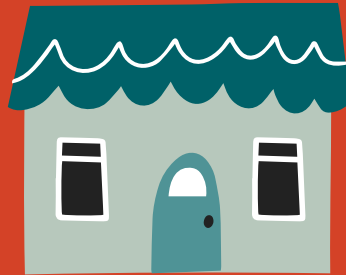
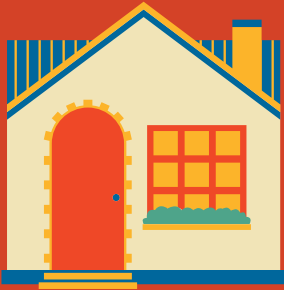
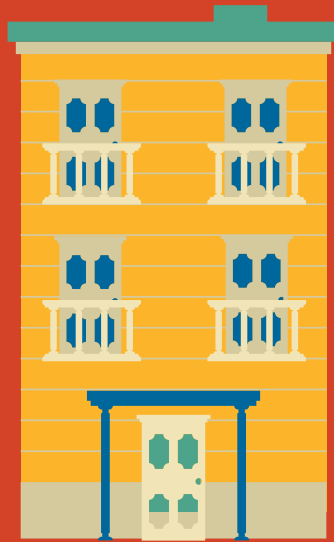


FIGHTING FOR GOOD

COMMUNITY ACTION

LEHIGH
VALLEY



ADVOCACY

BUSINESS
START-UP AND
DEVELOPMENT

FOOD ACCESS
AND NUTRITION

HOUSING

NEIGHBORHOOD
REVITALIZATION

YOUTH

2022 | 2023

ANNUAL REPORT

FIGHTING FOR GOOD

COMMUNITY ACTION LEHIGH VALLEY

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ABOUT Community Action Lehigh Valley is an anti-poverty nonprofit serving the greater Lehigh Valley through programs focusing on Youth, Neighborhood Revitalization, Housing, Food Access and Nutrition, Business Start-up and Development, and Advocacy.

MISSION The mission of Community Action Lehigh Valley is to improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley and surrounding areas by building communities in which all people have access to economic opportunity, the ability to pursue that opportunity, and a voice in the decisions that affect their lives.

HISTORY Community Action Agencies are private nonprofit or public organizations whose development was encouraged by the federal government in 1964 to combat poverty in their local communities.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING SHORTAGE

Affordable housing has become a focal point in recent years, with communities, including the Lehigh Valley, confronting its scarcity.

For housing to be deemed affordable, it should not exceed 30% of a household's income. Unfortunately, the demand for such housing surpasses availability, leading to dire consequences for residents. The Lehigh Valley is known for its diverse communities and economic opportunities; however, the region's attractiveness is marred by an escalating housing crisis that affects individuals and families from all walks of life.

One of the most affected demographics by the affordable housing shortage is low-income families. These families often struggle to find decent and affordable housing, resulting in overcrowded living conditions, substandard housing, and even homelessness. The lack of affordable options forces families to allocate a larger portion of their income to housing expenses, leaving less for other essentials such as food, healthcare, and education. This perpetuates a cycle of poverty that is difficult to break without adequate housing assistance.

Poor housing quality or overcrowding negatively affects mental and physical health, leading to stress, health neglect, and financial strain. This issue also strains the working class, compelling many to make long commutes, thereby reducing quality family time.

Children in these unstable environments face academic and social challenges. The frequent relocations they endure, especially those in Community Action's Sixth Street Shelter, disrupt their education and hinder emotional development. Our Shelter, the region's largest for families experiencing homelessness, was envisioned as a short-term refuge. Yet, extended stays are now the norm since families cannot find an affordable housing transition.

The region's economic stability is also threatened, with businesses facing challenges in attracting employees, thus affecting productivity. The shortage further strains social services and health systems, diverting critical resources.

Addressing the affordable housing crisis in the Lehigh Valley requires a comprehensive and multi-pronged approach including:

- Encouraging affordable housing through public-private collaborations can help alleviate housing shortages. Tax incentives and streamlined permitting processes could incentivize developers to invest in affordable housing projects.
- Advocating for rent controls and strengthened tenant protections can help prevent unjustified rent increases and eviction, providing stability for renters.
- Supporting nonprofits focused on affordable housing can facilitate the creation of housing options for low-income and vulnerable populations; grants and subsidies can help these organizations expand their reach and impact.
- Championing mixed-income housing developments can create diverse communities while providing affordable options for those in need. This can also help reduce the stigma associated with affordable housing.
- Establishing community land trusts can ensure that land remains affordable in perpetuity, empowering communities to have a say in housing decisions and prevent speculation-driven price increases.

Affordable housing's absence in Lehigh Valley has far-reaching implications for residents and the well-being of our community. A combined effort from policymakers, developers, nonprofits, and community members is essential. By merging various strategies, we aim for a Lehigh Valley where all residents have access to safe and affordable housing, because housing should not be considered a luxury...it's a human right.

