To improve the health and quality of life for people in the greater Phoenixville region by increasing access to quality healthcare services and promoting healthy communities through grantmaking and collaboration with health, civic, business and community organizations.

Thank you John Colarusso for two terms as the Foundation Chair. Your leadership through the executive transition and a pandemic was keenly needed and expertly delivered ...

Thank you!
We doubt anybody who’s lived through the past few months will look back on them fondly.

For everyone, it seemed there came a day on which each of us realized this pandemic was going to be calamitous. For me, that was the evening of March 11, the same day we’d hosted our Annual Grantee Forum and announced, with much fanfare, to our nonprofit community that we would open our grant cycle in mid-April.

Late that day, I spoke with an executive director who mentioned in passing the changes they were going to make in response to the pandemic. My antenna went up. My next call was to Phoenixville Mayor Peter Urscheler, who told me about how the borough had been preparing for weeks.

I realized the Foundation needed to respond.

The Foundation had a board meeting scheduled for the next afternoon, and that morning I spoke with board leadership. We agreed to scrap our agenda to focus on the looming pandemic and how we should help our grantee community.

After much discussion, the board voted to pool our remaining grant dollars into a COVID-19 Special Grant Fund to support grantees providing critical services during this time. They also approved allowing current grantees with unspent project support funds to transition those into general operating dollars to provide greater flexibility. And they agreed to release grantees with matching grants from further obligations so we could send them the remainder of their grants ASAP.

The next day was Friday the 13th and it was truly bizarre. Staff did not know if we would be back in the office the following week. So we hustled to create a short grant application and drafted language about the fund for our website, Facebook page, and email distribution list, while also preparing to work remotely.

The fund launched early the next week – one of the first available in the Delaware Valley. We gave out our first two COVID-19 Fund grants on March 22, and three more on March 25.

As of the time writing, we have awarded 16 grants totaling $153,875. You can read full list on page 3 in this newsletter.

Staff have been working to ensure the community continues to be supported. In collaboration with Mayor Urscheler and the Office of Emergency Management, we have been hosting weekly calls with the provider community to keep everybody informed and connected during the quarantine. And after hitting the pause button on our annual grant process, we further shortened and released the application for our annual grants. We will speed up the review period so we can get much needed dollars into our grantees’ bank accounts 4-6 weeks ahead of schedule.

I could not be prouder of our board and the staff about how quickly they responded to the situation.

Similarly, our grantee community reacted with astounding resourcefulness and dedication to the challenges the COVID-19 pandemic posed. And those challenges – canceling fundraising events, setting up staff to work remotely, pivoting to providing services virtually – have been numerous indeed.

The road ahead will be bumpy. Yet we can all take comfort in one undeniable fact that’s become even more evident after this recent crisis: Phoenixville takes care of its own.
IMPACT

**PCHF COVID 19 Emergency Fund**

16 Approved Grants
$153,875 Granted

Grants serving the greater Phoenixville region:

* **Ann's Heart**: Operational support for COVID-19 services.
* **Fellowship Health Resources**: Telecommunications with consumers
* **Meals on Wheels**: Fresh food supplements for shut-in recipients of MOW
* **Mitzvah Circle**: Providing essential good and supplies to the most vulnerable individuals and families
* **Open Hearth**: Rent and housing assistance
* **Orion Communities**: Rent and housing assistance
* **Phoenixville Area Community Services**: Emergency food & coordination of emergency food supply chain
* **Phoenixville Area School District**: Emergency food supplies for families of PASD students
* **Phoenixville Hospital Tower Health**: Healthy Baby Program
* **Phoenixville Jaycees Foundation**: Emergency food services
* **Phoenixville Area Senior Center**: Emergency food supply for senior citizens—both pick-up and home delivery
* **St. Vincent DePaul**: Emergency services for rent and basic needs
* **The Clinic**: Site modification to provide safe treatment of urgent health services
* **Trellis For Tomorrow**: Creating gardens within the Phoenixville area to provide fresh foods to those in need
LESIONS

✓ Did you have a Business **Continuation Plan**? If so, did it serve your needs? If not, what is your plan to develop one or modify the one you have?

