



The Fund to Benefit Children & Youth

the last hope for those in need

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2017



903 East Elm Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania 18109

HelpLehighValleyChildren.org



Mission & Program Highlights

The mission of The Fund is to provide abused, neglected, and at-risk children or their families in Lehigh and Northampton Counties with the beds, clothing, heating, and other bare necessities they cannot receive through traditional government resources because of government guidelines or insufficient funding.

Our pledge to donors is our guarantee that every penny of a donor's contribution goes to help a child in need. This level of funding is possible because The Fund's trustees personally underwrite operating expenses, so that every dollar of every donation enhances the life of a needy child.



Program Highlights

In the past five years, we have helped 6,978 children in the Lehigh Valley by fulfilling requests totaling \$670,000

1,821 kids got their own beds

113 kids met their health and hygiene needs

1,245 families secured car seats, safety gates, vacuum cleaners, bedding, and utility payments

1,142 kids attended educational classes, after-school, and camp activities

1,157 kids received school uniforms, winter coats, sneakers, and other clothes

1,500 kids received additional help through Operation Santa Claus



Referral Request Process

The Fund fulfills requests in the following six categories:

Family Needs

May include beds, mattresses, dressers, cribs, strollers, car seats, and safety gates. Also, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, transportation costs, and some child care.

Clothing

Supplements wardrobes for children and teens, including school uniforms, shoes, and coats.

Health Care

Supports health-related items not covered by health insurance or government programs. Requests can include insect extermination fees, air conditioners for asthmatic children, nursing or respite care for children with severe medical problems.

Enrichment

May cover enrollment fees for arts classes, sports, academics, school trips, or other enrichment opportunities.

Education

May include enrollment in preschool programs, alternative schools, vocational-technical schools, remedial classes, and summer schools.

Camp Scholarships

May cover enrollment for overnight camping, day camp, or specialized summer programs.

In addition, we fund **Operation Santa Claus** through designated funds.

This fund provides gifts and other goods to children and families over the holidays.



*we used to sleep on air mattresses.
we don't have to do that anymore.*

Juan, age 12
Northampton County

thank you for providing me with a school uniform that fits!

Mohannad, age 15
Lehigh County



Any professional working with children in the Lehigh Valley can apply to The Fund for assistance. Professionals may include caseworkers, counselors, clergy, therapists, mentors, and visiting nurses.

Before applying to The Fund, the referral source must first explore all other known resources like family and community services. If no other resources are available, the referrer submits a request form to The Fund administrator.



After ensuring that a request falls within Fund guidelines, the administrator forwards it to the Trustees for review and approval. This process may take up to three weeks, but can be expedited for emergencies. If the request is approved, the administrator forwards the funds to the provider, not the beneficiary.

The Fund requires that referrers forward an evaluation of the child's experience with the item or services within one year.

with the fund's donation, we were able to purchase five new car seats to use to transport the foster children placed in our program.

The Children's Program of the Salvation Army
Lehigh Valley, PA





History

The Fund began in 1991, when several members of the Advisory Committee for the Lehigh County Office of Children and Youth Services became increasingly concerned that Lehigh Valley children's needs were often not met, either because traditional government agencies lacked funding or their guidelines limited their efforts.

The committee originally provided donated household items and clothing that were not available through traditional government sources to the agencies' at-risk families in Lehigh and Northampton Counties. Over time, as warehousing and delivery became difficult, the committee focused its efforts on fundraising so that it could purchase items for at-risk children. The Founding Trustees established a separate entity that would support children throughout the Lehigh Valley: The Fund to Benefit Children & Youth.



The Fund began with revenues of \$4,784 in 1991. In 2017, they were \$158,535.