Dawn Godshall
Executive Director



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Lou Cinquino
President

Hilda Rivera
Vice President

Linda Faust
Secretary

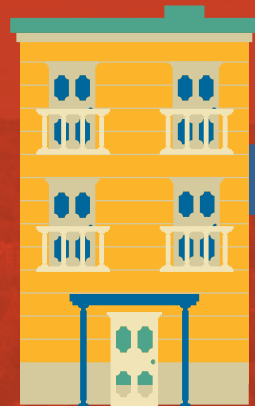
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- Dr. Joseph Roy
- Stephanie Steele
- Betty Wagner



JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023

FINANCIAL STATEMENT*



REVENUE

PRIVATE	\$5,797,329	11%
FEDERAL	\$18,095,207	33%
STATE	\$2,177,524	4%
LOCAL	\$1,127,957	2%

FOOD CONTRIBUTIONS: \$27,544,906 50%

EXPENSES

ADMIN/FUNDRAISING	\$5,183,928	8%
DIRECT ASSISTANCE	\$14,760,093	22%
PROGRAM COSTS	\$20,337,711	30%

DISTRIBUTED FOOD: \$27,338,064 40%



* In comparison to the previous fiscal year, our figures have declined due to higher revenues in earlier years, a significant rise in food costs, and various other factors. We are currently utilizing the surplus funds from earlier periods, as new revenue continues to come in.

These unaudited figures include revenues from Community Action's subsidiary nonprofit community development corporations as well as the value of food we distribute through Second Harvest Food Bank.

Our audit was conducted by Clifton Larson Allen. Our audited financial statements can be obtained at communityactionlv.org

A copy of the official registration and financial information for Community Action may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling, toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Layout & Design: Working Dog Press
Photography: Marco Calderon Photography, Morning Call

COMMUNITY ACTION LEHIGH VALLEY

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

Community Action Lehigh Valley provides administrative support to a variety of entities that perform important work in our community, including the following:

United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley partnered with Community Action to provide key professional staff support for the Lehigh Valley Food Policy Council, a collective impact initiative of dozens of stakeholders.

The Council works toward goals of a 5-year strategic plan (2018-2022) to address the root causes of hunger and food insecurity, lack of access to fresh, healthy food, diminishing farmland, and barriers prohibiting the success of local food producers and entrepreneurs.



56.4%

OF ALL RENTER HOUSEHOLDS
IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY SPEND MORE THAN

30% OF THEIR
INCOME ON
RENT.

Source: US Census ACS
5-Year Estimates, 2017-2021



YOUTH

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

GENERATION NEXT

Generation Next is a college readiness, access, and completion program created to correct disparities in education. Our program ensures that students of color, first-generation college students, and/or low-income students have increased access to opportunities that will further their education. The program works with students to achieve college admission, integrate into college life, and complete a post-secondary program or trade focus.

931 students have participated in the Generation Next Program

100% of seniors graduated High School

Partnered with 4 schools in the Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton Area Schools Districts

13 post High School graduates received Generation Next Tuition Scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$2,500

Curriculum included college application assistance, FASFA Night, SAT Prep, networking opportunities, resume development, college exploration

Community Guest Speakers discussed time and stress management, business ownership, healthy relationships, trade careers, and financial literacy through ESSA Bank

17 trips were organized during the 2022-2023 Academic Year including:

- Temple University
- Villanova University
- East Stroudsburg University
- Howard University
- Fashion Institute of Technology
- National Museum of African American History & Culture
- Northampton Community College's Fab Lab

22 students were accepted into college and attending Fall of 2023.

1 student will be joining the US Marine Corps. Some of the diverse colleges/universities Generation Next alumni will be attending:

- Princeton University
- Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
- Otis College of Art and Design
- Mount Holyoke College
- North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
- East Stroudsburg University



FULL SCHOLARSHIP:

Freedom High School graduate and Generation Next participant, Jerry Rivera, was awarded a full scholarship to Princeton University for Fall 2023



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

SHE

@SHELehighValley



SHE, an acronym for "self-esteem, health, education," is a strength-based empowerment program of Community Action Lehigh Valley. The mission of SHE is to create an educational and inspirational environment in which 4th-to-8th grade girls build confidence, are empowered to change the dynamics in their personal relationships and the greater community, and seize control of their futures, ensuring healthy, fulfilling, and self-sufficient lives.

Students Served:

- 57 elementary
- 99 middle school students

Number of Students Served by District:

Allentown School District:.....	57
Harrison Morton Middle School:.....	57
6th grade:	32 students
7th grade:	13 students
8th grade:	12 students
Bethlehem Area School District:	99 Total
Donegan Elementary School:	27
Fountain Hill Elementary School:	20
Lincoln Elementary School:	10
Broughal Middle School	42
6th grade:	12 students
7th grade:	18 students
8th grade:	12 students



School Year in Review



Curriculum Highlights

- Women in STEAM studies (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math)
- Latinx/Black/Indigenous History studies
- Signs of Healthy/Unhealthy Relationships
- Information on Hygiene/Self-care
- Studies of Women in Art
- Mental Health awareness