✓ Did your **technology** serve you well? What gaps have you identified? What is the plan going forward?

✓ Did your **staff** know their roles in an emergent environment? Did they step up or flounder? How will this effect your staff training going forward?

✓ Did you have **communication options** available for all staff? How will you address the issues that emerged going forward?

✓ Were there **interruptions in your mission driven work** as you worked out a service strategy? Could operations have been less chaotic, more continuous? How will you assess this and make changes?

✓ What about **financial sustainability**? Were you able to continue your operations without needing to cut back or furlough staff? If you had an operating reserve, did it help to sustain your operations?

**Now is the time to assess and to plan!**

**Share your stories**

✓ Of heroic staff and board keeping your mission-driven work alive to serve those most in need;

✓ Of creative problem-solving;

✓ Of your organizational resolve to continue the **mission-driven work of your organization**.
The application process was different this year due to many factors:

**First**, we converted a paper application to an electronic application through the Foundation's grants management system. It worked well and squarely placed the responsibility for submitting a complete application on the shoulders of the students. **Second**, the impact of COVID-19 requiring limited personal contact with the students. We did the personal interviews by phone. The Selection Committee was made up of members of the Foundation’s Board of Directors. We met, electronically, to review each student’s application and interview.

**CLASS OF 2020 Scholarship Recipients:**

Kevin Guo is graduating from Great Valley with a 4.38 GPA and heading to the University of Pennsylvania majoring in Biology. He is trending toward medical research. His family has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic though the loss of his father's employment.

Andrew Kacala is graduating from Methacton with 111.77 GPA and is attending PSU Schreyer Honors College to pursue Biomedical Engineering. But also, perhaps, Neuroscience and Psychiatry.

Marlena Langdon is graduating from Owen J. Roberts with a 4.8 GPA and will be attending Haverford College with a Biology major. She would like to pursue a career in Neurology/Psychology.

Ashley Uppani is graduating from Methacton with a 105.81 GPA and will be attending the University of Pennsylvania with a major in Health & Societies. She chose a more general major to start exploring public health and medical specialty options. Her goal is to achieve a medical degree.

Elias Weisman is graduating from Methacton with a 98.5 GPA and will be attending the University of Florida with a Neurobiology major. He is very interested in medical research in the area of behavioral neuroscience. His father is out of work due to health concerns.

**Thank You 2020 Scholarship Partners:**

Phoenixville Hospital Tower Health &
Phoenixville Hospital Medical Staff Association
The purpose of this special grant fund was to encourage and support local non-profit organizations with ensuring that all segments of the greater Phoenixville area were counted.

PCHF awarded six grants to organizations serving the greater Phoenixville region to assist with activities specific to the Census 2020 count. A total of $6,710 were awarded to the following organizations.

- ACLAMO Family Centers
- Alianzas de Phoenixville
- Maternal & Child Health Consortium
- Orion Communities
- Phoenixville Area Senior Center
- Volunteer English Program

There is still time to complete the Census 2020 questionnaire!
Deadline is extended to October 31, 2020

After near 16 years at the Phoenixville Community Health Foundation, Lynn Pike Hartman will retire on September 1, 2020. Lynn has been deeply involved in the foundation’s grantmaking and has directed or been involved with many of the Foundation’s programs including:

- Executive Leadership Institute (ELI)
- Champions of the Community
- Brown Bag Seminars
- Major Donor Training
- Community Health Leadership Academy
- Outcomes Assessment Workshop
- Major Donor Training

Lynn has been the primary contact for PCHF’s Youth & Philanthropy program, and has managed the Foundation’s scholarship programs.

If you’ve applied for a grant from the Foundation over the past few years or participated in a program, no doubt you’ve spoken with Lynn and know how passionate she is about the sector and its adoption of best practices.

Check out PCHF’s website for an article on her accomplishments and legacy within the nonprofit sector.
PCHF is once again accepting applications for the following grant and program opportunities:

**Mini-Grants:**
- AED Mini-Grant
- Health Education Mini-Grant
- Capacity Building Mini-Grant

**Special Grant Funds:**
- Internet Technology Capacity Building Grant
- Northern Chester County Fire Chiefs Training Fund

Information on these grant opportunities can be found on the PCHF website: [www.pchf1.org/available-grants/mini-grants/](http://www.pchf1.org/available-grants/mini-grants/)

Additionally, the Foundation is actively reviewing applications to its main grant cycle and will announce those grants later this summer.

