



The Fund to Benefit Children & Youth

the last hope for those in need

Annual Report

Fiscal Year Ended
December 31, 2021



904 West Highland Street
Whitehall, Pennsylvania 18052
HelpLehighValleyChildren.org



Mission & Program Highlights

The mission of The Fund to Benefit Children & Youth is 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.

We pledge to our donors that every penny of every donation will be directed toward helping a child in need—not to administrative costs. This pledge is possible because The Fund's trustees personally underwrite operating expenses so that every single dollar enhances the life of a needy child.

in the past 9 years, we helped 11,189 children

3,512 kids got their own beds

1,627 families secured utility payments, car seats, safety gates, vacuum cleaners, and bedding

2,037 kids received school uniforms, winter coats, sneakers, and other clothes

251 kids met their health and hygiene needs

1,062 kids attended educational classes, after-school and camp activities

2,700 kids received additional help through Operation Santa Claus

by fulfilling requests totaling
\$1,305,483





Referral Request Process

In 2021, The Fund expanded the Request categories from Tier 1 Urgent Requests and Tier 2 Important Requests to include Tier 3 Bedding Requests after the trustees concluded that children without beds generally lack appropriate bedding (pillow, sheets, and blanket). The trustees now routinely inquire if bedding is needed when funding beds.

The trustees evaluate all Requests within two to three weeks of receipt. They consider Tiers 2 and 3 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 <i>Urgent Requests</i>	Tier 2 <i>Important Requests</i>	Tier 3 <i>Bedding Requests</i>
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.	Sheets, blanket, pillow.
Clothing	School uniforms, shoes, sneakers, coats, and underwear.	Non-school clothing and other requests not identified in Tier 1.	Not Applicable
Healthcare	Insect extermination, air conditioners for asthmatic children, nursing or respite care for parents of disabled children.	Other requests not identified in Tier 1.	Not Applicable
Enrichment	Enrollment fees for arts, sports, academics, school trips, or other enrichment opportunities.	Other requests not identified in Tier 1.	Not Applicable
Education	Preschool, alternative schools, vocational-technical schools, remedial and summer school classes.	Other requests not identified in Tier 1.	Not Applicable
Scholarships	Overnight camp, day camp, or specialized summer programs.	Other requests not identified in Tier 1.	Not Applicable

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





Any professional working with children in the Lehigh Valley can apply for assistance.

Professionals may include caseworkers, counselors, clergy, therapists, doctors, visiting nurses, and other medical personnel.

Before applying to The Fund, the referrer must first explore all other 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, which may take up to three weeks, can be expedited for emergencies. If the Request is approved, the administrator forwards funds to the referrer, not the client.

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



one of The Fund's greatest assets is its flexibility—its ability to provide grants that are tailored to each family's specific needs.

Gail Howell, Trustee Emeritus



Agencies

This year, The Fund fulfilled 912 requests submitted by these 22 organizations working with at-risk children in the Lehigh Valley.

Abraxas Youth & Family Services, Allentown
Aspire to Autonomy, Allentown
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the
Lehigh Valley, Allentown
Diakon, Allentown
Family Promise of Lehigh Valley, Allentown
Homestead Family Services, Allentown
Justice Works Family of Services, Allentown
Lehigh County Children & Youth, Allentown
Lehigh County Integrated Services,
Allentown
Liberty High School, Bethlehem
Merakey, Bethlehem
New Bethany Ministries, Bethlehem

Northampton County Children & Youth
Services, Bethlehem
Pennsylvania Mentor, Bethlehem
Pennsylvania Migrant Education Program,
Bethlehem
Pinebrook Family Answers, Allentown
Signature Family Services
(Allentown office), West Reading
Sixth Street Shelter, Allentown
Third Street Alliance, Easton
Valley Youth House, Bethlehem
William Allen High School, Allentown
Youth Advocate Programs, Bethlehem

my friends made fun of me at school because

my pants were too short.

Martin, age 8
Lehigh County





History of The Fund

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 guidelines limited their efforts.

The committee originally provided donated household items and clothing 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 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 helped 3 kids whose mom is in college

Amount: \$800

Appeal: The single mother of three, ages 5, 10, and 12, attends college full-time and works part-time. She recently had her work hours reduced, and now earns under \$10,000 yearly. She receives no financial help from the children's father or her family. The children need clothes and basic hygiene products like toothpaste which she can't afford.

Status: Approved





From Our Board President

Dear Friends of The Fund,

We have completed a tough and unnerving year, but have emerged confident that our work remains meaningful for the Lehigh Valley's children. We fulfilled all the Requests we received for clothes, beds and other furniture, and emergency utility payments that families could not obtain anywhere else.


Although we know that COVID ravaged the children's days through lost social interaction, lost financial security, and lost lives, we saw a perplexing phenomenon: Requests to the Fund declined—not because needs declined, but because these children became even less visible. They didn't go to school where counselors could see them, and social workers didn't visit their homes. Thus, the number of children we helped in 2021 decreased by 13%.

With fewer COVID restrictions, kids are again in school and social service personnel are again seeing children and visiting families. Consequently, we saw more needs at the end of the year than at the beginning, and we anticipate a significant increase in 2022.