Guest Speakers

- **Braley Veras & Geraldine Infante**
TURNING POINT OF LEHIGH VALLEY
- **Stacie Brennan**
LUAG, LEHIGH UNIVERSITY ARTS GALLERIES
- **Caryl Lucas**
FOUNDER/PRESIDENT SHE'S UNSTOPPABLE FOUNDATION
- **Yashira Santiago**
HAIR LOVE LESSON FROM WHISPERING BEAUTY SALON OWNER
- **Quanesha Johnson**
BTG COUNSELING & EDUCATION SERVICES, LLC., LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR & EDUCATOR
- **Karilyn Ruiz-Reyes**
B. BRAUN, CI & PROCESSES CORPORATE MANAGER, DIVERSITY AMBASSADOR



Student Trips

- **Lehigh University Low Ropes Course**
- **Captured LV Escape Room**
- **United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley TEENWORKS** 24th Annual Dinner
- **LUAG** (Lehigh University Art Galleries) "What Matters Most" SHE Community Project, gallery tour, collage art activity
- **SHE's Unstoppable Assembly**
- **Zoeller Arts Center Lehigh University:** Lightwire Theater
- **Community Action Lehigh Valley and Generation Next HBCU** (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) Festival at the Mann Center, Philadelphia



Community Service:

- Students participated in the LUAG, What Matters Most project.
- Added two students to serve as SHE Youth Advisory Board Members
- Environmental Science Initiative: Constructed birdhouses to support local ecosystems; gained insights into indigenous bird species and their habitats.

50%
OF ALL HOMES
IN ALLENTOWN
WERE BUILT
BEFORE
1950.

Source: US Census ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2017-2021



NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION



SUBSIDIARY SPOTLIGHT

CA DEVELOPMENT ALLENTOWN

The mission of Community Action Development Allentown is to elevate and empower residents by actively promoting neighborhood revitalization, which strengthens the neighborhood economy, improves the quality of life and is inclusive of all residents. In 2022-2023 we...

- 🏠 **Completed the third year of the Allentown's Core Neighborhood Partnership Program** in collaboration with multiple youth-serving community partners
- 🏠 **Conducted 2 multi-week virtual youth entrepreneurial training classes**, totaling 16 participants
- 🏠 **Entered 12 students in youth entrepreneurship "pitch contest"**, producing four winning presenters earning prizes to further their business concept
- 🏠 **Connected youth entrepreneurs with business mentors** and formed "Young Entrepreneur" club to promote weekly business concept development and growth
- 🏠 **Collaborated with the Freedom School Partnership** to continue the James Lawson Freedom School at three sites which collectively enrolled 85 youth and served to mitigate the "summer slide" by utilizing a researched, multicultural, activity-based curriculum
- 🏠 **Continued investment in the innovative anti-violence solutions work** led by Promise Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley. Their Outreach Team and Violence Interrupters continued development of their critical skills earning eight certificates of achievement; PNLV staff responded to over 50 acts of violence with follow-up services and referrals to victims and their families
- 🏠 **Collaborated with City of Allentown's law enforcement** for the 9th consecutive year on our hallmark Youth Academy initiative. This program engaged 40 middle school students from the Allentown School District, offering insights into law enforcement careers over a 4-week period, culminating in several enriching field trips, including a finale at Dorney Park
- 🏠 **Strengthened the capabilities of nine grassroots nonprofits** through the Coalition of Difference Makers initiative, enabling them to serve over 400 youths and their families
- 🏠 **Launched the AfterZone initiative** in the Allentown School District with programming in the following schools:
 - 🏠 **Brigadier General Anna Mae Hays Elementary** – STEM classes with Da Vinci Science Center instructors (20 students) and Cuatro guitar instruction provided by the Puerto Rican Cultural Association (12 students)
 - 🏠 **Central Elementary School** – Flag Football Teams (35 students) and Bldg21 – Flag Football (25 students)



- 🏠 **Enhanced the AfterZone initiative by appointing a dedicated part-time Coordinator** and partnering with the Fine Feather Foundation. This collaboration resulted in an 8-week after-school program at Trexler Middle School, offering activities such as arts, dance, poetry, podcasting, music, and video production. The program culminated with 65 students showcasing their talents in a public recital
- 🏠 **Partnered with the Fine Feather Foundation and Lehigh Valley Arts and Cultural Alliance** to conduct an 8-week summer camp for 45 youth which featured arts, dance, vocal workshops, field trips, podcasting, music and video production, including several immersive days at Camp Fowler
- 🏠 **Sponsored 20 students from the Allentown School District for the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute's distinguished 'Summer Fun Camp'**, fostering their technical skills and furthering their career aspirations
- 🏠 **Collaborated with the Allentown School District to draft a purchase agreement for the Cleveland School site**, laying the groundwork for our future Youth Center. Engaged a project consultant to initiate the development plan for the new center
- 🏠 **Assisted multiple community partners to provide community events and youth activities** reaching over 5,000 residents. Events included: High School Basketball Tournaments, Humankind Day, Downtown Allentown Blues Festival, and the High Notes Gala at Americus Hotel, featuring musical performances by Allentown School District students



Generation Next Partnership

- 🏠 **Supported continuation of Generation Next at Allentown's William Allen High School** by adding a new freshmen class and maintaining a reduced cohort of sophomore and junior students. 100% of the students involved advanced to the next grade level
- 🏠 **Sponsored 40 Generation Next students for the Career Exploration Conference at Muhlenberg College**, providing insight into diverse career paths and the requisite education and training to achieve their ambitions
- 🏠 **Assisted with Generation Next bus trip to Philadelphia's inaugural HBCU (Historically Black College & Universities) College Fair**, enabling students to explore diverse college options

SUBSIDIARY SPOTLIGHT

CA DEVELOPMENT BETHLEHEM

@cadc_bethlehem

Since 1998, Community Action Development Bethlehem has advanced a neighborhood-based vision of community and economic development that builds on the strengths and assets of our diverse community.

