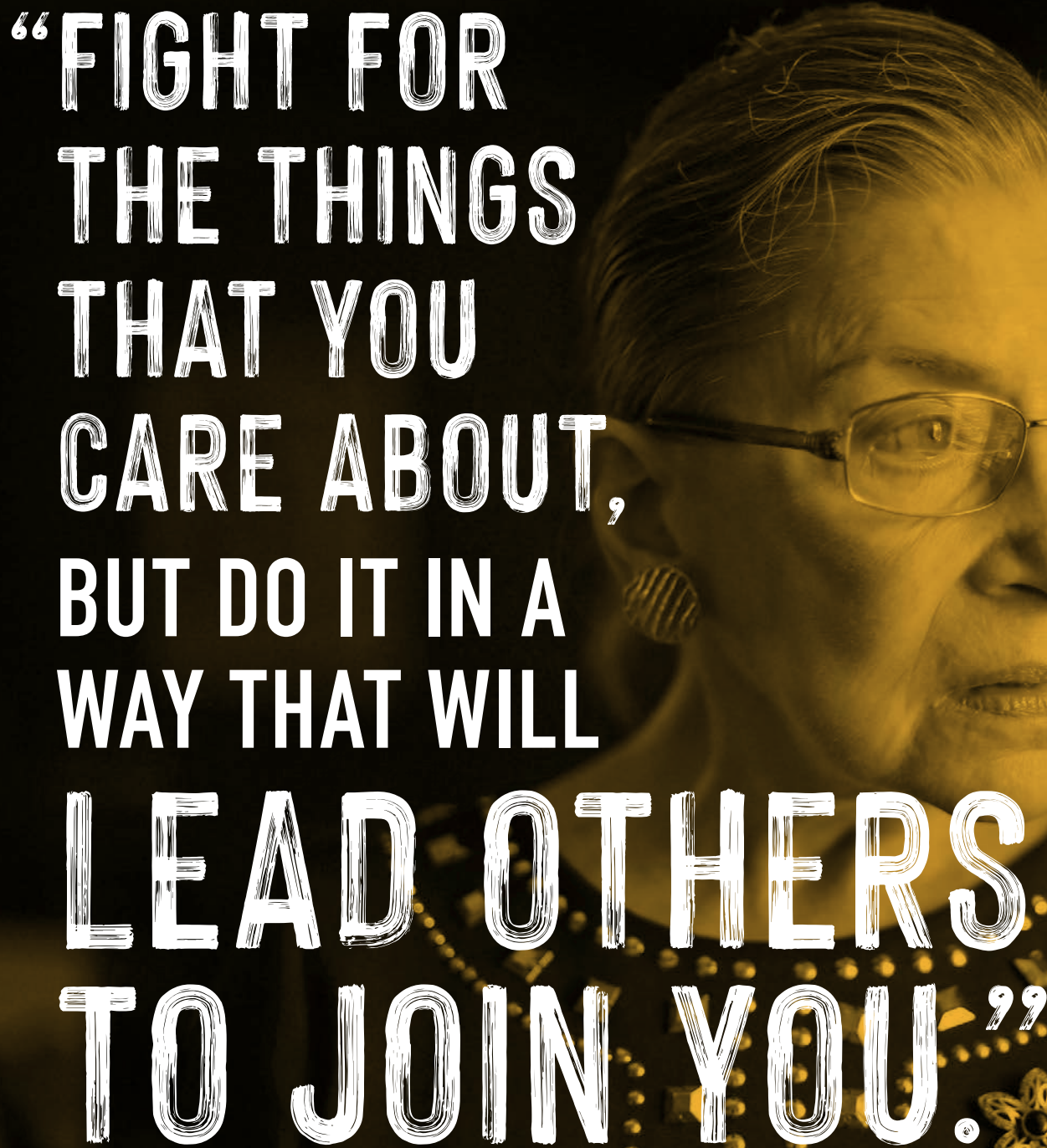
THE RISING TIDE
Community Loan Fund

CRUMBS CAKE STUDIO

Felicia Rodriguez owns and runs a Bethlehem boutique bakery, **Crumbs Cake Studio**, where she thoughtfully curates custom designed cakes and other various desserts. Crumbs Cake Studio started when Felicia was seeking a custom cake for her daughter and decided to take matters into her own hands. Starting out, she baked for family and friends, but would soon realize her 7 years of experience in food service and hospitality could be applied towards serving Bethlehem and our surrounding communities. Being the sole owner of a bakery is a full circle moment for Felicia, whose passion for baking started at a young age.

Rising Tide Community Loan Fund provided a \$25,000 small business loan to Felicia and Crumbs Cake Studio. With these funds, Felicia was able to remodel the business storefront into a space that illuminates her talents and purchase baking appliances and equipment. Today, Crumbs Cake Studio creates edible pieces of art for every occasion, including Rising Tide's birthday celebration cupcakes.



A close-up portrait of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, wearing her signature black judicial robes and glasses. The image is tinted with a warm, golden-yellow light. She is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a thoughtful expression. A decorative floral ornament is visible on her necklace.

“FIGHT FOR
THE THINGS
THAT YOU
CARE ABOUT,
BUT DO IT IN A
WAY THAT WILL
LEAD OTHERS
TO JOIN YOU.”

—Ruth Bader Ginsburg



ADVOCACY

RACIAL AND ETHNIC JUSTICE

Racial and Ethnic Justice provides diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging trainings and workshops to the community and works towards equitable access to opportunity by addressing the symptoms of the historical exclusion of Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and other underserved communities.

- ★ **Engaged over 750 participants** in Cultural Humility/Implicit Bias Trainings and Racial Conversations across Lehigh, Northampton, and Monroe County.
- ★ **Engaged over 675 participants** in Cultural Humility Engagement Trainings across Lehigh, Northampton, and Monroe County.
- ★ **75 individuals participated** in Racial Conversations across Lehigh Valley.
- ★ **Collaborating on 22 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging/Anti-Racist Initiatives** across the Lehigh Valley and Pocono Region.
- ★ **Launched Color Outside the Lines with 200 participants** focusing on closing the wealth and racial gaps in 8 areas; Housing, Criminal Justice, Economic Opportunity Employment, Education and Quality of Life (Mental Health, Health, Recreation and Arts and Culture).
- ★ **Partnered with over 400 organizations, companies, nonprofits** in the Lehigh Valley and Monroe County to execute the plan.
- ★ **Engaged over 200 community members** in information sessions on areas of the plan.
- ★ **Connected with and engaged educators** in several districts in Lehigh Valley and Monroe County in Cultural Humility Engagement Trainings and Racial Conversations.
- ★ **Collaborated with local health networks** to begin engaging doctors and hospital staff in Cultural Humility Engagement Trainings and Racial Conversations.
- ★ **Launched a mental health pilot program** to serve 25 participants from underserved communities with 11 clinicians of color.
- ★ **Partnered with 100 people from local theaters** to engage in racial conversations and diversify the arts and culture scene.
- ★ **Connected contractors of color to contracts** through partnerships with local organizations like the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce.





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**Big hearts
deserve a
big hand.**



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Fighting For Good Society members are friends who have chosen to join us in the fight to change the lives of people in the Lehigh Valley by including a planned gift in their will or estate. By naming Community Action Lehigh Valley in your will, donating assets, or establishing an endowment fund, you help ensure that our programs and services will be available for many years to come.



OUR LOCATIONS

Community Action Lehigh Valley

1337 East 5th Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015
communityactionlv.org

Community Action Development Allentown

523-525 North 7th Street, Allentown, PA 18102

Community Action Development Bethlehem

409 East 4th Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015

Second Harvest Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania

6969 Silver Crest Road, Nazareth, PA 18064
shfbtv.org

Sixth Street Shelter

219 North 6th Street, Allentown, PA 18102
sixtastreetshelter.org

Slate Belt Rising

197 Pennsylvania Avenue, Bangor, PA 18013
slatebeltrising.org

The Seed Farm

5854 Vera Cruz Road, Emmaus, PA 18049
theseedfarm.org



@communityactionlv