



The
**Fund to Benefit
Children & Youth**
the last hope for those in need

Annual Report

Fiscal Year Ended
December 31, 2020



904 West Highland Street
Whitehall, Pennsylvania 18052

HelpLehighValleyChildren.org



Mission & Program Highlights

The Fund to Benefit Children & Youth has an ongoing mission to provide abused, neglected, and at-risk children and their families with the items and services not available to them through traditional government or community sources in the Lehigh Valley.

Our pledge to donors is our guarantee that every penny of a donor's contribution goes to help a child in need—not to administration of The Fund. 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 8 years, we helped 10,277 children

3,121 kids got their own beds

1,561 families secured utility payments, car seats, safety gates, vacuum cleaners, and bedding

1,930 kids received school uniforms, winter coats, sneakers, and other clothes

225 kids met their health and hygiene needs

1,040 kids attended educational classes, after-school and camp activities

2,400 kids received additional help through Operation Santa Claus

by fulfilling requests totaling **\$1,181,805.**



Referral Request Process

The Fund fulfills two kinds of Requests: Tier 1 Urgent Requests, like beds or one-time utility payments, and Tier 2 Important Requests like couches or children's dressers. In 2020, we fulfilled 276 Tier 1 Requests and 28 Tier 2 Requests which directly assisted 665 children.

The Fund's Trustees evaluate all Requests within two to three weeks of receipt. Trustees consider Tier 2 Requests on a first-come/first-served basis, and fill them as funding permits.

All Requests must fall into one of the following six categories:

Tier 1 Urgent Requests		Tier 2 Important Requests
Household	Beds, mattresses, cribs, strollers, car seats, and safety gates. Also, dinette tables with 4 chairs, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, transportation costs, and some child care.	Dressers, couches, adult bedding, additional dining chairs, and other furniture or equipment not identified in Tier 1.
Clothing	School uniforms, shoes, sneakers, coats, and underwear.	Non-school clothing and other requests not identified in Tier 1.
Healthcare	Insect extermination, air conditioners for asthmatic children, nursing or respite care for parents of disabled children.	Other requests not identified in Tier 1.
Enrichment	Enrollment fees for arts, sports, academics, school trips, or other enrichment opportunities.	Other requests not identified in Tier 1.
Education	Preschool, alternative schools, vocational-technical schools, remedial and summer school classes.	Other requests not identified in Tier 1.
Scholarships	Overnight camp, day camp, or specialized summer programs.	Other requests not identified in Tier 1.

In addition, we fund Operation Santa Claus through designated funds. This fund provides gifts and other goods for children and families over the holidays.





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.

*when our kids couldn't go to
school because of covid,
i stopped working so
i could watch them.
we got behind on some bills.*

