



The Fund to Benefit Children & Youth

Spring 2018

the last hope for those in need

The Fund

provides abused, neglected, and at-risk children in Lehigh and Northampton Counties with the beds, clothing, heating, and other bare necessities they cannot receive through traditional government resources.



100% of your donations go directly to meet children's needs.

that's right: 100%

visit our new website:
HelpLehighValleyChildren.org

Every week The Fund meets needs like this

Request: One twin-size bed for a boy, age 12 (#PB-706)

Amount: \$190.00

Category: Family Needs

Appeal: *The father of the boy is a disabled single parent. He receives a supplement to his Social Security, but that income is barely enough to pay rent and ordinary household expenses. He cannot afford to purchase the bed that his son needs. The boy is currently sleeping on a broken air mattress. No other family or community resources can provide a bed.*

Status: Appeal was unanimously funded, and the bed was provided.



Providing beds helps prevent child abuse

Research shows that children who do not sleep in their own beds risk Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), suffocation, entrapment, or strangulation from pillows, blankets, stuffed animals, or their bedmate. As they grow up, their sleep is disrupted, often causing memory, concentration, reasoning, judgment, and learning problems; risky and inappropriate behavior; depression, weight gain, and injuries.

And if these aren't bad enough, kids who don't have their own beds never have a single spot in their home to call their own.



To continue receiving our newsletters, send an email to
news@HelpLehighValleyChildren.org

Why does The Fund buy so many beds?

We buy beds for children whose families cannot afford to buy them. Perhaps the family is transitioning from a shelter to its own home. Perhaps a family had to destroy its beds because they were infested with bed bugs, or had to leave them, as well as other furniture, on a street corner when evicted from an apartment. Perhaps many years of over-use made the beds so soiled that they became health hazards.

What happens then? A child sleeps on a towel on the floor or on a faulty air mattress, or shares a twin bed with a sibling, or climbs onto a collapsed couch in the living room with a parent.

The Fund spends, on average, \$188.80 for each bed it buys for a child. Sometimes we buy bunk beds because space is tight for two kids needing beds; sometimes we buy full beds for larger teens; sometimes we buy futons that can double as bed and couch.



In the past 16 years, we have provided 5,286 beds and cribs to Lehigh Valley kids.

----- BED TALLY -----

January - March 2018: 114 Beds Purchased

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

And the Lehigh Valley is no exception.

Last year, The Fund purchased beds for 332 children in Lehigh and Northampton Counties. The Fund steps in to meet the needs of our kids when child-welfare agencies either cannot afford to do so or are not mandated to do so (depending on how a child's status is categorized).



That's where we fit in: We buy beds. And more: things like school uniforms and underwear; school books for a teen working 30 hours a week and determined to graduate from college; a week of specialized summer camp or an after-school program; or we'll pay a utility bill so a family will have a home with heat.



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HelpLehighValleyChildren.org

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