



# The Fund to Benefit Children & Youth

*the last hope for those in need*

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## Annual Report



**Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2018**

903 East Elm Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania 18109

[HelpLehighValleyChildren.org](http://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 six years, we have helped 8,331 children in the Lehigh Valley by fulfilling requests totaling \$869,372



2,394

kids got their own beds

1,503

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

1,425

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

144

kids met their health and hygiene needs

1,240

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

1,625

kids received additional help through Operation Santa Claus



# Referral Request Process

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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.



*my mom and i shared a mattress  
on the floor until i got a bed.*

Valentina, age 9  
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, doctors, visiting nurses and other medical personnel.

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



*thank you on behalf of our clients for  
uniforms and school clothing.  
families are so grateful!!*

Valley Youth House Family Intervention Program



# History

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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 2018, they were **\$257,000**

*i'm learning to play football, and hanging with other guys.  
our coach helps a lot.*

Diego, age 15  
Lehigh County

## Every week The Fund meets needs like this

**Request:** PB-524

**Amount:** \$370.98

**Appeal:** The 15-year-old boy's father died when he was two. Since then, he and his mother have moved frequently. The teen finished middle school, but attended very little high school. The agency filed an adjudication petition, and the boy was ordered to complete the summer school program or be placed outside of the home. He took and passed the program. The caseworker wants to celebrate his accomplishment by rewarding him with a bike. The boy enjoys working on and riding his BMX bicycle, but his own has a cracked frame, and is not safe. The family receives no financial assistance.

**Status:** Approved



# From Our Board President

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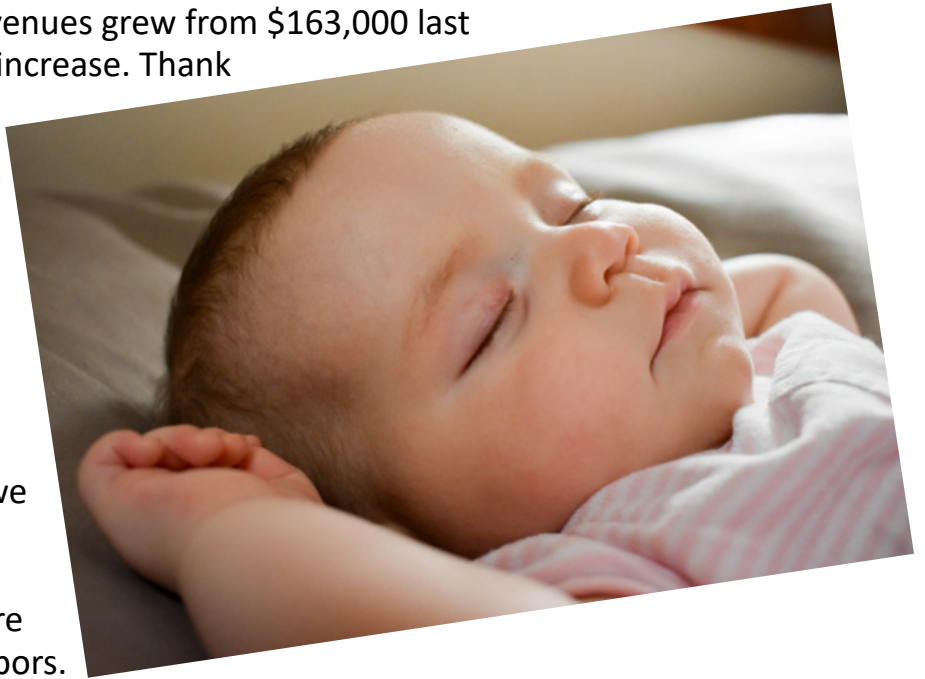
Dear Friends of the Fund,

We have only to look at 2018's Requests for Family Needs – beds, mattresses, strollers, and more – to know that our Lehigh Valley children urgently need help. Last year, we fulfilled 469 requests in this category. This year, 753 – a 61% increase. Some of these children came from Puerto Rico, devastated by a hurricane. Others grew up, right here, in Lehigh and Northampton Counties.

We were fortunate this year. Our revenues grew from \$163,000 last year to \$257,000 – an amazing 58% increase. Thank you, everyone, who contributed to us so generously.

Sadly, this year, we said goodbye to our longtime champion, friend, and board member, Dee Ann Andretti. We will miss her vigorous efforts to meet the needs of local children.

This year also brought good news: we expanded our board, introduced a bi-yearly newsletter and monthly emails so that you'll know that we are working very hard to help our neighbors.



