60+ Years of Fueling Community Transformation
Community Impact

2021 Impact

25 new funds | $10.2 million in gifts

$6.5 Million grants awarded

Aging = $198,742
Agriculture & Environment = $199,469
Arts & Culture = $683,859
Children & Youth = $225,057
Community Development = $229,932
Economic Development = $533,259
Education = $1,534,995
Health & Human Needs = $1,592,437
Memorial Health Fund = $684,164
Other = $604,820

$89.8 million cumulative grants awarded
Asset size $211 million
You are amazing! For 60+ years York Countians have generously contributed their time and resources to make YCCF one of the strongest community foundations in Pennsylvania! Each gift to the foundation is transformational because it supports today's York County and the one we envision for the future.

2021 was a busy year for YCCF and, as you will see in this report, we accomplished a lot. As we completed this work, we also engaged in strategic planning to lay the foundation for what's to come. As a result, we established three main priorities for the coming years.

First, we will use our discretionary grant program, named THRIVE grants, to fuel community transformation by helping low-income people build lasting financial security. Instead of helping people just make ends meet, our goal is to remove the barriers to achieving economic security. What does that mean? It means that youth have access to quality education and support to prepare them for the workplace. It means people have quality, affordable housing in safe neighborhoods. It means people have stable, living wage employment that includes benefits and enables them to save. It means older adults have what they need to enjoy their later years. We envision a future where more people are thriving not just surviving.

Our second priority is to be the first choice for donors to achieve their charitable goals AND invest in community transformation. More and more donors are looking to us for help to increase the impact of their giving. Visionary donors understand that addressing root causes of social problems improves opportunities for generations to come. We will build and share knowledge on important community topics to be a resource for transformational philanthropy.

Rounding out our priorities is diversity, equity, and inclusion. These are values that will be embedded in our organization and demonstrated throughout our work. We envision a York County where all people are afforded equitable opportunities, regardless of their skin color or age. We will continue to engage with and support new & diverse communities, examine how bias shows up in our work, and take steps so that all feel welcome at YCCF. Because this is important to York's future, we will partner with other leadership organizations to affect positive community-wide change and provide everyone the opportunity to thrive in York County.

Thank you for choosing us as philanthropic partner and for joining us on our journey to make York County a more vibrant place to live and thrive!

Jane M. Conover, MSW  
President & CEO

Krista Snyder Darr  
Board Chair

OUR MISSION

We create a Vibrant York County by engaging donors, providing community leadership, and investing in high-impact initiatives while building endowment for future generations.

OUR VISION

York County is a growing, prosperous, and united community with unsurpassed opportunities for everyone to thrive.

OUR DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION NORTHSTAR

The York County Community Foundation board and staff are committed to making York County equitable and inclusive. We will prioritize our own internal education on systemic racism, ageism, and other forms of bias. All decision-making will be mindful of equitable practices and diversity, including decisions about grantmaking, donor services and community initiatives. To fuel, lead, and support community transformation, we will be bold, intentional, authentic, and public about our values and commitment to racial equity. Sharing knowledge and power is essential to this commitment.
York County Community Foundation was founded in 1961 by generous visionaries who saw an opportunity to perpetually support their community by pooling charitable giving, investing it to grow over time, and making grants to charities from the earnings on the pooled fund. In 1991, the Community Foundation made a real push to expand our donor base, so more resources were available to the community on an ongoing basis. Donors are the crux of our existence; they are the reason we have been able to support so many worthy causes over the years. Today, thanks to encouragement from many community leaders, we have enhanced our mission to include being a changemaker and will work with stakeholders to leverage our grantmaking and expertise for powerful community transformation.

Reflecting on YCCF’s history reminds us that creating a vibrant community requires visionaries, community voices, and generosity. Today, we are redoubling our efforts to be the best partner for donors to support their passions; to be courageous, strategic grantmakers, and collaborative leaders for systemic change. With our discretionary funds, we seek to address complex challenges that underpin and perpetuate disparities in our community and hold us all back from thriving. We weave diversity, equity, and inclusion into every aspect of our work; not only because it is the right thing to do, but because we know it will help us be better at strengthening our community.

We are grateful for the generations of donors and community leaders who built YCCF into the fourth largest community foundation in Pennsylvania. Responsible stewardship of our donor’s funds is the bedrock of our work. The spirit of generosity is alive and well in York County and YCCF wants to be your first choice for philanthropy.
With a grant from York County’s COVID-19 Response Fund, Tenfold, a local nonprofit organization, developed a plan to help stabilize the rental housing market in York during the pandemic. They call it the York Rental Stability Network.