CADB works to improve the quality of life in Bethlehem through the implementation of Southside Tomorrow, a neighborhood-driven and coalition-based community development initiative focused on promoting Housing Affordability and Quality, improving Communication and Connectivity, and supporting Public and Green Spaces in south Bethlehem.



Successes and achievements:

- **Connected over 200 residents to community resources**
- **Participated in 17 community coalitions, advocacy groups, and community organizing initiatives** related to our mission in Bethlehem
- **Engaged 57 Southside Bethlehem residents in neighborhood meetings**
- **Completed one façade improvement on Broadway**
- **Conducted 3 neighborhood cleanups**
- **Coordinated the 2022 Greenway Farmers Market** with 7 community vendors
- **Maintained 3 community gardens in south Bethlehem** in partnership with Afros in Nature
- **Installed a mural at Yosko Park** in collaboration with two community-based artists
- **Supported the ongoing work of the Southside Ambassadors** in the Four Blocks International neighborhood
- **Sponsored afterschool and summer programming** for over 500 youth in south Bethlehem
- **Engaged over 3,000 residents at 12 neighborhood events** held in collaboration with community partners
- **Supported the provision of fresh food to 2,000 individuals** at the New Bethany Food Pantry and Mollard Hospitality Center
- **Partnered with over 40 organizations, small businesses, and institutions** to execute community projects on the Southside
- **Worked with over 150 community members** on planning and implementing neighborhood-driven projects



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

SLATE BELT RISING

SlateBeltRising.org, @SlateBeltRising

Slate Belt Rising (SBR) is a neighborhood revitalization initiative designed to integrate and capitalize on the substantial assets of the individual Slate Belt communities. By leveraging each municipality's unique history, architecture, and culture into a regional approach, SBR will use a Neighborhood Partnership Plan to foster comprehensive community and economic development. While SBR specifically targets the boroughs of Bangor, Wind Gap, Pen Argyl, and Portland, some initiatives promote development and the coordination of services for the entire region.

Awarded \$7,000 in scholarship funds to 7 Bangor and Pen Argyl Area School District students

Began 3 Commercial façade projects on properties in Bangor (2) and Pen Argyl (1)

Completed an Earth Day Litter Pickup with teams across all 4 boroughs

Completed 2 mural projects in Portland Borough and Wind Gap Boroughs

Partnered with Bangor Borough, Connolly Consulting, and Huratiak Homes to establish "Quarry Bites & Brews," a weekly event in Bangor Borough to draw residents and visitors into the downtown area. The event features rotating food trucks, live music, local Slate Belt beer and wine, lawn games, and more!

Resurrected the Bangor Farmers Market on Wednesday nights to showcase unique Slate Belt-based businesses

Secured funding to complete streetscape upgrades in Portland Borough in 2024

Approved SBR's first-ever Commercial Lease Subsidy applicant

Slate Belt Brewing Company received lease assistance to assist with their grand opening at 50 Broadway in Bangor Borough

Hosted vendor markets with Blue Flame Events to help support local small businesses



@SarahLanierArt



@palmer.terri



OVER
192,000
INDIVIDUALS
IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY
LIVE IN HOUSING THAT IS
UNAFFORDABLE
FOR THEIR FAMILIES.

Source: Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, 2020



HOUSING

COMMUNITY ACTION HOMES

Community Action Homes helps people acquire and remain in quality, affordable housing. We partner with local municipalities to improve the quality of affordable housing stock in the Lehigh Valley through a comprehensive housing rehabilitation strategy. This strategy includes the following tools: the acquisition of houses, rehabilitation of those houses for resale to eligible buyers, rehab of owner-occupied homes, and façade improvements.

Sold 3 completed rehabilitated homes to low-income buyers – one in south Bethlehem, one in Allentown, and one in Bangor Borough

Managed the renovation of 3 homes anticipated for sale – two in Slatington Borough and one in south Bethlehem

Acquired 1 home in Allentown from the Allentown Redevelopment Authority, along a key gateway route to Center City

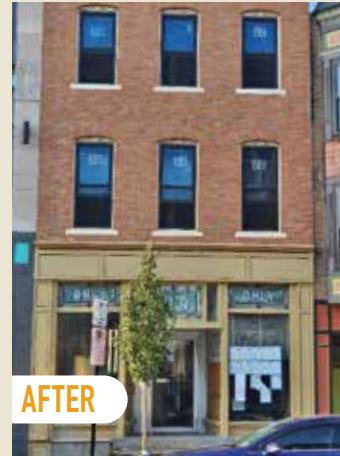
Coordinated rehabilitation activities for 42 low-income households in Lehigh and Northampton counties through programs funded by Lehigh County, Northampton County, and the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency. We emphasized roof and HVAC system replacements, energy efficiency improvements, and mobility repairs, ensuring low-income homeowners can remain comfortable in their homes for the long term and afford utility bills. This number represents a considerable increase over past years, made possible through increased staffing of Community Action Homes