Anticipated increased Requests, however, are not the only issue putting pressure on our budget. The price of some items will increase in the coming year. Bunk beds, for example, will go up 58 percent, and dressers 13 percent.

Your interest and support are critical to The Fund's ability to help these kids. We hope you'll remain involved, as they have urgent needs. Together, we will forge ahead.

Sincerely,


Jane Ervin
Board President





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*heaven sent you!
my daughters had to share my bed
but now they each have their own!*

Camília, mother of 7-year-old twins
Lehigh County



Unaudited Financials

2021 Revenues:

\$ 114,200 Contributions from Individuals

\$ 66,671 Contributions from Corporations, Foundations, Government, and Religious Organizations

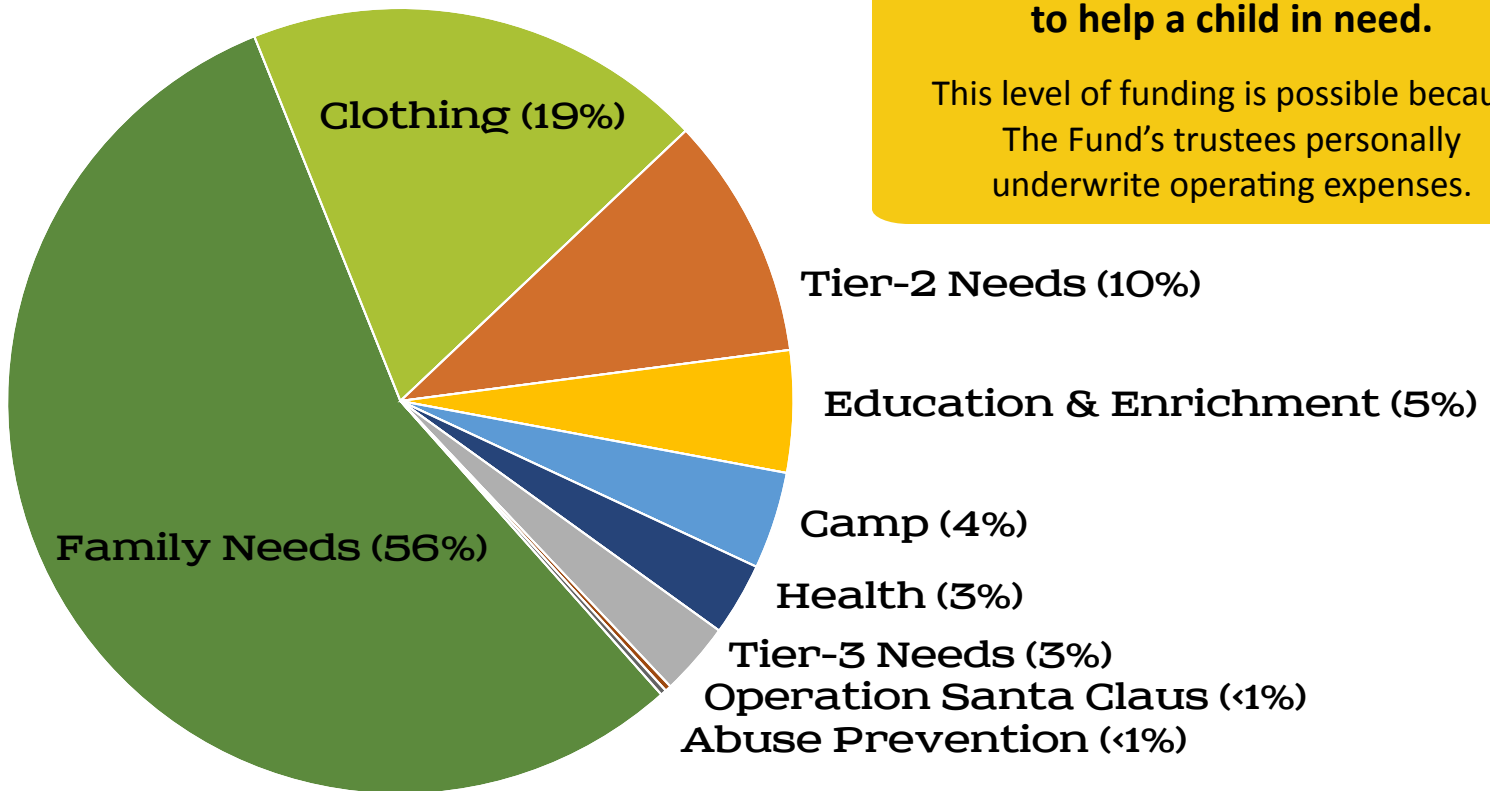
\$ 180,871 Total

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.

2021 Distribution of Funds:



The Fund responded to needs resulting from COVID-19:

Amount: \$379.00 (Tier 2)

Appeal: The parents of three children, ages 7, 10, and 13, have begun putting their lives in order after they lost their jobs during the COVID-19 lockdown. Although they secured an apartment, they cannot afford to buy a dinette set so the family can eat together, and the children can do homework on a flat surface.

Status: Approved



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\$5,000 +

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