



See Page 2: Pottstown Community Voices Grant Fund

Community Benefit Report | Winter 2024



Remembering a Community Unifier

Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation joins the community in mourning the loss of Charles Haddad, who passed away Dec. 23 at the age of 87. Charles was a dedicated member of the Foundation’s Board of Directors, where he served as an integral part of the Development Committee.

With a tireless energy and enthusiasm for helping others and continually improving the Boyertown community, Charles’ lifetime of service included work with Building a Better Boyertown, Boyertown Rotary Club, the State Theatre Preservation Society, and the General Carl Spaatz National USAAF Museum. These and many other organizations and initiatives benefited from his tireless drive to make a difference in his community.

“Charles had the ability to unite and inspire his neighbors to take on big issues and make a real difference,” said David Kraybill, PAHWF president. “The Foundation was fortunate to have his perspective and experience as our board worked to build and strengthen relationships among the communities we serve.”

After joining the PAHWF board in March of 2022, Charles contributed to an article sharing his thoughts on giving

Charles Haddad shared information about Boyertown projects and initiatives during a PAHWF Board of Directors site visit to Boyertown Community Park in August.

back and building community connections.

“It’s been a worthwhile experience for me to support the community that has supported me so much,” Charles said in summer of last year. “In a way, it’s a rewarding experience to be able to connect people to where they have to go with their projects and programs. I feel that I have the ability and the reputation to knock on some doors and get people to listen to programs that are being generated by community groups. I find that I can get people to work together rather than every community group going their own way. It’s a matter of synergy. We can do so much together as opposed to doing things separately.”

Bringing folks together to serve the community was a common thread throughout his life, and forging stronger bonds across county lines is part of the reason Charles was excited to join the Foundation’s board.

“I think I can connect the Berks County side of Boyertown with the Montgomery County side of Boyertown,” he said. “There’s so much that Pottstown and Montgomery County can offer that we in Boyertown can participate in a way that’s constructive.”

A Message from Our President



Dear friends,

For the past two decades, the Foundation has worked alongside TriCounty area residents to contribute towards a healthy community, broadly defined. In addition to convening eight community collaboratives and informing a data-driven approach to improving wellness, we have engaged our community partners in every facet of building health and wellness.

To continue our momentum of positive impact, Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation has converted from a private foundation to a public charity—specifically, a community foundation.

This change will position us to benefit a greater number of residents within our service area in perpetuity.

In the coming years, we will follow a hybrid approach. We will continue promoting health equity, education equity, and economic equity. Existing Foundation assets will forever support the health and wellness of our community, while future partnerships and new funds from private donors will allow us to address a broader range of grantmaking opportunities.

We believe that our experience working to advance the greater Pottstown region will position us well for the years ahead as our region's community foundation—remaining true to our original mission while expanding endowment opportunities.

David W. Kraybill, President

Pottstown Community Voices Grant Fund

In order to better understand the health and well-being of residents who live in neighborhoods with long-term disinvestment, the Foundation recently completed a survey within the borough of Pottstown. [The Pottstown Community Survey](#) focused on six census blocks within the Borough of Pottstown.

To respond to the results of the survey, the Foundation solicited the help of residents to design a participatory grant-making fund: the [Pottstown Community Voices Grant Fund](#), which will offer grants up to \$15,000 that address community needs identified by residents and highlighted in the community survey. PAHWF has committed \$100,000 to this grant fund. Decisions on how the funds are distributed will be determined by the PCVGF Advisory Council, a group of residents that live in the neighborhoods that this fund will serve.

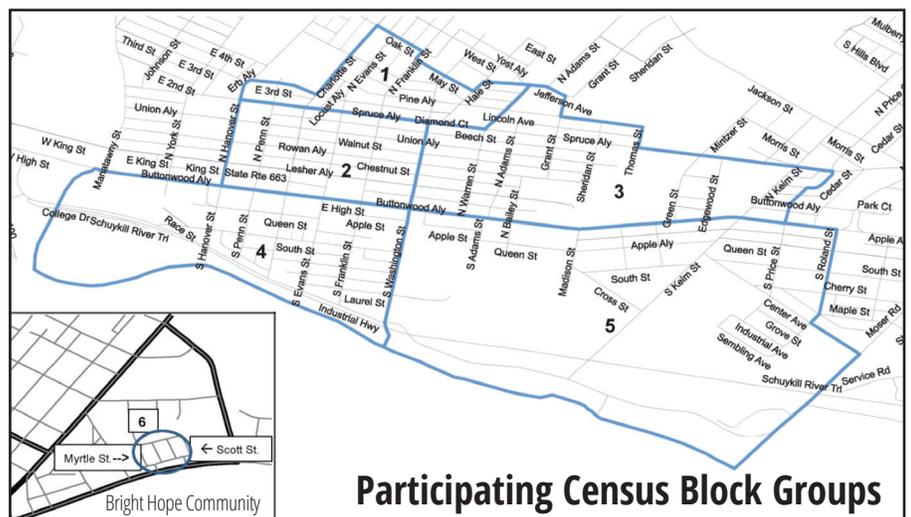
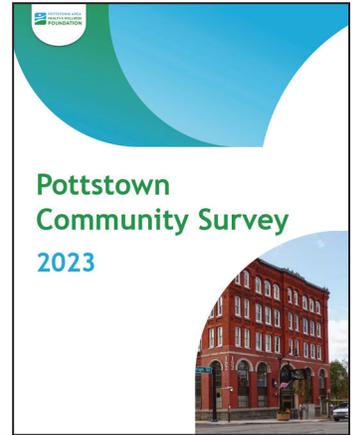
Participatory Grantmaking shifts decision making authority to the individuals that foundations aim to serve. In this grantmaking model, residents can invest in solutions that will impact their own neighborhoods and neighbors.