Camila, mother of two girls, ages 6 and 8
Lehigh County



History

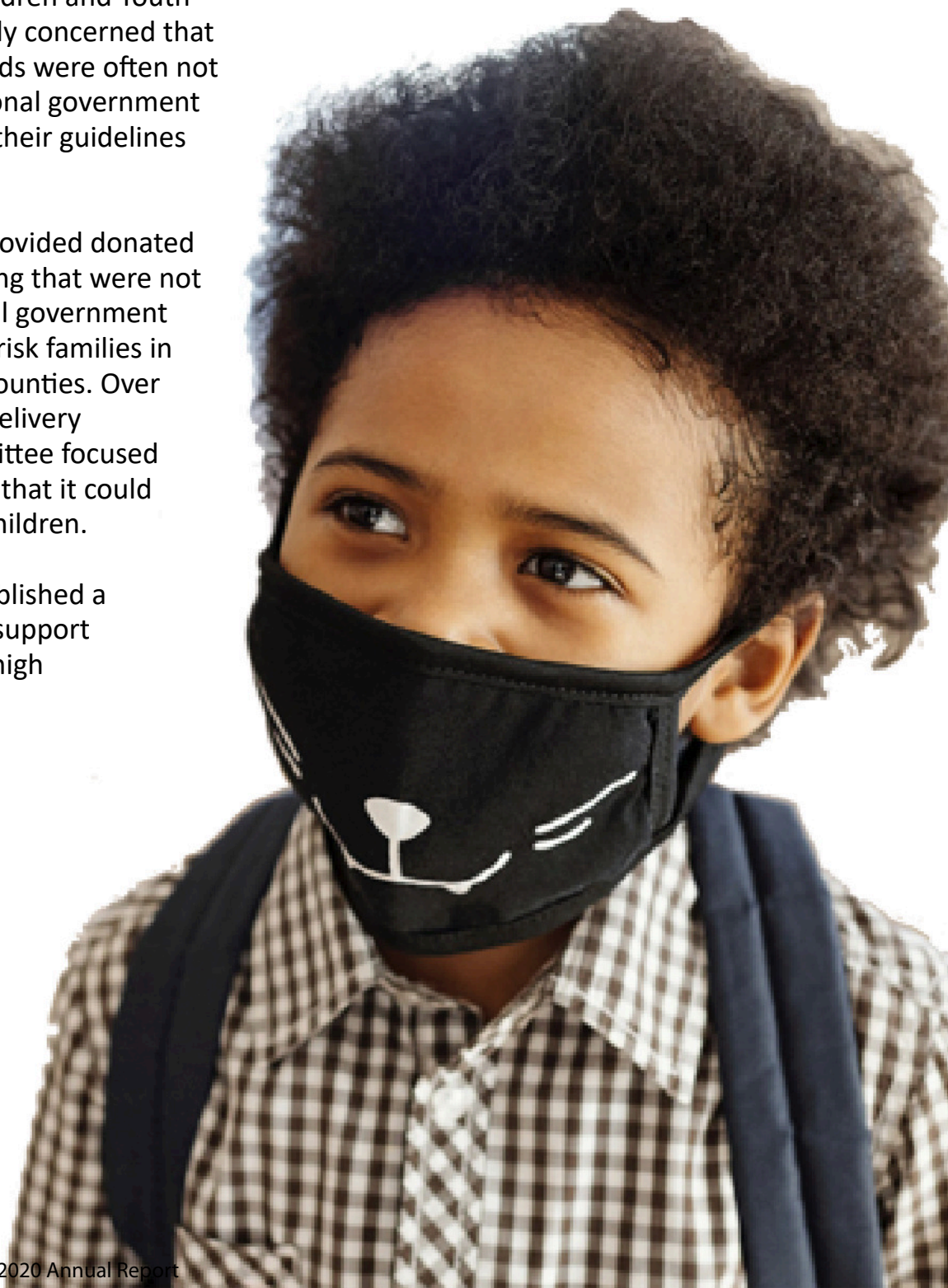
The Fund began in 1991, when several members of the Advisory Committee for the Lehigh County Office of Children and Youth Services became increasingly concerned that Lehigh Valley children's needs were often not met, either because traditional government agencies lacked funding or their guidelines limited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

*i slept in my baby crib
until i was 5.
then i got a bed.*

DeShawn, Age 7
Northampton County





From Our Board President

Dear Friends of The Fund,

COVID-19 permeated every aspect of children's lives this past year. A child loses a year of school and a year of socialization. A mask protects a child from disease but also creates barriers between friends, and covers up smiles, grins, missing front teeth, and dimples.

The trustees of The Fund are especially attuned to COVID-19's effect, as the tenor of the Requests for help has changed.

So many of the Requests to cover beds, clothes, or utilities resulted from COVID-19 job losses. In fact, 71% of our funds were distributed within the Family Needs category; last year, it was 64%. We have also seen Requests for abuse prevention increase from four percent to seven percent over a year ago.

Finally, we bid farewell and offer our great thanks to Gail Howell, The Fund administrator for many years. She now becomes Trustee Emeritus. We welcome Pam Sullivan as our new Fund administrator.

We appreciate your interest in, and support of, The Fund. The world is more complicated and scary—and the kids in the Lehigh Valley are more needy than ever.

We hope you and your family stay safe.