The York Rental Stability Network (YRSN) is a referral-based program offering two services: landlord risk-mitigation program and housing stabilization services. The goal is to avoid eviction by establishing partnerships with tenants, property owners, and service providers.

The Landlord Risk-Mitigation program empowers property owners to foster productive conversations to reduce the owners’ financial risks. Additionally, the Housing Stabilization services offers Informal Housing Resolution sessions and legal service referrals when appropriate.

The program does not assist tenants with money; instead, it offers support during tenancy to help address issues between landlords and tenants through mitigation funding, mediation services, and access to legal aid.

Alaina Herbst, manager of the York Rental Stability Network, says the grant will allow the organization to provide services to about 100 families over the next two years.

“We have met with 16 Social Service Providers and three property management companies. Additionally, we hosted a landlord forum, and invited many landlords to learn about the YRSN program offerings,” explained Alaina. The first two months of training consisted of Social Service and Landlord/Property Management outreach meetings.

“and we will continue the process of doing outreach to assist tenants and landlords,” she continued.

“Eviction and displacement have been shown to lead to long-term impacts on health and housing stability,” shared Brittany Mellinger, Tenfold’s Director of the Housing Equality and Equity Institute. “By keeping people in stable housing, or transitioned to new housing, this program seeks to combat the challenges that have escalated during the pandemic — few available housing opportunities and challenges with current landlords and housing situations.”
The Appell Center for the Performing Arts has been the premier location for entertainment in York for nearly 100 years. However, when the pandemic hit, venues, including the Appell Center’s two theatres, were forced to close and operate at reduced capacity for 18 months.

Staff at the Appell Center credit the generosity of the York community for helping them through the uncertain times. “Our members contributed to our Emergency Stabilization Fund, established in March 2020,” shared Mindi Haines, Director of Development. “Many of them maintained their memberships or even increased their support, despite having no shows on our stages.”

The Appell Center also had the security of an endowment fund at YCCF that helps sustain the organization year over year. This fund supports operations, programs, and maintenance of the two historic theaters.

In fact, the Appell Center is preparing to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Strand Theatre in 2025. Appell Center staff are in the planning stages now for a series of events that will pay homage to our past shows while providing opportunities for the entire community to be part of the celebration.

**Appell Center Fast Facts:**

- **1262 seats** in the Strand Theatre
- **450 seats** in the Capital Theatre
- **80,000 people** attend shows annually
- **10,500 K-12 students** attend educational programs
- **13 full-time** and **10 part-time staff**
- **Home** to York Symphony Orchestra and York Youth Symphony Orchestra

York has been home to the Wolfgangs, whose family started the D.E. Wolfgang Candy Co. in 1921, for more than 100 years. Robert and Mabel Wolfgang created a fund at YCCF to care for community institutions that were meaningful in their lives including the Appell Center for the Performing Arts, formerly known as the Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center.
MEET OUR DONORS:  

**Brubaker Family Fund**

Peter and Meg Brubaker have been long-time supporters of YCCF. The opportunity to involve their sons, Patrick and Joshua, and their families, in the responsibility of charitable giving appealed to Pete and Meg through a donor-advised fund. They also saw the fund as an avenue to support Meg and Pete’s passion for early childhood education. In 1999, Meg shared her expertise with YCCF to help create the Focus On Our Future Initiative which supports the expansion of high-quality, affordable child care programs throughout York County. Pete serves on the Pennsylvania Early Learning Investment Commission and they both work hard to ensure that our youngest community members have a strong educational foundation.

Early childhood education and childcare are essential for working families and our community’s economic prosperity. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated already existing barriers to women’s economic participation, and further highlighted inequities that exist for families of color.

Worldwide, statistics show an unprecedented number of women leaving the workforce to care for their children who were either learning remotely or had childcare facilities shut down. From March 2020 to March 2021, 1,773 fewer children were enrolled in childcare programs in York County.

The childcare crisis is due to many factors - including a lack of staffing and low wages. To make matters worse, 35 York County programs have permanently or temporarily closed since the beginning of the pandemic. Programs that are open are operating at reduced capacity due to the staffing crisis, and many programs are only able to serve 50% of the children they served pre-pandemic.

With those alarming statistics, YCCF awarded a grant to Child Care Consultants (CCC) from the COVID-19 Response Fund to help with the recruitment and onboarding of employees in an effort to address York County’s early childhood education (ECE) staffing shortages.

“With the funding from YCCF, CCC will recruit job applicants, pay for the required clearances, facilitate trainings, and provide six months of coaching and mentoring support,” shared Christy Renjilian, Executive Director at Child Care Consultants, who anticipates serving around one hundred applicants with this grant.