**Programs:**
Due to the pandemic and staff changes at the Foundation, many of the Foundation’s programs will be put on hold for the time being. The Foundation will continue to work with area schools on the popular [Youth & Philanthropy Program](http://www.pchf1.org/programs/youth-philanthropy-program) and intends to seek nominations for our 20th annual [Champions of the Community Award Program](http://www.pchf1.org/programs/cha) later in the fiscal year.

The Foundation is currently exploring opportunities for more specialized and one-off workshops for the nonprofit community. If you have ideas for a topic that would benefit your organization, please contact Tamela Luce at tluce@pchf1.org.

**PCHF will communicate updates via email, Facebook and website. Stay Tuned!**
Two members of the PCHF Board of Directors have departed due to term limits: **Kathryn Evans**, who also served as Secretary, has served faithfully for many years. Her insight into the needs of the community, most especially those of low-income elderly residents, has been invaluable.

**Anita Guzmán**, has also served faithfully for many years. Her insights into the issues facing the Latino community have also been invaluable to the Board.

Additionally, **James Kovaleski**, Esq. resigned from the Board after his election as the District Justice. Jim represented the Phoenixville Borough Council during his tenure as Council President. **Dr. Martin Vinca**, representing the Phoenixville Hospital Medical Staff Association as President, resigned to make way for new leadership.

**Four new board members have been welcomed:**

**Jonathan M. Ewald** represents the Phoenixville Borough Council. Jonathan currently works as the Corporate & Community Relations Manager at the Transportation Management Association of Chester County.

**Brooke R. Ginty**, Esq. is a partner with Baer Romain & Ginty. Among her areas of practice are family law, civil litigation and landlord tenant disputes.

**Carolyn Mayinja** is a resident of Phoenixville. She is currently the Community Planning and Development Administrator for the United States Department of Housing & Community Development.

**Bruce Weiner**, M.D. representing the Phoenixville Hospital Medical Staff Association as President.

**New Officers for 2020-21:**

**Chair:** Maria Schwab, Ed.D.

**Vice Chair:** Jessica Capistrant

**Secretary:** Lauren Eustis

**Treasurer:** Charles Henry, CPA
Vision, Values & Goals

Our Vision is to make the greater Phoenixville region one of the healthiest places to live and work in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Our Values are that the activities of the Foundation are characterized by the following principles:

- Ethical behavior to preserve the public trust
- Actions accountable to the Foundation’s stakeholders
- Compassion for the communities the Foundation serves
- Responsiveness and sensitivity to these communities’ needs
- Fair, respectful, honest and professional relations
- Passion in pursuit of philanthropic excellence

Our Goals are to:

- To improve healthcare access for vulnerable populations in our community
- To support leadership and innovation in community health systems and service delivery that contributes to better care for residents, better community outcomes, and lower costs
- To enhance the quality of life for all residents by encouraging healthy living and healthy communities
- To be exceptional stewards of the public’s trust and resources

Foundation Staff

Tamela Luce  
President & CEO

Jeanette Hall  
Director of Finance & Operations

Lynn Pike Hartman  
Vice President for Programs

Board of Directors

Charles Benz,  
Director

Jessica Capistrant  
Vice Chair

John Colarusso  
Director

Jonathan M. Ewald  
Director

Lauren Eustis  
Secretary

Anna Mae Galbraith  
Director

David Gautreau  
Director

Frank V. Giardina  
Director

Brooke Ginty, Esq.  
Director

Charles Henry, CPA  
Treasurer

Carolyn Mayinja  
Director

Julian McCracken  
Director

Michael C. Polin,  
Director

Maria Schwab, Ed.D.  
Chair

Mark Szilagyi  
Director

Theresa Thornton  
Director

Bruce Weiner, M.D.  
Director

Directors Emeritus

Richard Downs  
David Frees, Jr.

Richard Kunsch, Sr.  
James Reading