



## BROWN STREET PARK **REBORN** with New Playground Equipment

The Brown Street Park in Spring City Borough is a larger park for a town its size, with a children's playground, tennis courts, basketball court, gazebo and Spring City Pool Complex sitting just nearby. It's also the site of numerous community events, including a Community Day, the Spring City Easter Egg Hunt and the Summer Concert Series.

But after 30+ years of use, the park's wood and metal climbing areas, bridge, monkey bars and slides were showing their age. Between missing pieces and splintering wood, the playground wasn't as inviting as it had been.

"We were inspired to kickstart park improvements by On Your Park, Get Set, Go!®, the Foundation's parks contest," said Eugene Sweeney, Spring City Borough Council VP. "Our goal was to use any winnings we received to replace the old playground equipment."

On Your Park, Get Set, Go!®, which was open to all parks in the region, was a month-long challenge where local parks competed for votes from members of the community. The park that received the most votes received funds for park improvements. By encouraging people to visit their favorite park to cast their votes, the contest also aimed to get people more invested in the condition of their local parks.

*(Continued on page 2)*

# a message from our president



Can you feel the days slowly (sometimes very slowly) getting longer? Your favorite waterway may be frozen, and your trail covered in snow, but I hope you're still gearing up and enjoying our wonderful landscapes. Plus, what better way to exercise than to challenge yourself to tackle the winter weather?

As we continue the march toward the inevitable spring season, I wanted to let you know that the Foundation is looking ahead, too. And not just to more comfortable outdoor weather, but to our upcoming needs assessment report, which will be available in March.

Following up on the 2013 needs assessment, the new survey promises to give us updated insights into health outcomes and opportunities in our area. Our main goal is to identify changes and socioeconomic characteristics of the community and use that information to help local organizations who need to develop strategies and apply for grant funding.

We're particularly interested in getting more up-to-date information on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and trauma in our area. Given the strong relationship between ACEs and health outcomes later in a person's life, the ACEs/trauma information from the needs assessment will help us better understand where our community stands. It also helps support the efforts of organizations that provide healing for trauma, like the Pottstown Trauma Informed Community Connection.

These surveys are so important to how we function as a Foundation. It's crucial to look at present facts when looking ahead—especially when we seek to leverage grants and resources for future challenges.

I hope you and your family look forward to the bright future of Pottstown as much as we do!

David W. Kraybill, President

*(Continued from page 1)*

The Spring City Borough submitted Brown Street Park into On Your Park, Get Set, Go!® for three years before finally winning first prize—a \$5,000 recreation grant—in summer 2017. When the Spring City Borough Council discovered that completing the park improvements would cost more than the prize payout, it stepped in to provide additional funding. The Foundation recommended that Spring City apply for a grant to cover the final part of funding. With all the necessary pieces in place, Spring City was ready to update Brown Street Park.

In late September 2018, the old equipment was torn down and replaced. The new playground equipment includes a baby slide, twisty slide, rock wall, swings (for children and babies), benches, a plastic border around the park with new mulch, and an accessibility ramp. The majority of the new equipment is made of plastic—as opposed to wood and metal—so it can last longer.

Now, [Brown Street Park](#) offers local families a safer, more enjoyable place for their children to play.

"It's great to see children using the playground again," said Kimberly Weaner, Parks & Rec Committee Board Member. "This is a completely different park now."

To stay involved in the local park, Weaner encourages Spring City Borough residents to attend Parks and Recreation meetings at 6pm on the third Thursday of every month at Borough Hall.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

[www.pottstownfoundation.org](http://www.pottstownfoundation.org)



# East Coventry Township Joins Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Committee



**POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

In 2014, six members of the eight-member Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee (PMRPC) recognized that they could better serve residents through parks and recreation opportunities by working collaboratively, and formed the Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Committee (PARRC). The committee's goals are to stimulate development and maintenance of recreation facilities, encourage preservation of open space, and implement better planning for parks and recreation.