Sincerely,

Jane Ervin
Board President

*the exterminator got
rid of the bugs, and
then we got new,
clean beds.*

Sofia, mother of three children
Northampton County



Trustees and Staff

2019-2020 Trustees

Laura Black
Cheryl Bleiler
Dolly Butz
Jonathan Epstein
Jane Ervin, President
Luiz Garcia
Nick Giordano
Phyllis L. Grube
Judith A. Harris, Esquire
Vicky Kistler
Reverend Dr. Christine L. Nelson
Elizabeth Scofield

Trustee Emeritus

Gail Howell

Staff

Pam Sullivan

Founding Trustees

Laura Black
Anne M. Harrity+
Anne C. Shire+
Lolly W. Siegel
Seymour Traub, Esquire

⁺deceased

thank you so much for helping my son who is very sensitive to fabrics. we found the right clothing that we can afford.

Nia, mother of a special-needs teen boy
Lehigh County

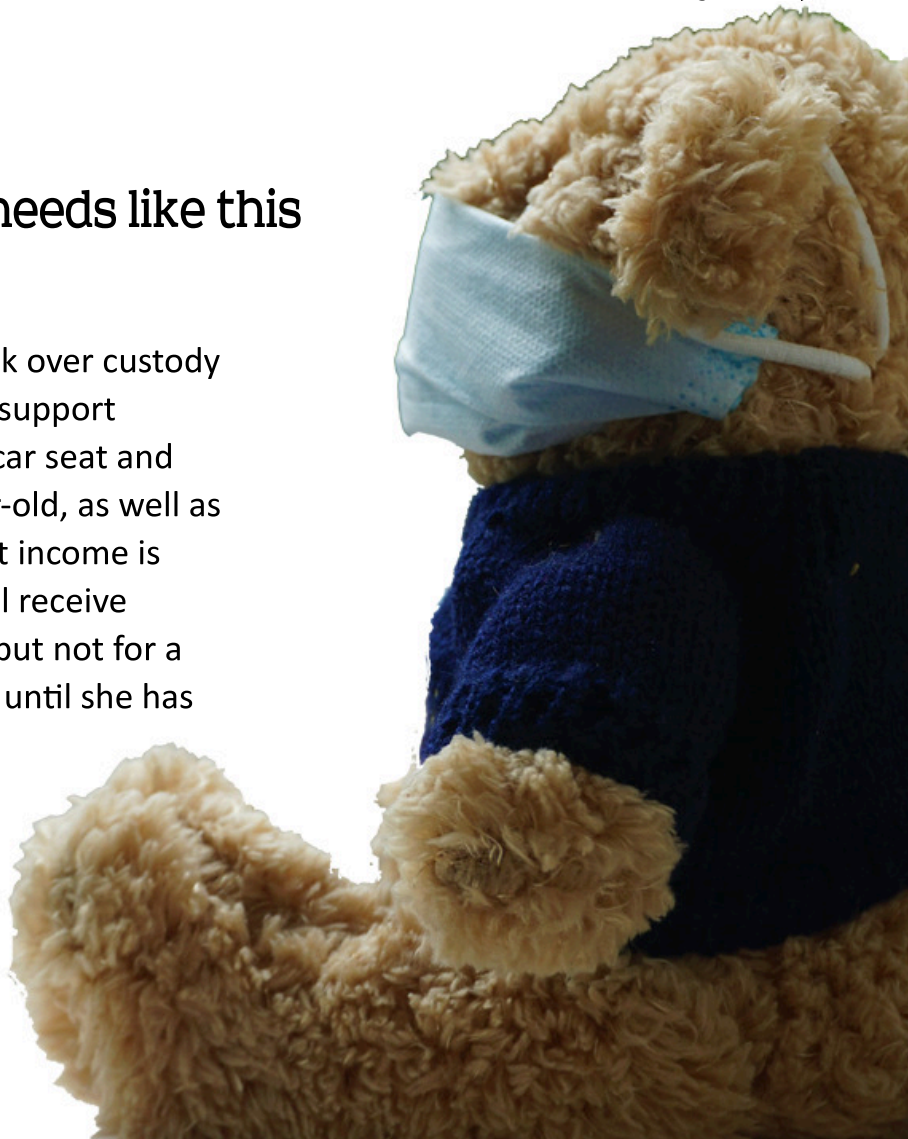
Every week The Fund meets needs like this

Request: DMG-210

Amount: \$450.00

Appeal: The grandmother abruptly took over custody of three children, ages 2, 7, and 16, before support systems were in place. She needs to buy a car seat and other miscellaneous items for the two-year-old, as well as clothing and shoes for all three. Her current income is under \$10,000 from Social Security. She will receive financial assistance for the children's care, but not for a few weeks. These funds will bridge the gap until she has other help. Other resources were explored.