Sincerely,

Laura Black,  
Board President

*thank you for the double stroller. now i can safely take my two children to daycare before i go to my new job.*

Shanice, Lehigh County



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*we strongly support your care for the abused and neglected children,  
and the generous support of your trustees which accounts for such low overhead.*

Episcopal Church of the Mediator  
Endowment Committee

## Every week The Fund meets needs like this

**Request:** PB-788

**Amount:** \$250.00

**Appeal:** The single mother of two, ages 9 and 12, has a full-time job that pays only minimum wage. Although the family also receives food stamps and Welfare benefits, the mother is barely able to pay rent and utilities. She cannot afford to buy the uniforms that the children need for school. Their uniforms from last year are in poor shape and do not fit. The family has no other resources.

**Status:** Approved



# Unaudited Financials

## 2018 Revenues

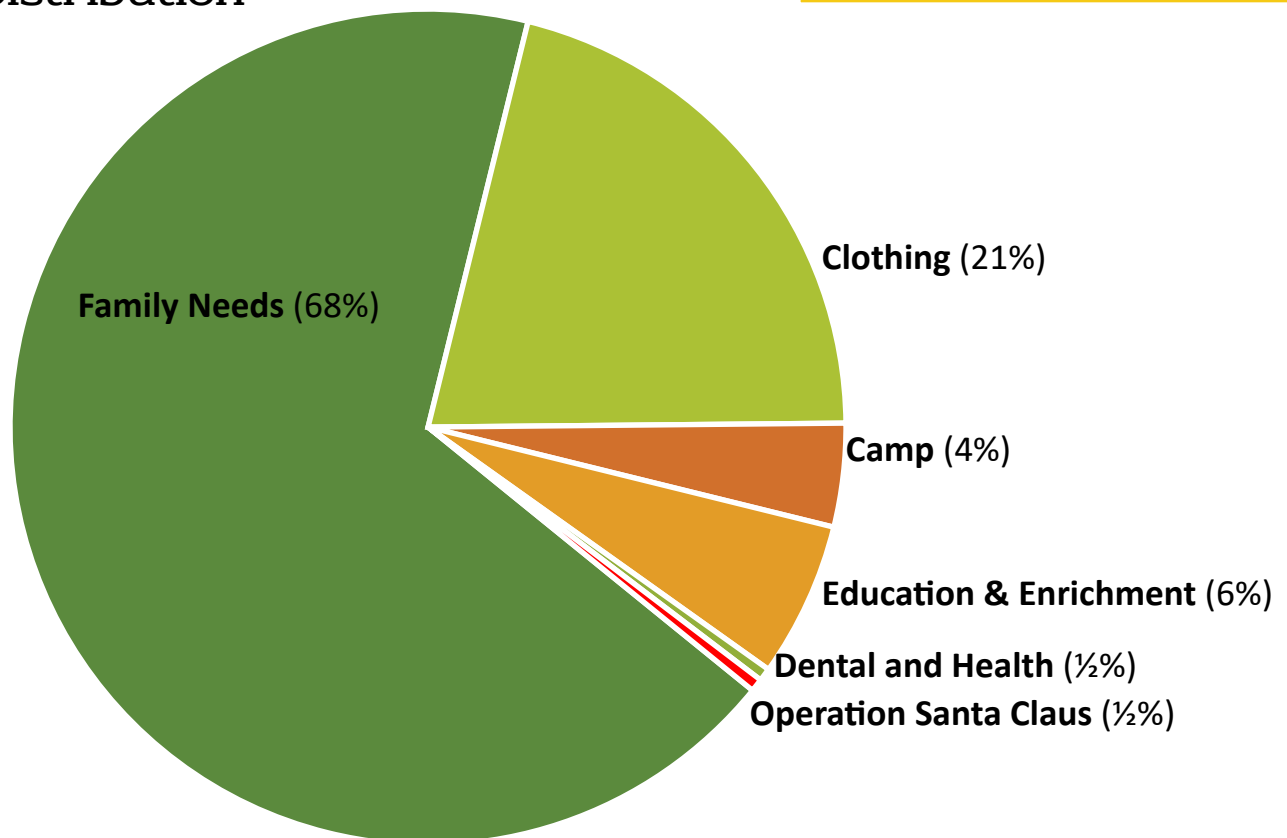
Individual Contributions:	\$ 92,971
Corporations, Foundations and Government:	\$ 162,601
Special Events and 3rd-Party Events:	\$ 1,445
	<b>\$ 257,017</b>

## 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.**

## 2018 Distribution



*thank you so much for helping me to get things for my son. it was difficult and pricey to find the right clothing. your help means a lot!*

Mother of a special-needs teenager



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## \$5,000 +

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