To achieve those goals, PARRC hired a Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Coordinator through a grant from the [Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources](#), and funds from the Foundation and the municipalities. This coordinator assists the participating municipalities with meeting their recreation needs more efficiently by acquiring funds for park improvement projects; developing Master Plans, Open Space Plans, and other studies; providing technical assistance; coordinating programs and events; and implementing a regional trail system.

Four years into the program, the efforts of the coordinator position have resulted in \$1,732,000 awarded to 32 different park projects. The largest project so far has been the TriCounty Trail Study, a feasibility study done over multiple years that has involved representatives and officials at the local, state and federal levels. The end goal of the study was to create a network of bicycle and pedestrian facilities that connect residents and visitors to destinations in the region and to the Schuylkill River Trail. Now that the study is complete, the next phase is securing funding to develop trail sections.

Aside from park and trail developments, the PARRC was also able to expand Bike Pottstown, create a Regional Events Calendar and generate new regional partnerships.

Now, the PARRC is glad to welcome [East Coventry Township](#) to their ranks. East Coventry had not gone after funding much in the past. However, the progress the PARRC had made in just its first four years impressed them.

**"I'm glad another municipality can benefit from this program."**

Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Coordinator  
Michael Lane

"It's great to see the program expanding with East Coventry," said Craig Colistra, PAHWF Program Officer for Recreation and Health. "This growth will allow the coordinator position to have a larger impact on the region."

East Coventry Township recently adopted a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan and then developed a strategic plan to determine how to utilize available grant funds to implement priority projects identified in the plan. "With the new plan and now membership in PARRC, it's a great place to start with improvements," said Lane. "Both the supervisors and parks and recreation board want these recommendations to happen."

Recognizing the value of the technical assistance from the Regional Recreation Coordinator, all municipalities participating in the PARRC have committed to another five years of the program.



[www.pottstownfoundation.org](http://www.pottstownfoundation.org)

## Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence Build Mentor Relationships Between Students and Retirees

Big Brothers Big Sisters Independence recently launched an innovative mentoring partnership with the TriCounty Active Adult Center (TRAAC) and Rupert Elementary School. Twice a month, third grade students ("Littles") who were matched with retired adult members of TRAAC ("Bigs") get to visit their mentors during school lunchtime. During each visit, Littles and Bigs eat lunch, talk, play games and participate in one-on-one activities that strengthen their relationships.

The program began on November 8, 2018 with seven matches. During the first visit, Littles and Bigs played shuffle board and rode on stationary bikes together. After a fantastic start, the goal for the year is to create 20 mentoring relationships that help children achieve their full potential.



## Annual Home Garden Contest

Grow for it! Beginner and experienced gardeners alike are invited to dabble in the art of gardening and compete for cash prizes. Learn more about what it takes to grow a garden and help to beautify your communities with your entries. Open to residents of the Pottstown and Boyertown Boroughs! Brought to you by the Foundation, MOSAIC Community Land Trust and Building a Better Boyertown.

**REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 15, 2019! LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT [HOMEGARDENCONTEST.COM](http://HOMEGARDENCONTEST.COM).**



The Amazing Raise is a giving challenge that brings the region together to help raise needed funds, shining a spotlight on the work of nonprofits in the Tri-County Area (Montgomery County, Eastern Berks County, Northern Chester County).

The Amazing Raise is organized by the TriCounty Community Network (TCN), which provides collaborative leadership programs and initiatives to support community needs.

**Save the date for The Amazing Raise 2019: Tuesday, October 15! Learn more at [tcnetwork.org/the-amazing-raise](http://tcnetwork.org/the-amazing-raise).**

## Fall 2018 Grant Round

The Foundation seeks grant proposals that are consistent with our identified mission of improving health outcomes in the Pottstown region. Within our mission, we have established priorities for which our grants are required to serve.

The fall 2018 grant round includes 38 grants, totaling \$1,022,568, awarded to non-profit organizations, schools and municipalities. These grants are funded according to the following priorities:

**Priority #1A: Healthy Behaviors – Schools**  
Promoting healthy living through nutrition, activities and programs in public and private schools to reduce obesity and encourage healthy living. Three grants awarded totaling \$27,500.