“Research proves that investments in high-quality early childhood education have a return on investment of 1:13, meaning, for every $1 invested, there is a $13 savings in costs associated with special education, truancy, juvenile delinquency, incarceration, under and unemployment,” says Christy.

CCC understands that this is a community-wide effort and serves as co-chair for the York County Recovery Task Force Child Care and Education Committee in partnership with York County Economic Alliance.

By collaborating with other organizations in the community, CCC is hoping that 50% of the individuals remain employed in an ECE program by the end of their first six months and also aims to encourage at least 10% of employees to enroll in a degree program.

“We are tracking staffing and enrollment of participating ECE programs with a goal of programs maintaining full enrollment once fully staffed” shared Christy, understanding that you can only take one step at a time.
For older adults living with dementia and their caregivers, going about their daily routines can be difficult. Interactions with store associates, servers, tellers, and even in times of emergencies with first responders, can be challenging, because they may not know how best to engage with them.

Last year, YCCF’s Hahn Home Fund supported a collaboration between Good News Consulting (GNC) and Embracing Aging (EA) to develop a two-day training course designed to improve the relationship between first responders and older adults in York County. The course is for law enforcement, EMT employees, firefighters, emergency preparedness teams, and search and rescue personnel.

“By increasing first responders’ knowledge of the impact of ageism and the challenges faced by older adults living with dementia, we are giving them tools to better serve our community,” shared Cathy Bollinger, YCCF’s Managing Director of Embracing Aging.

Over 60% of people living with dementia are reported missing after wandering out of their homes. “Interactions with police officers or emergency responders can be a scary experience for a person with dementia,” explained Tina Hess, President & CEO of Good News Consulting. “They’re already confused and the responding officers may not be aware that they are talking with someone who has cognitive decline unless you’re trained on the symptoms and behaviors.”

Through this collaboration, Alison Sprankle of GNC, became a Certified First Responder Dementia Trainer, authorizing her to certify the participants in the training. First responders learn about the key aspects of dementia and how to best communicate with older adults living with dementia. They also become more aware of their attitudes about aging and how it can impact their interactions with older adults.

Visiting Angels-York and Dementia Friendly York/Adams also assisted in the training. This collaboration is one of the goals of York County’s Age-Friendly Action Plan, developed by YCCF’s Embracing Aging program. To learn more about York County’s enrollment into the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, visit www.yccf.org/age-friendly.

MEET OUR DONOR:
Anna Gardner and the Hahn Home Fund for Embracing Aging

Everyone deserves to have the best quality of life possible as we age. Thanks to Anna Gardner and the Hahn Home Fund for Embracing Aging, organizations serving people aged 50 and older create programs so that older adults live more easily in their homes and communities.

Anna Gardner died in 1913 and left her estate to support the Hahn Home and care for older women. Now, nearly 110 years later, her legacy lives on at YCCF.
The York County Rail Trail Authority (YCRTA) has been designing and building rail trails in York County since 1990. At the completion of their first project in the summer of 1999 - the Heritage Rail Trail - then President Commissioner, Robert Minnich, declared with a smile, “On to Hanover!”

Over twenty years later, the Authority was presented with a rare opportunity to purchase 8.5 miles of dormant rail line in Heidelberg Township but soon discovered an immediate challenge. They would have to stabilize one mile of rail corridor, which for years had experienced storm surges from the nearby Oil Creek. But that didn’t scare them! They decided to rise to the challenge, knowing the project would result in improved water quality and stream ecology for Oil Creek and the downstream watercourses of Codorus Creek, Susquehanna River, and the Chesapeake Bay.

Gwenyth Loose, Executive Director of the York County Rail Trail Authority, explained how the restoration will benefit the community, not just those who will enjoy walking or exercising on the trail.

“It’s a win for everyone,” said Gwenyth. “The impact from this restoration will continue for generations. Rebuilding the banks will prevent the stream from overflowing, which will also help local farmers who are always worried about stormwater runoff. By restoring Oil Creek, we can stabilize the land and improve the soil conditions. Our area has seen an increase in extreme weather and it’s really important to be proactive and do what we can to prevent flooding and damage to agricultural lands,” she continued.

The restored trail will run parallel to the Hanover Trolley Trail expansion – a feature that many people have enjoyed since 2008.