The PCVGF aims to support the health and well-being of the community by investing in programs/projects that affect residents, including access to parks, recreation, and green spaces; positive mental health solutions, neighborhood safety; housing; and eliminating barriers to employment.

Qualifying organizations must be nonprofits in good standing with the IRS, address at least one of the focus areas above, and directly impact residents that live in Pottstown neighborhoods of historic disinvestment.

Prior to submitting an application, review the [Request for Applications](#) for further details on focus areas, eligibility, application questions, and review criteria.

- Applications will be accepted from February 1, 2024, to March 1, 2024. All applications must be submitted via the Foundation's online application portal by Friday, March 1, 11:59 p.m. EST. Please access the application portal early to avoid any last-minute issues.
- The PCVGF Advisory Council will review applications from March through May 2024.
- Grant awards will be announced in June 2024.
- The grant period begins July 1, 2024



Participating Census Block Groups

New Board Members Bring Finance and Healthcare Expertise

The Foundation welcomed two new board members in 2023, further expanding the Board of Directors' knowledge in healthcare and finance.

Joining the Foundation board in May of 2023, Dr. Lori Lorant-Tobias worked in clinical medicine until recently, serving as director of Pottstown Hospital—Tower Health's emergency department from 2015 to 2021.

"One of the biggest issues for us in the hospital's emergency department was getting people hooked up with referrals.



Dr. Lori Lorant-Tobias

We had a really good system for getting people to see the heart doctor or getting them in to see the gastrointestinal doctor," said Lorant-Tobias. "We had next day follow up for orthopedics. Bridgette [McGivern] from Community Health and Dental Care was instrumental for getting follow up for those patients who were not insured or had Medicaid insurance. So that was one of the strategic plans we had in the emergency department, and I'm hoping to use my experience to expand some of the things that the Foundation is doing."

Lorant-Tobias grew up in Harrisburg and started her career in science engaged in breast cancer research at Lombardi Cancer Center at Georgetown University. She spent much of her career at Pottstown Hospital before joining Humana as Midwest division medical director in 2022. Her role at Pottstown Hospital also included participation in the TriCounty Health Council, a collaborative initiative that aims to improve health and healthcare in the Pottstown area.

"I was very involved in the community when I was at Pottstown Hospital," said Lorant-Tobias, who shared the success of initiatives including street medicine and opioid and Narcan education. She noted those programs were effective due to the interconnected nature of services in Pottstown. "That is really because of partnerships, especially with Creative Health and Community Health and Dental Care. We're doing emergent reach out, but you really need that follow up piece, and that's what Community Health and Dental Care has provided through case management and through shuttle service."

Applying this broad experience to her role on the Foundation's board, Lorant-Tobias will bring a new perspective.

"I'm excited to see where my role goes on the board and excited to see where this transition to a community foundation goes," said Lorant-Tobias, noting that the transition to community foundation status will present new opportunities for PAHWF. "I'm hoping that will increase the ability for us to get funding and donations, so we can do more, because there are a lot of needs in the community."

Amy Schondra, who joined the Foundation board this past fall, brings nearly 30 years of investment experience to the Foundation. Schondra, who grew up on her family's dairy farm in upstate New York, earned her BA from Temple University and MBA from Saint Joseph's University. She spent over 20 years at Hirtle, Callaghan & Co. in West Conshohocken, most recently serving as the director of private equity before retiring in 2018 to spend more time focusing on raising her family.

Being a mom of five, along with volunteering with the Home and School Associations of her children's schools over the past several years in the Spring-Ford Area School District has kept Schondra busy and has been extremely rewarding. "With my children getting older, I began thinking about what's next. Getting more involved and giving back to the broader community, particularly in the health and wellness space, seemed like a natural next step for me" said Schondra. "The opportunity to join the PAHWF board came up last summer and it gives me a chance to serve others in a new capacity."

Among her interests are eliminating food waste in our schools, something Schondra became aware of when her children were in elementary school. "The school lunch system seems flawed here in Pennsylvania, and children are throwing away so much food because of it. There's got to be a way to get that food into the hands of those who need it, as opposed to it going into the trash." Schondra is also committed to finding ways to provide children and families with the resources they need to thrive, particularly in the mental health space. "Families needs are so complex, and every family needs support. It's a different world now than it was when I was a kid growing up on the farm all those years ago. Children face challenges we never could have imagined, and parents often struggle to help them navigate those waters. There is a real mental health crisis with our kids today, and I'd like to be part of a solution that provides families with the resources they need."



Amy Schondra

Schondra shared her enthusiasm for becoming more involved in the work of the Board of Directors after attending the Foundation's Charter Dinner in November. "I really enjoyed the charter dinner. It was great to finally meet many of the other board members in person. My background naturally makes me a good fit for the finance committee, but it was great to talk to other board members about the things they are working on in their committees and about where else I might be able to contribute," said Schondra. "It's a super nice, dedicated group of people, and I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone better and to getting more involved in some of the things that are happening at the Foundation and in our communities."

Foundation Friends Gather for 2023 Charter Dinner



Former and current board members, community partners, and friends joined with staff members on November 16 for the Foundation’s annual Charter Dinner. Held during National Community Foundation Week, the dinner offered an opportunity to discuss the Foundation’s future as a community foundation. Speakers, including board chair Nancy Miller, board members John Buckley and Lori Musson, and Foundation president Dave Kraybill, shared information on the Foundation’s positive



A Community Foundation Inspiring Generosity, Passion, and Partnership

impact on health and wellness and how the Foundation’s status as a community foundation will allow for new partnerships to create an even greater impact on Pottstown area communities.

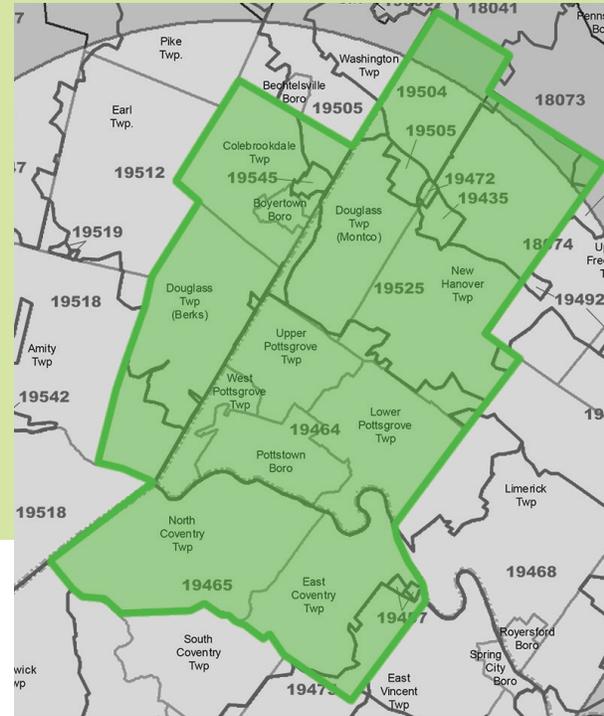




2024 Home Garden Contest

The Home Garden Contest is expanding from Pottstown & Boyertown to now encompass the entire region!

The Home Garden Contest and Tour has been going strong in the boroughs of Boyertown and Pottstown for twelve years, and for 2024, the contest will now include not only Pottstown and Boyertown, but also the townships of Colebrookdale, Douglass (Montgomery and Berks), New Hanover, Upper Pottsgrove, Lower Pottsgrove, West Pottsgrove, North Coventry, and East Coventry. Registration opens April 26 and is free! Read more and register at homegardencontest.com.



Consolidated Statements of Financial Position

June 30, 2023 and 2022

Assets	2023	2022
Cash and cash equivalents	577,235	383,389
Long-term investments	70,319,116	70,472,704
Equipment and other furnishings-net	30,392	38,665
Right-of-use asset	485,878	-
Other assets	38,262	36,581
Total assets	71,450,883	70,931,339
Liabilities		
Grants Payable	108,500	281,750
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	288,485	235,075
Lease liability	490,288	-
Other liabilities in connection with the sale of assets	10,471,822	14,068,455
Total liabilities	11,359,095	14,585,280
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions	60,091,788	56,346,059
Total net assets	60,091,788	56,346,059
Total liabilities and net assets	71,450,883	70,931,339

Results Grantmaking Framework Guide

The Foundation seeks to help residents improve their health and well-being every day. We provide funding of solutions aimed at long-term improvement in healthy behaviors along a continuum of change detailed in our Results Grantmaking Framework Guide, located at: pottstownfoundation.org/resultsframework.

