



The Fund to Benefit Children & Youth

the last hope for those in need

Annual Report

Fiscal Year Ended
December 31, 2022

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 each dollar enhances the life of a needy child.

in the past 10 years, we helped 12,693 children

4,026 kids got their own beds

1,929 families secured utility payments, safety gates, vacuum cleaners, pots & pans, and bedding

2,312 kids acquired school uniforms, winter coats, sneakers, and underwear

290 kids received glasses and other health and hygiene products

1,136 kids attended educational and enrichment activities like boxing classes

3,000 kids got holiday gifts through Operation Santa Claus

by fulfilling requests totaling
\$1,492,878.00





Referral Request Process

The Fund fulfills Requests in three categories: Tier 1 Urgent Requests (e.g., beds, school clothes); Tier 2 Important Requests (e.g., couches, non-school clothes); Tier 3 Bedding Requests (pillow, sheets, blanket). A directed donation covers the costs of Tier 3 Requests.

The trustees evaluate all Requests within two to three weeks of receipt. They consider Tiers 2 and 3 on a first-come/first-served basis, and fill them as funding allows. Unfortunately, in July 2022, the trustees temporarily suspended fulfilling Tier 2 Requests when they began to outpace available funding. The trustees wanted to ensure that they would have sufficient funds on hand to fulfill Urgent Requests.

All Requests must fall into one of the following thirteen 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
Camp Programs	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 directed contributions. The 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.



“The work that we do is nothing short of inspirational... from blankets to bikes, there isn't another organization that operates like this.” Vicky Kistler, board member



Agencies

This year, The Fund fulfilled 1,504 Requests submitted by these 27 organizations working with at-risk children in the Lehigh Valley. It is a privilege to work with them.

Abraxas
Allentown School District
Aspire to Autonomy
Communities in Schools
Diakon
Dana M. Greene, PC
Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley
Homestead Family Services
Justice Works
Lehigh County Children & Youth
Lehigh County Integrated Service
Merakey
MIRA Resource Group
New Bethany Ministries

Northampton County Children & Youth
Pennsylvania Mentor
Pennsylvania Migrant Education Program
Pinebrook Family Answers
Signature Family Services
Sixth Street Shelter
St. Luke's Nurse-Family Partnership
Star Community Health
Third Street Alliance
Valley Youth House
VAST
Whitehall School District
Youth Advocate Program





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 the needs of Lehigh Valley children 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 these 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 helped a family move from a shelter to its own apartment

Amount: \$920

Appeal: After several months of living in a shelter, the single mom and her three kids, 6, 7, and 12, moved into an apartment. They have no furniture and the mom, who earns under \$20,000 a year, is struggling just to pay utilities and buy food. The children, including the 6'-tall, 12-year-old boy, sleep on towels on the floor.

Status: Funds approved for beds for the three children.





From Our Board President

Dear Friends of The Fund,

As expected, Requests for the key items we fund—beds, clothes, household needs—exploded in 2022 as the pandemic lockdown ended and social service workers were able to resume family visits. We not only helped over 1,500 kids, more than double the number we served last year, but expanded the agencies we work with by 23 percent.

And while we wish no children needed our services, we are grateful to be there for them.

The increased Requests coincided with increased costs. The price of bunk beds, for example, grew by 58 percent. Dressers were up 13 percent.

The intersection of rising demand and increased costs led to short-term changes in July to ensure that we'd have sufficient funds to fulfill Urgent Requests. We suspended fulfilling the second category of Requests like couches, dressers, and adult bedding. Fortunately, thanks to a very generous donor, we were able to continue to provide bedding—pillows, sheets, and blankets.

But we're not gloomy. We had enormous successes and anticipate even more.

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.

We are, after all, the last hope for those—our neighborhood kids—in need.