The restoration of these two sections of Oil Creek is estimated to annually reduce 243,788 lbs. of sediment, 407 lbs. of nitrogen, and 369 lbs. of phosphorus. That’s something to smile about!
While analyzing the needs of the York community, the team at Shiloh Baptist Church recognized a lack of professional advancement programs for people of color and created The Impact Project (TIP). TIP is a 10-week education and job readiness project for youth between 13-18 years old. TIP is designed to minimize equity gaps and racial disparities for communities of color through job training, career preparedness, income equity, and wealth for youth from these communities. The Project aims to help families go from generational poverty to generational prosperity.

As a predominately African American congregation located in York City, Shiloh Baptist has a long history of advocating for communities of color—through community activism and youth empowerment.

Shiloh Baptist Church was one of the first nonprofits to receive a grant from YCCF’s new Racial Equity Fund—a fund created to support projects and programs that address racism and inequity in our community.

“The Racial Equity Fund grant supports our efforts to continue to help families break the barriers of inequity through teaching, training, and equipping youth with jobs, careers, or entrepreneurship opportunities,” shared Dr. Larry T. Walthour, Senior Pastor at Shiloh Baptist Church.

The Project provides youth with important tools like life skills, employment preparedness, banking and finance, civics, and politics. TIP will also include field trips to expose youth to opportunities that exist in these areas.

“We hope to serve at least 50 youth that have been negatively impacted by inequities and racial disparities. It is extremely important to the Project’s outcomes that the youth come from families looking for a ‘hand up’ and not a ‘hand out’,” said Dr. Walthour.

During the 10-week Project, youth must meet attendance requirements, complete bi-weekly progress reports, complete tasks, and prepare an essay highlighting what they learned from the Project.

In addition to youth participation, parental involvement is also key to success. Parents attend the Project’s opening orientation session and the closing graduation ceremony where the students will highlight their accomplishments and future aspirations.

Shiloh Baptist Church is partnering with several community organizations including the York City School District, Sunshine Christian Daycare and Learning Center, First Capital Kids Clothing and More, Traditions Bank, York County Economic Alliance, and Four Squares Development, Inc. to expose participating youth to opportunities that move them forward on a path to prosperity.
Friends & Neighbors of Pennsylvania, Inc. (F&N) is an emerging nonprofit focused on assisting the unhoused population in York County with finding shelter and providing medical services.

Shortly before the pandemic began, the York County Coalition on Homelessness counted 32 unhoused people in York County. As of January 26, 2022, the unhoused population was comprised of 97 people from 68 households. That’s a 203% increase.

“Those numbers are much higher than we saw pre-pandemic” explained Kelly Blechertas, Program Coordinator with The York County Coalition on Homelessness.

With a grant from Memorial Health Fund in 2021, Robin Shearer, Executive Director at F&N says her organization’s Coordinated Street Outreach Medicine program has been able to help provide critical medical care to over 100 people as of February 2022. “Our goal is to provide informal wellness checks, first aid, and telemedicine services to the unhoused population throughout York County,” she shared.

Because it has built trusting relationships with the unhoused community, F&N is uniquely positioned to administer this program in York City and surrounding areas.

“It is 100% new and has never been done in York,” Robin explained with excitement.

“In the last nine months, we have expanded our services to include first aid treatment with the approval of an individual. We are changing bandages and providing blister and foot care – which is an ongoing need in the unhoused population. We also provide amputee socks, schedule doctors’ appointments, and pick up or purchase prescriptions for those in need,” shared Robin.

Most of the unhoused population have limited access to resources, except for the care they receive from the F&N team. The goal is to prevent more serious medical complications that lead to hospital stays or higher morbidity rates before a person has been connected to housing.

The grant from the Memorial Health Fund was crucial to F&N’s ability to address the health and safety of York’s unhoused population. It not only allowed Robin, her staff, and volunteers to build relationships of trust with vulnerable people but also helped shed light on a critical need in the unhoused community that is often overlooked and neglected.
The David E. Diehl Fund for the York Youth Symphony Orchestra

David E. Diehl’s lifelong passion for musical excellence was the inspiration behind the David E. Diehl Fund for the York Youth Symphony Orchestra. This fund, created in his memory, will expand opportunities for students who are as passionate about music as David and want to pursue their musical dreams. The fund’s goal is to remove barriers for any students who want to learn and grow through participation in the Youth Symphony’s programs. David Diehl set the bar high, both in his teaching and in his musical leadership. He showed young people how to push past their doubts and limitations and play better than they thought possible.

Zac’s Voice, the Zachary Sweitzer Memorial Fund

Zachary Sweitzer was sadly killed by an underage DUI driver in 2008 when he was only 20-years-old. His parents, Mark and Missy Sweitzer created this fund and will recommend grants that support the DUI Memorial at the William H. Kain County Park and activities that were important to Zac like wrestling.
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A copy of the registration and financial information of York County Community
Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling