

Scranton Area Community Foundation

COMMUNITY NEEDS REPORT



SUMMER | 2017

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Organizations that received Community Needs Grants to date.
- County-wide arts and educational programs supported.
- Homeless mothers and children helped.
- See the positive impact your gifts to the Community Needs Fund make in our community.

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NEPA Match Day Raises Over \$140,000



Thanks to the generosity of our community and with funding from the Community Needs Fund (Unrestricted General Endowment Fund) of the Scranton Area Community Foundation (SAF), the 3rd annual NEPA Match Day, which was held on May 5th, was the most successful to date. For the one-day giving event, 25

Community Needs Fund Welcomes New Residents to NEPA

Global Tastes of Scranton is a project which enables the community to sample the food and culture from home nations of some of NEPA's newest residents. It was launched by The University of Scranton and other

nonprofits serving Lackawanna County worked together to raise both funds and awareness for the work they do in our community. At the end of the campaign, a total of \$141,447.98 was raised by over 2,000 donors to help support the work of local nonprofits. **For the first time**, the NEPA Match Day collective exceeded the \$100,000 threshold, two nonprofits topped the \$10,000 mark, 12 nonprofits exceeded \$5,000, and all nonprofits met the \$1,000 matching goal to receive the full match amount from SAF. As

an incentive this year, a community-minded organization provided \$10,000 in funding, which served as a bonus to the top three performing nonprofits. Dress for Success Lackawanna earned the top bonus (\$6,000), Northeast Regional Cancer Institute placed second (\$3,000), and the Scranton Cultural Center came in third (\$1,000). The success of this year's NEPA Match Day proves anyone can be a philanthropist and that when we work together we are stronger.

community partners, and is proudly supported by SAF's Community Needs Fund. By partnering with local restaurants, refugees and immigrants prepare traditional dishes enjoyed by diners attending the event. Through this project,

new community members gain business experience, and the community gains a deeper understanding of and connection to their newest neighbors. SAF is proud to help bring neighbors together through this project.

Community Needs Fund Supports Kids in the Classroom



The Scranton Area Community Foundation is glad to support WVIA's PBS Kids in the Classroom program. This program provides elementary students with "a field trip in the classroom" where PBS Kids comes alive in a class to teach and engage the students. Recently, PBS Kids in the Classroom visited two second grade classrooms at the Bancroft Elementary School in Scranton. The second grade students watched an episode of Arthur and then participated in an activity that focused on

math, budget, and presentation skills. The Students working in groups of four, were given \$30 of WVIA bucks to plan a party like Arthur did in the episode. The students used supermarket flyers, calculators, poster board, markers and tape to plan their party while not spending more than \$30. Each group then came to the front of the classroom and described the party they planned. This hands on activity was followed by story time with Debby the Clubhouse

Mom from WVIA, who read "Arthur's Mystery Envelope". A surprise guest from PBS Kids, which was the character Arthur, visited the second grade classrooms and each student received an Arthur chapter book along with a PBS Kids bookmark, ruler, and summer activity booklet. A total of 40 second grade students have enjoyed this presentation in 2017 and, thanks to a grant from the Community Needs Fund, more classrooms will participate in this educational program in the 2017-2018 school year.

Scranton Shakespeare Festival Sponsored by Community Needs Fund

"They do not love that do not show their love."

*-William Shakespeare
The Two Gentlemen of Verona*

The Scranton Shakespeare Festival received a grant from the Community Needs Fund to sponsor its 6th season of free performances for our community to enjoy. The main focus of the group is the works of Shakespeare, but they also perform an array of classical and contemporary popular pieces, in addition to original plays written by local playwrights. This

summer, the nonprofit, professional theater troupe will present performances of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Measure for Measure*, *Damn Yankees*, *Cheeks*, and *Skin of the Teeth*. The Scranton Shakespeare Festival was founded by local community members and local theater professionals and has since grown into a collaboration between

the local founders and seasoned, theater professionals from New York and Philadelphia. This year, the Scranton Shakespeare Festival also received national recognition and sponsorship from the National Endowment for the Arts. SAF is pleased to be one of the sponsors of the 2017 season, which brings free, professional theater productions to NEPA.

Community Needs Fund Brings Music to the Classroom

Through a grant from the Community Needs Fund, the Scranton Jazz Festival brought a master class, lecture, and free performance to local high schools in Lackawanna County. For the past 13 years, the Scranton Jazz Festival has brought a weekend full of jazz and music performances to downtown Scranton every summer. With cuts to music classes happening

across the country, the Scranton Jazz Festival realized the importance of bringing music, specifically jazz music, into the schools for students to experience. During the master class and lecture, students learned about the rhythms and improvisations that sit at the heart of jazz music. After the class and lecture, students experienced a performance by the Marko Marcinko Latin Jazz

Quintet; additionally, the performance was open to the public. Scranton Jazz Fest will be held on August 4th, 5th, and 6th this year at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel. For more information, you can visit their website at scrantonjazzfestival.org.



“There is no substitute for practical performance experience encouraged and guided by accomplished professionals.”

**-Frank Torquato
North Pocono High
School Music Dept.**

Mothers & Children Assisted By Community Needs Fund

A grant from the Community Needs Fund provided funding that helped to sustain two programs at St. Joseph’s Center: Walsh Manor and the Mother Infant Home. Walsh Manor provides emergency shelter to homeless, pregnant women in our region. While living at the Manor, women receive access to prenatal care, life services training, and economic education to help them become more self-sufficient. Through the Mother Infant Home, St.

Joseph’s provides a supportive, transitional housing program for mothers of newborns who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. In addition to the medical care women and children living in the home receive, all women attend financial education classes and work with case managers to achieve personalized transitional housing goals. Achieving these goals help mothers provide suitable, sustainable living situations for their children, while learning new life skills.

These programs are geared toward the overall, long-term success of the women because they provide customized services and resources that help women become gainfully employed and economically stable. Critical programs like these, that aid the most disadvantaged among us, are sustained by gifts to the Community Needs Fund at the Scranton Area Community Foundation. SAF is proud to support this beneficial community resource.



“I gained so much more than ‘transitional housing’ from the MI program. I am a proud, independent woman and mother.”

**-Amber
Mother Infant
Home Former
Resident**



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Grants Awarded from the Community Needs Fund in 2017

- 25 nonprofits participating in NEPA Match Day
- The Greenhouse Project (2 separate grants)
- Scranton Jazz Festival
- The Arc of Northeastern PA (3 separate grants)
- WVIA (2 separate grants)
- Scranton Shakespeare Festival
- The University of Scranton (2 separate grants)
- Keystone College
- Lackawanna College
- Scranton Lackawanna Human Development Agency
- St. Joseph's Center
- Electric City Trolley Museum
- Meals on Wheels
- Northeast Pennsylvania Philharmonic
- United Way of Wayne and Lackawanna County
- Boys and Girls Clubs of NEPA
- Lackawanna Neighbors
- Scranton Tomorrow
- Tec Bridge
- West Scranton Hyde Park Neighborhood Watch
- Women's Resource Center



OF COMMUNITIES