*my little sister slept
on the floor
on a towel*

Lytesha, age 13
Northampton County

Every week The Fund meets needs like this

Request: PB-121

Amount: \$180

Appeal: This girl, age 16, has a history of sexual assault, depression, anxiety, cutting behaviors, bulimia nervosa, and school truancy. She has been in and out of treatment facilities and counseling. The referrer requests funds to pay for an evaluation by a pediatric gastrointestinal doctor with experience in eating disorders, hoping that the evaluation will win an appeal for insurance coverage for treatment. The mother cannot afford this cost and has no other resources.

Status: Approved



From Our Board President

Dear Friends of The Fund,

Needs for children in the Lehigh Valley remain great, particularly in the categories of Family Needs and Clothing. We continue to ensure that other community resources are explored first, so that The Fund is, indeed, the last hope for our Lehigh Valley children. We are immensely grateful to our many generous donors -- those who've been with us since Day One, the newcomers, and all those in between!



In the past year, The Fund's Board of Trustees has updated its strategic plan, refined its development direction, and improved its media exposure through a growing social media presence and a new website: helphighvalleychildren.org.

Our Trustees are careful stewards of donor gifts, and we remain committed to the longstanding tradition of funding all administrative expenses, so that we can say that every dollar donated by the community provides a dollar's worth of goods and services for the children and families we serve.

It is my hope that this year brings peace and contentment to all, as we all continue to care for our precious children.

Sincerely,

Laura Black
Board President

*our electric bill is paid.
my husband finally got a job.
i think we can do it!*

Carmen, disabled mother of three,
Lehigh County



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*from car seats to clothing,
from vacuum cleaners to
karate lessons, you have
enabled us to provide so
many things for some of
the neediest families in the
lehigh valley*

Kidspace Blended Case Management
Lehigh and Northampton Counties

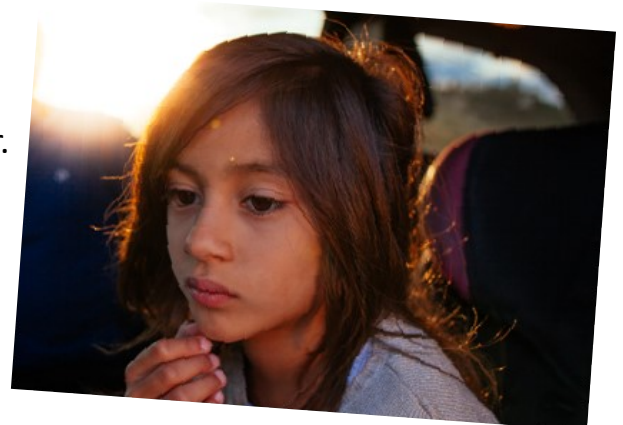
Every week The Fund meets needs like this

Request: PB-4162

Amount: \$250

Appeal: The mother and two children, ages 3 and 11, live in just one room, and sleep on the floor. The referrer has located a foldable futon that is appropriate for the children to sleep on and will take up the least amount of space. The family has no other resources.