Completed 12 façade improvements to residential and commercial properties in Allentown and the Slate Belt in collaboration with City Center Lehigh Valley and Slate Belt Rising

Continued site design and financing work for the development of 5 townhomes to be sold to low-income buyers on a high-visibility adaptive reuse site in Glendon Borough

Launched the Whole-Home Repairs Program for Lehigh County, managing a funding allocation of \$2.7 million. This high-profile state program made funding available for low-income homeowners to receive a variety of needed home improvements, and additionally provided funding for workforce development

1031 W. HAMILTON STREET, ALLENTOWN



AFTER



BEFORE

HAYES STREET, BETHLEHEM

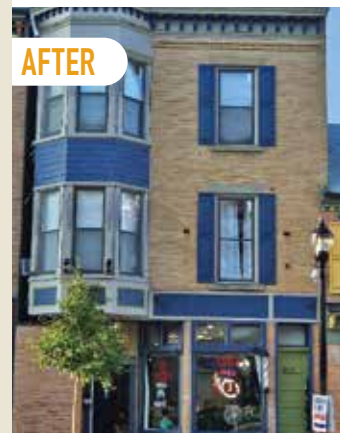


AFTER

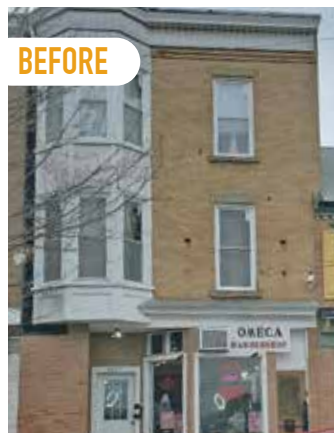


BEFORE

1027 W. HAMILTON STREET, ALLENTOWN



AFTER



BEFORE

HOUSING COUNSELING

The mission of the Housing Counseling Program is to provide low-to-moderate income families with a continuum of coordinated services in one location to better meet their housing and consumer credit needs and to build individual and community wealth.

45 families who utilized services through the Housing Counseling Program indicated in Fiscal Year 2023 that they purchased their first home.

- **7 first-time homebuyer seminars were conducted, providing 8 hours of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approved education**
 - **181 prospective homebuyers earned a certificate of completion by attending a seminar**
 - 3 seminars were conducted in Spanish and 4 in English. 5 seminars were held virtually, 1 seminar was held in Easton, and 1 in Bethlehem
- **39 prospective homebuyers were provided pre-purchase counseling. 41 prospective homebuyers were provided pre-settlement counseling**
- **8 savers are in the Home Ownership Savings Account Program (HOSAP) as of June 2023.** The total savings balance of all 8 accounts is \$10,016.58. 3 savers have saved at least \$2,000 and are eligible for a \$2,000 savings match once they purchase a home. ESSA Bank and Trust partners with HCP on this initiative, which helps families purchase their first home
- **3 participants completed a 6-hour Financial Education course that is taught with curriculum developed by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency**
- **1 homebuyer was qualified to use the Bethlehem Homebuyer Assistance Program** In partnership with the City of Bethlehem, this program provides down payment and closing cost assistance in the form of a deferred payment loan to first-time homebuyers who purchase in the City of Bethlehem and are at 80% median income or below. As of June 2023, there are 20 participating lenders
- **65 financially distressed homeowners were provided default and delinquency counseling** (40 homeowners through Northampton County's Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program and 25 homeowners through Lehigh County's Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program)
 - **34 households were saved from foreclosure through a loan modification, repayment plan, or rescue funds. Out of the 65 homeowners served through the diversion programs, 21 cases remain under review for potential modifications**
- **17 delinquent homeowners received Loss Mitigation services.** Our Housing Counselors provided counseling and assisted homeowners in submitting a workout packet to their lender for a loan modification or repayment plan
- **15 delinquent homeowners received assistance in applying to the PA Homeowner Assistance Fund (PAHAF).** The housing counselors provided counseling and assisted homeowners in submitting an application to PAHAF
- **51 homeowners received assistance in applying to the Homeowners' Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (HEMAP).** The housing counselors provided counseling and assisted homeowners in submitting an application to HEMAP
- **5 residents of the Turner Street Transitional Housing Program received rental/financial counseling**



HOME OWNERSHIP SAVINGS ACCOUNT PROGRAM

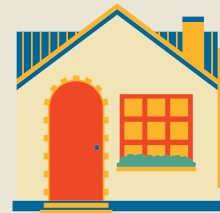
In 2018, Community Action introduced the Home Ownership Savings Account Program (HOSAP) for aspiring homeowners. Aimed at instilling savings habits, the program promises a \$2,000 matching grant once participants save the same amount and meet program criteria, thanks to the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement (PHARE) Fund.

Orchid Dominguez, who joined in July 2018, diligently saved with ESSA Bank & Trust. By December 2, 2022, she had amassed \$7,757. Coupled with Community Action's \$2,000 match, she used \$9,757 for her new home's down payment and closing costs in Allentown! Over four years, Orchid met all program prerequisites including attending the First-Time Homebuyer Seminar and Financial Education Course, and regular sessions with a HUD-Certified Housing Counselor. Navigating through a pandemic, with sustained guidance and encouragement from her Housing Counselor, Ms. Dominguez's home ownership dream became a reality.



EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

In response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Community Action offered the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). This vital initiative offers both rental and utility support to individuals and households grappling with housing instability due to the pandemic's direct or indirect impacts.



1,608 Households received assistance and/or prevented eviction
Total Paid Assistance: \$11,394,786.63

HIGHLIGHTS:

We collaborated with lawyers from North Penn Legal Services as part of their eviction diversion program through ERAP.

We maintained open communication with landlords, helping applicants avoid eviction and address any outstanding court judgments, facilitating their ability to rent elsewhere.

We provide approval notices to tenants, empowering them to present these to constables or magistrates, thereby preventing evictions.

Housing navigation remains a highly sought-after service by our applicants. Additionally, several landlords have shared property availability with us to assist those in search of housing.





AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS
A HUMAN RIGHT.



WEATHERIZATION

Community Action Home's Weatherization program hires contractors to make improvements to the homes of low-income people and educates them on comfort and conservation techniques to enable them to save money on heating costs; it also repairs and even replaces failing heating systems. During the summer, we repair and/or replace air conditioners as well as install window air conditioners.

705 participants' homes visited

Weatherized 137 homes, including comprehensive energy audits, blower door/pressure diagnostics, insulating attics, walls and basements, thermal camera guided air sealing, repairing doors and windows, replacing high-energy using appliances and, in some instances, repairing and replacing damaged heating systems

Repaired issues preventing weatherization in 11 homes through the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and DOE Readiness funding

389 heating systems were repaired, replaced, or had a preventative clean and tune through the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

168 Cooling jobs were completed

Installed window air conditioners in 113 homes

Repaired or replaced 55 central air conditioners through the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)



A Story from Mike Austin, Weatherization Director

FAMILY OVERCOMES HOUSING CRISIS WITH COMMUNITY ACTION'S SUPPORT:



In December 2022, the Weatherization team encountered a family through our Housing Crisis program that deeply touched our hearts.

This family, with three children aged 7, 10, and 12, lived in conditions that were challenging to witness. Their home had minimal heating—only one space heater per floor. Their kitchen lacked a functional stove, the freezer door was hanging off its hinges, there were holes in the floor and the ceilings were deteriorating. Their inadequate plumbing and electrical issues meant they often endured cold, dark nights.

Despite these hardships, the family's children were well cared for, attending school regularly and meeting their health needs. The resilient mother would often buy meals from the corner store due to their non-functional kitchen and occasionally sought free food from the hospital.

Upon assessing the gravity of their situation, we contacted Children and Youth Services. While C&Y had just closed their case on the family, ensuring the children were in good care, the physical conditions of the home were still dire. Fortunately, we were able to prioritize their home for an electrical upgrade. The major revamp included panel updates, improved wiring, and new baseboard heaters to ensure a warmer, safer environment.

Christmas, a time of joy, was a challenge for this family. The mother shared her heartbreak with us about the children not having a tree or presents. Inspired to make a difference, our team, especially Angelie, Office Administrator, and Jeanette, Housing Counselor, swiftly acted. We arranged for a tree, decorations, and gifts to be delivered to the home. Contributions from our Sixth Street Shelter also enabled us to provide gift cards to lift their spirits.

The joy reflected in the pictures the mother shared, of her children lighting up their home with the tree lights, was priceless. Our team's efforts didn't stop there. To provide long-term support, we helped the father secure a stable job with one of our contractor partners.

Follow-Up, Summer 2023:

Our commitment to ensuring this family's wellbeing continued throughout the year. Through the LIHEAP Crisis program, we completed the necessary electrical work, installing new heaters, lighting, and outlets. The father has maintained a steady job since January, bringing financial stability to their lives. As summer approached, our Cooling Program stepped in, fitting their home with window air conditioner units. Witnessing the transformation and resurgence of this family has been one of the most gratifying experiences in our journey, reaffirming our mission and dedication to our community.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

SIXTH STREET SHELTER

SixthStreetShelter.org, @SixthStreetShelter

Established in 1984, the Sixth Street Shelter in Allentown offers families facing homelessness dignified, furnished housing through 30, 60, and 90 day programming. Guiding families towards self-reliance, the Shelter provides comprehensive support from medical/mental health appointments to high school equivalency programs, financial literacy, and job readiness: including resume writing, referrals to CareerLink, and homework assistance. With community partnerships, the Shelter assists families in securing permanent housing while addressing broader housing insecurities throughout our community. Committed to fostering growth and success, the Shelter champions a brighter future for families through compassionate support and empowering programs.

The Sixth Street Shelter is the largest family shelter in the Lehigh Valley region, accepting families of any configuration including those with adult children, single fathers, and the LGBTQ+ community.