Status: Approved





Unaudited Financials

2020 Revenues:

\$ 110,216 Contributions from Individuals

\$ 67,744 Contributions from Corporations, Foundations and Government

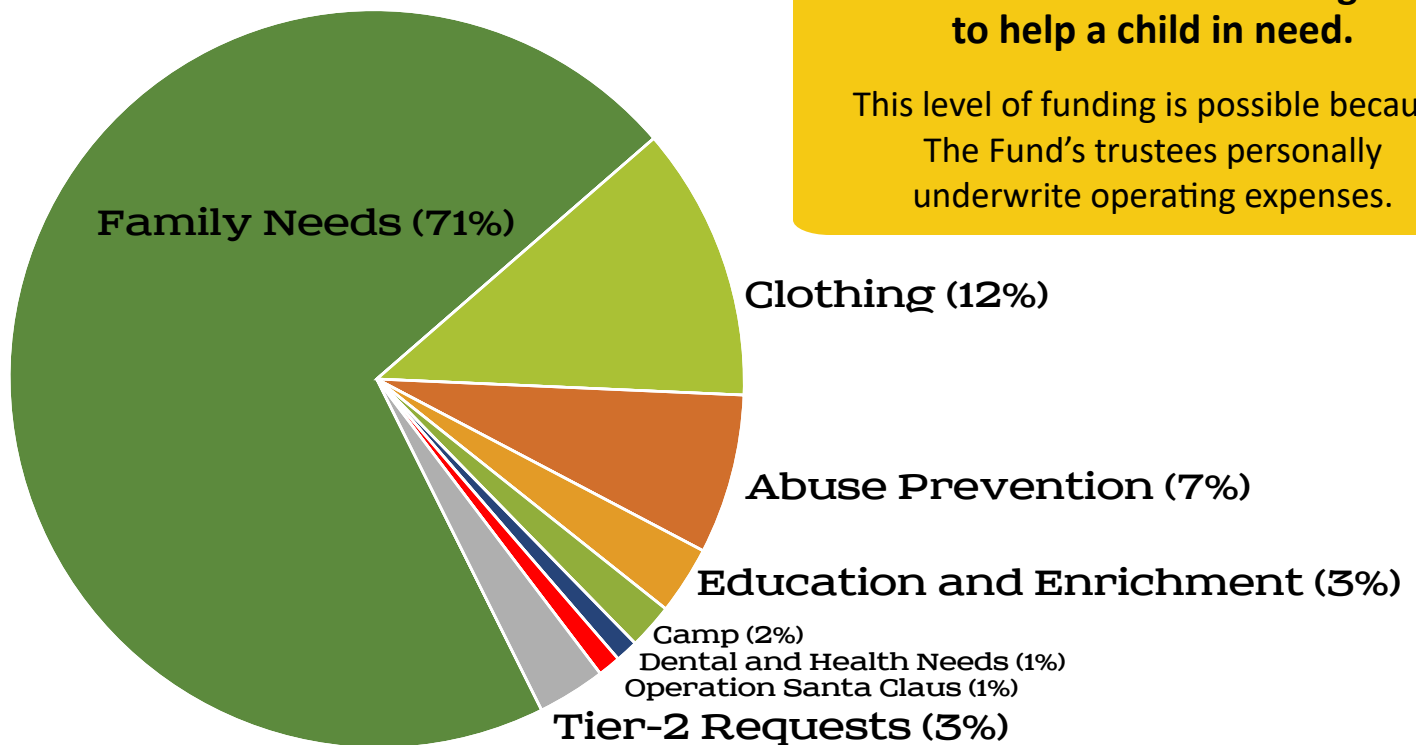
\$ 177,960 Total

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.