Status: Approved





Finances

2017 Revenues

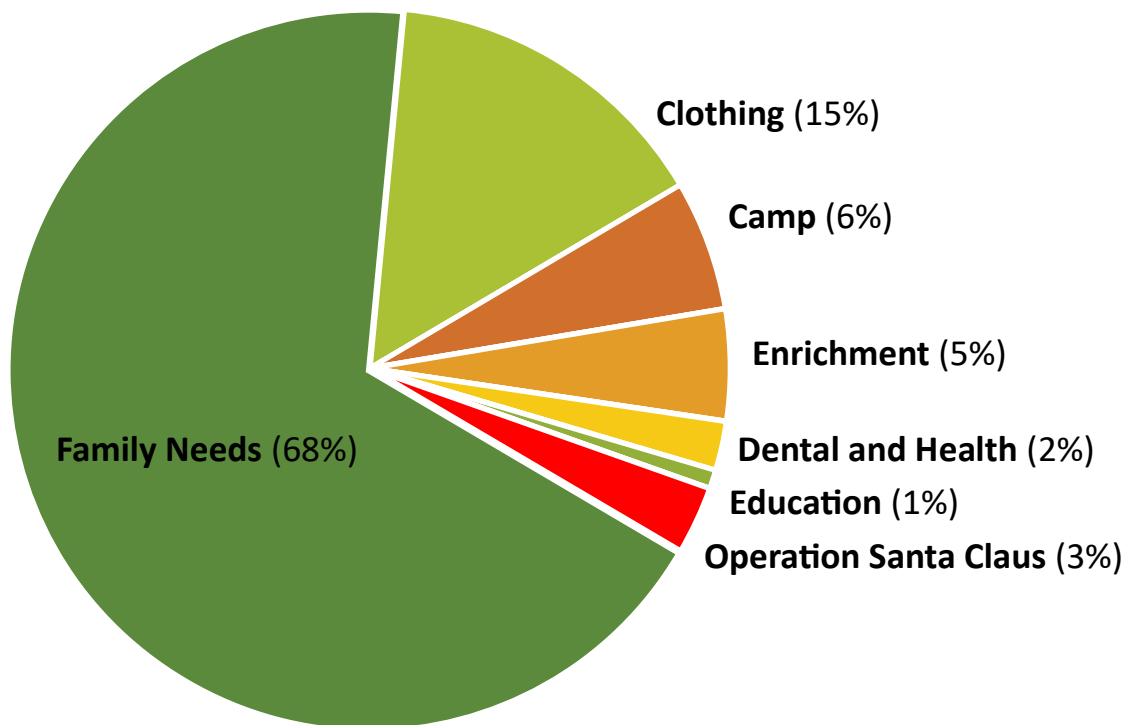
Individual Contributions:	\$ 75,832
Corporations, Foundations and Government:	\$ 77,968
Special Events and 3rd-Party Events:	\$ 4,645
Miscellaneous:	\$ <u>90</u>
	\$ 158,535

Our Pledge to Donors

We guarantee that every penny of a donor's contribution goes to help a child in need.

This level of funding is possible because The Fund's trustees personally underwrite operating expenses.

2017 Distribution



thank you for your continued support of our valley youth house families. i was at a client's home when the children's beds were delivered. they were so excited!

Case Worker
Valley Youth House, Lehigh County



Donors

with gratitude

\$5,000 +

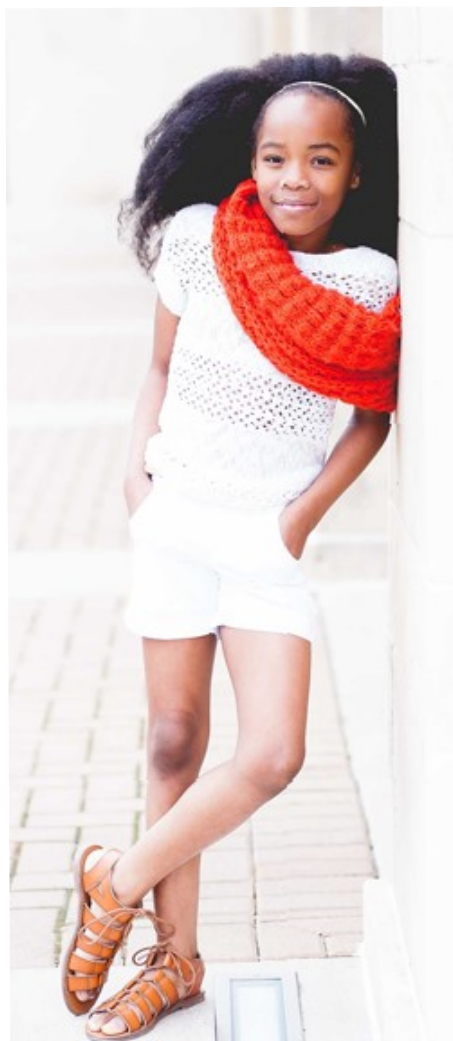
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\$500 - \$999

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with gratitude

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≤ \$249

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