Sincerely,

Jane Ervin
Board President





Trustees and Staff

2021-2022 Trustees

Laura Black
Cheryl Bleiler
Erica Bortz
Dolly Butz
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Vicky Kistler
Suzanne Habif Mason
Rev. Dr. Christine L. Nelson
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Anne C. Shire+
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Seymour Traub, Esquire

+deceased

“When we help a child get her first bed, wear a winter coat, or go to camp, we have perhaps found a way to make a difference when the problems of her world seem too big.”

Suzanne Habif Mason, board member





Unaudited Financials

2022 Revenues:

\$ 88,619 Contributions from Individuals

\$ 51,180 Contributions from Corporations, Foundations, Government, and Religious Organizations

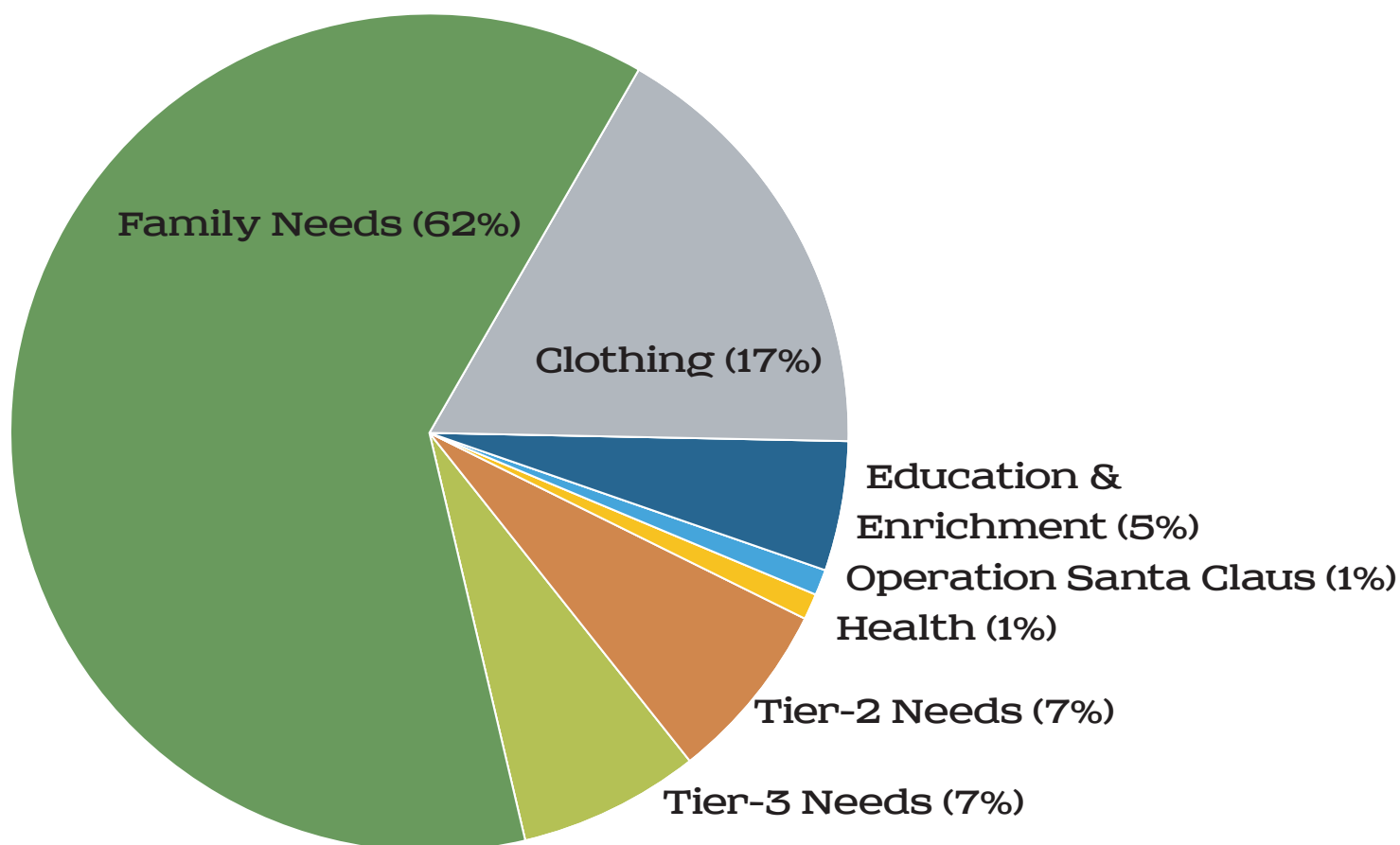
\$ 139,799 Total

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.

2022 Distribution of Funds:





Donors

\$5,000 +

Mario Andretti
Alvin H. Butz Foundation
Lee and Dolly Butz
City Center Investment
Corporation /
J.B. and Kathleen Reilly
Thomas and Amy Scalici
Charitable Fund
The Trexler Trust



\$4,999 - \$1,000

Anonymous (2)
Richard and Karen Albert
Barbra Andretti-Curto
Polly Beste
Bethlehem Rotary Foundation
Ross and Wendy Born
Erica Bortz
Greg Butz
Noshir and Joanne Chinoy
Susan and Joseph Cimerola
Jonathan and Iris Epstein
Jane and Eugene Ervin
Mary Evans
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and Megan Beste
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Elizabeth Scofield and
James R. Tanenbaum
Gary Snyder
Judith Thomann
Two Rivers Health &
Wellness Foundation
John and Debra VanBrakle
Carol Walck & Associates

“The Fund fills a huge void in the child welfare system. And because of heavy volunteer involvement, they do it very efficiently.”

Alan Jennings, board member

\$999 - \$250

Anonymous
Edwin Baldrige and Lydia Panas
Joanne and Hank Barnette
Laura and Robert Black
Jack and Marybeth Bogdon
Eric Butz
Michael J. Butz