71% of the families served achieved their Family Service Plan short-term goals

50% of families successfully completed and exited the Shelter's program, reaching independence

100% of families created a written budget to understand credit and money management as part of their goal plan at the Shelter

123 of the individuals served were children

42% of the Shelter's families served moved into safe, stable housing, despite the affordable housing crisis



PUBLIC PROCLAMATION:

June 6th has been officially designated as Sixth Street Shelter Day by Mayor Matt Tuerk of Allentown



POSITION SPOTLIGHT

JEAN HOFFMAN HOUSING INNOVATION SPECIALIST

SHIFT (STABLE HOUSING INTERVENTIONS IN FACILITATED TEAMS)

In the heart of Allentown, there's a transformative story unfolding – one that starts in the discomfort of homelessness, but which ends with warmth, safety, and hope in the embrace of a home. At Community Action's Sixth Street Shelter, we've set forth on a mission that goes beyond mere outreach; we're connecting, building, and fortifying a bridge between those without a roof over their heads and a place they can call their own.

Our dedicated team tirelessly works hand-in-hand with families caught in the distressing cycle of homelessness. We believe that no family should be separated because of inadequate housing, and no barrier should stand between them and their dreams of unity and stability.

In our journey, we've realized the importance of partnerships. One of our core strategies has been to foster deep-rooted and sustainable connections with the very individuals and entities that open doors – our local landlords and property management companies. By forging these relationships, we ensure that affordable housing isn't just a hope, but a reality waiting just around the corner for our residents.

The Sixth Street Shelter has been partnering with the Lehigh County Office of Children and Youth Services to provide shelter and supportive services to local families for nearly 30 years through our Family Preservation Program. In the spring of 2023, this partnership expanded to include their new SHIFT program, and Jean took on the role of Housing Innovation Specialist for this county-wide effort to assist families in need of stable housing.

In our quest to be efficient and effective, we're pioneering ways to streamline the rental assistance process. Through communications and paperwork processing, our Housing Innovation Specialist connects directly with local landlords and property management companies to discuss agreements on rental assistance and rent stability.

Every week, our team sits down to listen, understand, and provide tailored assistance to our family clients. We not only support their immediate housing needs but also empower them on their journey to self-sufficiency by connecting them with essential community resources. As families transition from the support of the Sixth Street Shelter's SHIFT program, we stand by them – celebrating their triumphs. The newly created Housing Innovation Specialist position is a testament to the lives changed, families reunited, and dreams realized. At the Sixth Street Shelter, we're not just offering services – we're weaving stories of hope, perseverance, and new beginnings. **Together, we're making a difference, one home at a time.**



LEHIGH VALLEY COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

Lehigh Valley Community Land Trust is committed to strengthening communities by providing permanent affordable housing for income-qualified households through the development or redevelopment of land and/or the purchase and rehabilitation of real estate in the Lehigh Valley.

Transferred 3 existing units from the land lease to the restrictive covenants adopted in 2020. Owners remained in residence before and after the transfers, allowing them to opt into the additional household wealth building potential of the new model.

Successfully resold 2 homes, transferring them from the land lease to the restrictive covenants.




Big hearts deserve a big hand.

We applaud you for all the truly meaningful work you do in our community.

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LEHIGH-NORTHAMPTON AIRPORT
NONSTOP DESTINATION ROUTE MAP

allegiant

DELTA

UNITED

ABE

- 1 Denver (DEN)
- 2 Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood (FLL)
- 3 Melbourne (MEL)
- 4 Myrtle Beach (MYR)
- 5 Nashville (BNA)
- 6 Orlando Sanford (SFB)
- 7 Punta Gorda (PGD)
- 8 Sarasota/Bradenton (SRQ)
- 9 St. Pete/Clearwater (PIE)
- 10 Atlanta (ATL)
- 11 Detroit (DTW)
- 12 Charlotte (CLT)
- 13 Philadelphia (PHL)
- 14 Chicago O'Hare (ORD)
- 15 Newark (EWR)

FOOD ACCESS & NUTRITION

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



of the Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania

SHFBLV.org, @SecondHarvestLV

Second Harvest Food Bank programs provide children, seniors and families with fresh and nutritious groceries. We also provide training and access to land for new and emerging farmers at The Seed Farm, help people enroll to receive SNAP benefits and administer supplemental nutrition programs for seniors and military families.

Impact Stats:



14.7 million pounds of food distributed – a 44% increase from fiscal year 2022



12,260,492 meals distributed across our six county service area



6 counties serving residents in Lehigh, Northampton, Carbon, Monroe, Pike, and Wayne



8.8 million pounds of food rescued



28,311 boxes of nutritious food distributed to low-income seniors through the PA Senior Food Box Program – a 16% increase from FY22



6.7 million pounds of fresh produce, perishable protein, and fresh dairy products distributed. This is a 46% increase in fresh foods in the SHFB inventory compared to the previous fiscal year



More than 500 military families participating in our MilitaryShare food box program per month



On average, we provided food to 87,030 individuals monthly during the fiscal year, including **22,556 children and 32,401 seniors – a 52% increase over FY22**



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

THE SEED FARM

TheSeedFarm.org, @TheSeedFarm

As a program of Second Harvest Food Bank, The Seed Farm works to support food production at all levels, from home gardeners to community gardens to local farmers. Strong local food systems equal food security.