**Grace Early Learning Center:** Playground Rubberized Surfacing

**Pope John Paul II High School-Office of Catholic Education:**  
PJP II Well-Being Initiative

**St. Catharine of Siena School:** Operation Recess Reboot - An Inclusive Playground Project

**Priority #1B: Healthy Behaviors – Parks**  
Improving parks, programming and the built environment to increase access to physical activity. Three grants awarded totaling \$76,500.

**Borough of Pottstown:** Spruce Street Park Playground Development

**Schuylkill River Greenway Association:** 2018 Recreation and Community Engagement

**Township of Upper Pottsgrove:** Park Users - Before & After the Makeovers

**Priority #1C: Healthy Behaviors – Networks**  
Creating and promoting social networks involving healthy living. 23 grants awarded totaling \$727,290.

**Boyertown Area Community Wellness Council, Inc. DBA Wellness Council of Boyertown:** Growing our Financial Stability

**Boyertown Area Multi-Service, Inc.:** Food Access Programming for Wellness Among Hungry, Impoverished Individuals, Families, and Elderly in Berks and Montgomery Counties

**Camphill Village Kimberton Hills:** Aging in Community-Basic Needs Program

**Centro Cultural Latinos Unidos Inc.:** "Fighting Obesity Through Fun"

**Developmental Enterprises Corporation/Pottstown Training Center:** Healthy Eating, Healthy Living

**Family Services of Montgomery County:** Strengthening Pottstown's Families Project

**Mother Goose: Read To Me:** Expanded Free Books

**Olivet Boys & Girls Club:** Triple Play

**Pottstown Athletic Club:** Fitness USA IV

**Pottstown Athletic Club:** LaSalle Training for PAC Board

**Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities:** PCRC Stability Programs and Development Capacity

**Pottstown Downtown Improvement District Authority:**  
Consulting - Education

**Pottstown Downtown Improvement District Authority:**  
Pottstown FARM

**Pottstown Public Library:** Creating healthy and informed patrons through collection development of adult, teen and juvenile non-fiction resources

**Preservation Pottstown Inc.:** Mosaic CLT Community Garden Program-2019

**Royersford Outreach, Inc.:** General Operating Funds for Building and Program

**Save Alliance Foundation d.b.a. GreenAllies:** Youth Grow

**Share Food Program Inc.:** Montco Anti-Hunger Network Request for General Operating Funds

**Trellis For Tomorrow:** Youth Programs for Health and Wellbeing

**TriCounty Active Adult Center:** Big Brothers Big Sisters Program

**TriCounty Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Inc.:**  
Leadership Tri-County BoardCorps Bootcamp

**YWCA Tri-County Area:** Healthy Pathway Project Expansion

**YWCA Tri-County Area:** VISTA Capacity Building in Pottstown, PA

**Priority #2: Health Access**  
Funding learning opportunities for physical and emotional health. Eight grants awarded totaling \$161,278.

**Carson Valley Children's Aid:** Women's Voices Healthy Choices

**Child Advocacy Center Of Montgomery County, d/b/a Mission Kids:** Fostering Resiliency Through On-site Therapy and Advocacy

**Frederick Mennonite Community:** Collaborative Montessori Inspired Dementia Training

**Health Care Access:** Health Care Access Programs

**Maternity Care Coalition:** Pottstown Area Early Head Start (EHS) and Parenting Initiative

**Spring-Ford Counseling Services:** Signs of Suicide

**The Pennsylvania State University:** Coach/Mentor Implementation Guide for Early Learning Healthy Teachers Program II

**Visiting Nurse Association Community Services, Inc. (VNA):**  
Personal Navigator Program with Expanded Legal Support

**Priority #3: Strengthen Non-Profits**  
Funding learning opportunities and strategic planning to strengthen non-profits. One grant awarded totaling \$30,000.

**TriCounty Community Network Inc.:** C2 - Community Camp



152 E. High St., Suite 500  
Pottstown, PA 19464  
Phone: 610-323-2006  
Fax: 610-323-0047  
[www.pottstownfoundation.org](http://www.pottstownfoundation.org)