The Honorable Edward and Alice Cahn
Steven and Jodi Crossett
George DuPaul and
Judith Brown-DuPaul
Episcopal Church of the Mediator
Ray and Jean Federici
Mark and Lauren Fine
W. Beall Fowler

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Robert and Bonnie Hammel
Holy Trinity Memorial Lutheran
Church / The Morning Glories
Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley
Jordan United Church of Christ
Vicky and Clancy Kistler
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Stephen Lanshe
Ted and Suzanne Lyons
Jennifer Mann
Ruth and Charles Marcon
Joel Mero
D. Bradley and Elizabeth Mitchell

Emilio and Leslie Morrone
The Rev. Dr. Christine Nelson
Night Vision Devices, Inc. /
Phyllis Grube
The Honorable and Mrs. Henry Perkin
Michael Phelps
Jack and Kathryn Riepensell
Joseph and Nina Schaffer
The Schultz Brothers
Ronald W. and Megan Skinner
Nicholas and Amy Slenker
Jayme Stevenson
C. Burke and Patricia Swan
Sy and Sue Traub
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Weinrach
Endowment Fund



Donors

<\$250

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Houman and Lori Ahdieh
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Bruce and Janet Anderson
Robert Anderson
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Yvonne Mitch-Bachman
Robert and Constance Bear
William and Margaret Berger
Michael and Cheryl Bleiler
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Dale and Marlene Blose
Stephen Blumberg
Nannette Bratspies
Pamela Briody
Edward and Florine Burkhard
Alvina Campbell
Ian and Patty Carlis
Audrey Eisler Cherney
Marilyn Claire
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Lois Daday
Sheila and William Dayton
Peter and Susan Deringer
Nancy Dorfman
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Richard and Arlene Stein
Jill Stevens
Julio Torres
Christine Townsend
Margorie Weiss
Rima Wilby
Robert and Sylvia Woroniak
Kenneth and Nicole Yee

In-Kind Gifts

Jonathan Epstein
Glazier's Furniture
Pexels
Unsplash