2020 Distribution of Funds:



Every week The Fund meets needs like this

Request: SSS-111

Amount: \$380.00

Appeal: When the mother was laid off because of COVID-19, she and her two children, ages 2 and 9, became homeless. She is again employed, with income under \$15,000. The family is moving to a new apartment, and both children need beds (Tier 1 Urgent Request) and dressers (Tier 2 Important Request) which the mother cannot afford.

Status: Approved



Donors

\$5,000 +

Alvin H. Butz, Inc.
Dolly & Lee Butz
Mario Andretti
Anonymous (2)
Lehigh County Cares Grant
Lehigh County Office of Children
and Youth Services
J.B & Kathleen Reilly Fund of Lehigh
Valley Community Foundation
Tom & Amy Scalici
The Harry C. Trexler Trust

\$4,999 - \$1,000

Anonymous Family Foundation
Allentown Rotary Club
Barbra Andretti-Curto
Polly Beste
Greg Butz
Shari Butz
Martin D. Cohen Family Foundation
Carol Walck & Associates
Joseph & Susan Cimerola
Jane & Eugene Ervin
Exchange Club Foundation of
Western Lehigh, Pennsylvania
Nick and Anita Giordano
Richard Goddard
Judith Harris
Jason Hartman
Holy Trinity Memorial Church
Kitchen Saver
Albert MacDonald
The Ryan Family Foundation
Elizabeth Scofield &
James R. Tanenbaum
St. John's UCC, Allentown
Endowment Fund
Two Rivers Health & Wellness
Foundation
Wachovia Foundation

\$999 - \$500

Anonymous (1)
Amaranth Fund/Joan Miller Moran
Laura & Robert Black
Eric Butz
Mike & Codi Butz
Noshir Chinoy
Choice Marketing
Citizens Commercial Banking
Orlando Diefenderfer
Jonathan & Iris Epstein
Mark & Lauren Fine
Beale Fowler
Paul & Janice Gross
Hof & Reid, LLC
Patrick & Renee Kleaveland
Ferne Kushner
Emilio & Leslie Morone
Christine L. Nelson
Amy Slenker
Burke & Pat Swan
Univest Bank
John & Debi Van Brakle

\$499 - \$250

Anonymous (1)
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Dennis & Gina Morton
Network for Change
Paypal Giving Fund
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Matthew & Erika Petrozelli
Steven & Katrina Rainford
John Servis
Hannah Torgerson
Sy & Sue Traub
Arthur & Barbara Weinrach
Carl Weiss, Jr.

Gifts Made in Recognition of

Mario Andretti

Robert Anderson

Laura & Bob Black's 50th Anniversary

Jane and Robert Cohen
Dolly & Lee Butz

Laura Black and the work of The Fund

Martin Katz

Vicky Kistler and the Allentown

Health Bureau Staff

Laura & Bob Black

In Memory of Dee Ann Andretti

Citizens Commercial Banking
Bernadette Haas
Judith A. Hoch

Amy Hollowbush

Albert MacDonald

Regina Rogers

Larry & Carol Stephenson

Susan R. Fairchild

Philip M. Hof

Aston & Kelly

Philip M. Hof

Joan Harrison

Seth Phillips & Marge Kramer

Gerald Kershner

Anonymous

Barbara J. Toth

Anonymous



Donors

≤ \$249

Anonymous (7)
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Keith & Yvonne Bachman
Bill & Peggy Berger
Cheryl Bleiler
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Nannette Bratspies
Edwin & Florine Burkhard
Ian & Patty Carlis
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Robert & Jane Cohen
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Audrey Kanoff
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David & Janet Keshl
Ken & Sue Kirshner
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Karl Klinger
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Lehigh Valley Community Foundation
Covid-19 Matching Fund
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Michael & Kathryn Lentz
Bob & Sandy Lovett
Dawn Lynch
Jennifer Mann
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Bernice Marin-Ferris
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Aimee Stewart
Jeanne Stock
Scott Stoneback & Francee Fuller
Christine Townsend
David Voellinger & Lona Farr
Judith Walck
Vicki Wax
Susan Weida
Arthur Weintraub
Rima Wilby
Cheryl Wright
Ronald Young

In-Kind Gifts

Amy & Peter Barbour
Jonathan Epstein
Eugene Kozma