The Foundation understands that addressing critical community needs takes time and there are various stages of change that will be experienced along the way. As clients and communities pass through the stages, changes in behaviors, skillsets, and community assets occur. While not all projects or programs will be able to serve clients in every stage, the target results intend to support progress toward sustainable improvement and make long-term outcomes more achievable.

Fall 2023 Grant Round

The Foundation awarded **\$1,049,750** in grants to **36** projects and programs in the Pottstown area.

Developing Youth Potential—Early Childhood Development
\$85,000 was awarded for three projects.

The Arc Alliance Children's Services

Increasing Early Intervention Impact through Technology (\$15,000)

Family Services of Montgomery County

Triple P, Positive Parenting Program (\$20,000)

Maternity Care Coalition

Early Head Start (\$50,000)

Developing Youth Potential—Youth Preparedness
\$247,750 was awarded for 11 projects.

Be Resilient

Resilience and Development Internship Program (\$17,000)

Boy Scouts Of America

Subsidized Scouting Programs in Pottstown School District (\$6,000)

Children First PA

Justice in Education, A Youth Development and Leadership Program (\$18,750)

Centro Cultural Latinos Unidos

Healthy Minds; Healthy Bodies (\$20,000)

Making a Difference Economically

MADE for the Trades (\$5,000)

Montgomery County Mentor Association

Creating the ExpectStation (\$5,000)

STRIVE Initiative

Middle School to Mastery: Creating and Sustaining Student Success
Pipelines (\$50,000)

Trellis For Tomorrow

Building Stronger Communities through Youth Development and Career
Readiness (\$60,000)

TriCounty Community Network

C2 & Launching Leaders: Recreational Summer Camps to Improve Health and
Wellbeing of Vulnerable Pottstown Youth and Young Adults (\$40,000)

TriCounty Community Network

SweatChasers & Visionary Makers (\$10,000)

Variety- the Children's Charity of the Delaware Valley

VarietyWorks an Innovative Social Youth Preparedness Model (\$16,000)

Promoting Equitable Health & Wellness—Built Environment
\$269,000 was awarded to five projects.

Limerick Township

Linfield Sports Park Playground Installation & Limerick Community Park Play
Feature Replacement (\$30,000)

Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Committee

Memorial Park Pedestrian Bridge Construction Project (\$48,000)

Pottstown Area Regional Recreation Committee

Old Timer's Field Improvements Project (\$80,000)

Schuylkill River Greenway Association

2024 Pottstown Outdoor Recreation Hub (\$36,000)

YWCA Tri-County Area

Pottstown Integrated Wellness Center South Pool Restoration (\$75,000)

Promoting Equitable Health & Wellness—Health Equity
\$363,000 was awarded to 14 projects.

Child Advocacy Center of Montgomery County

Mission Kids Core Direct Service (\$24,000)

Episcopal Legal Aid

Expansion of Legal Aid Clinic (\$4,000)

Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance

Medical Nutrition for Critically Ill Montgomery and Chester
County Residents (\$40,000)

Mosaic Community Land Trust

Building Capacity for Equitable Health through Land Trust Housing
Opportunities (\$16,000)

Mosaic Community Land Trust

Growing Pottstown: Community Gardens, Community Agriculture,
Healthy Outcomes (\$40,000)

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church

Loaves & Fishes Food Ministry Sustainability (\$15,000)

Orion Communities

Bridge Case Management and Financial Assistance Program (\$50,000)

Pottstown FARM

SNAP Incentives, Two Bite Club, Operation 143, Continued Operations
for FARM (\$25,000)

Rahabs Hope

Rental Assistance Program (\$20,000)

Second Wind Bicycles

Repair a bike, change a life (\$5,000)

Share Food Program

Expanding Healthy Food Access in the Pottstown Area (\$20,000)

Steel River Playhouse

Steel River Spark: Igniting Inclusive Storytelling (\$20,000)

TriCounty Active Adult Center

Prime Time Health for Older Adults (\$56,000)

VNA Community Services

Personal Navigator Program—Improved Health Outcomes Through
Benefit Access (\$28,000)

Promoting Equitable Health & Wellness—Health Access & Delivery
\$85,000 was awarded to three projects.

Accion Comunal Latinoamericana de Montgomery County

ACLAMO's Pottstown Community Health Connections Program (\$50,000)

Health Care Access

Health Programs (\$10,000)

Phoenixville Free Clinic

Comprehensive Healthcare for Uninsured Individuals in the Greater
Pottstown Area (\$25,000)



The spring grant cycle will open Feb. 12 with a simplified process for applicants, and an information session will be held Feb. 5. Visit pottstownfoundation.org/grantmaking for more information.