At our agricultural business incubator, we provide beginning farmers with affordable access to land, infrastructure, equipment, technical assistance, and more, so that they can start their farm businesses. Our Growing Partners raised bed program is aimed at increasing access to nutritious, fresh foods for neighbors in low-income urban environments and to provide opportunities to grow food and gain gardening confidence. Through our Farm to Pantry program, The Seed Farm grows and harvests high-demand produce for the Food Bank.



Sistah Seeds, Bubbly Hills Farms



4 beginning farmers continued in the Farm Business Incubator



3 beginning farmers joined the Farm Business Incubator



9 acres leased to incubator farmers



6,871 plants sold at the Spring Plant Sale



200+ varieties of vegetables, herbs, and flowers sold at the Spring Plant Sale



267 hours of training and mentorship opportunities to new farmers



700+ plants donated to community groups such as Northampton Area Food Bank Garden and MIRA Resources



Blue Sun Growers



“WHEN OUR ECONOMY IS TRULY HEALTHY,
AND EVERYONE RISES WITH THE TIDE OF
PROSPERITY, THEN ISSUES SUCH AS THE LACK
OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS,
AND HUNGER ARE GREATLY DIMINISHED.”

-David Ige, eighth governor of the state of Hawai'i



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BUSINESS START-UP & DEVELOPMENT



SUBSIDIARY SPOTLIGHT

RISING TIDE COMMUNITY LOAN FUND

TheRisingTide.org, @RisingTideCLF

Rising Tide's mission is to identify small business and community development credit needs that may stifle the creation of economic opportunities for growth and to meet those needs with affordable business loans. The Rising Tide Community Loan Fund is a separately incorporated subsidiary of Community Action Lehigh Valley.

As a Community Development Financial Institution, Rising Tide **provided funding in excess of \$1.8 million, 24% more than any previous year, bringing the total disbursed to date to just over \$12 million.**



Made 25 loans to 24 different businesses

- 🏠 15 were made to woman-owned businesses
- 🏠 20 loans made to businesses owned by Black, Indigenous, Hispanic, and other communities of color
- 🏠 23 loans were made to businesses owned by low-to moderate-income individuals and/or located in low-to moderate-income census tracts

Provided free-of-charge marketing services to over 60 businesses, including but not limited to: web design, logo design, social media assistance, and marketing materials development

Administered the Lehigh and Northampton Counties Revolving Loan Fund:
Provided a \$50,000 loan to a local restaurant



Businesses that received loans in 2022-2023:

- 4 trucking companies
- 2 board gaming businesses
- 2 restaurants

Additional businesses:

- retail store
- brewery
- bakery
- printing company
- childcare center
- media company
- events center
- flower shop
- café
- fitness center
- paving company
- notary
- grocery store
- catering business
- ramen supply company
- beauty salon



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THE 2023 POINT-IN-TIME (PIT)
COUNT IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY
IDENTIFIED

SIX HUNDRED
EIGHTY-THREE

PEOPLE EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS.

Source: 2023 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count



ADVOCACY

COMMUNITY ACTION LEHIGH VALLEY

RACIAL AND ETHNIC JUSTICE PROGRAM

Community Action Lehigh Valley's Racial and Ethnic Justice program provides diversity, equity and inclusion trainings and workshops to the community and partners with local agencies to reduce racial and ethnic disparities. Our Color Outside The Lines (COTL) initiative is a 5- to 7-year strategic plan to invest in our community's future. The plan seeks to address racial inequities and disparities in the following areas: housing, economic opportunity and employment, education, criminal justice, and quality of life with focuses on mental health, health, arts and culture, and recreation.

We achieve this by:

- ✔ **Partnering with civic and community leaders** to implement strategies that reduce systemic inequalities and promote equity initiatives that lead to racial and ethnic justice
- ✔ **Building strategic relationships** that lead to greater collaboration among business, government, and community leaders
- ✔ **Engaging community leaders in conversations** that lead to a greater understanding of systemic disparities, motivating them to actively address and mitigate these issues
- ✔ **Overseeing programs to meet the needs of students** and youth in communities vulnerable to racial and ethnic bias

In 2022-2023, we achieved the following:

- ✔ **Engaged more than 750 participants in racial and ethnic bias trainings** across Lehigh, Northampton and Monroe counties
- ✔ **Partnered with more than 400 organizations, businesses and non-profit leaders** to identify critical areas of need for those in marginalized and disenfranchised communities
- ✔ **Collaborated with more than 200 educators, health care workers, business and community leaders** to develop strategies to help those in need
- ✔ **Increased awareness of racial and ethnic disparities** in the Lehigh Valley and launched health, education and criminal justice initiatives designed to address them

On the horizon:

- ✔ **Implement racial healing circles throughout the community** to deepen the understanding of bias, equity, power, and privilege leading to increased community collaboration and support
- ✔ **Increase support of mental health initiatives** that address racism as a public health crisis
- ✔ **Increase collaboration with local, state and national leaders** to address the social determinants of health and reduce the impacts of racial discrimination based on your zip code



OUR LOCATIONS

Community Action Lehigh Valley
1337 East 5th Street | Bethlehem, PA 18015
communityactionlv.org

Community Action Development Allentown
523-525 North 7th Street | Allentown, PA 18102

Community Action Development Bethlehem
409 East 4th Street | Bethlehem, PA 18015

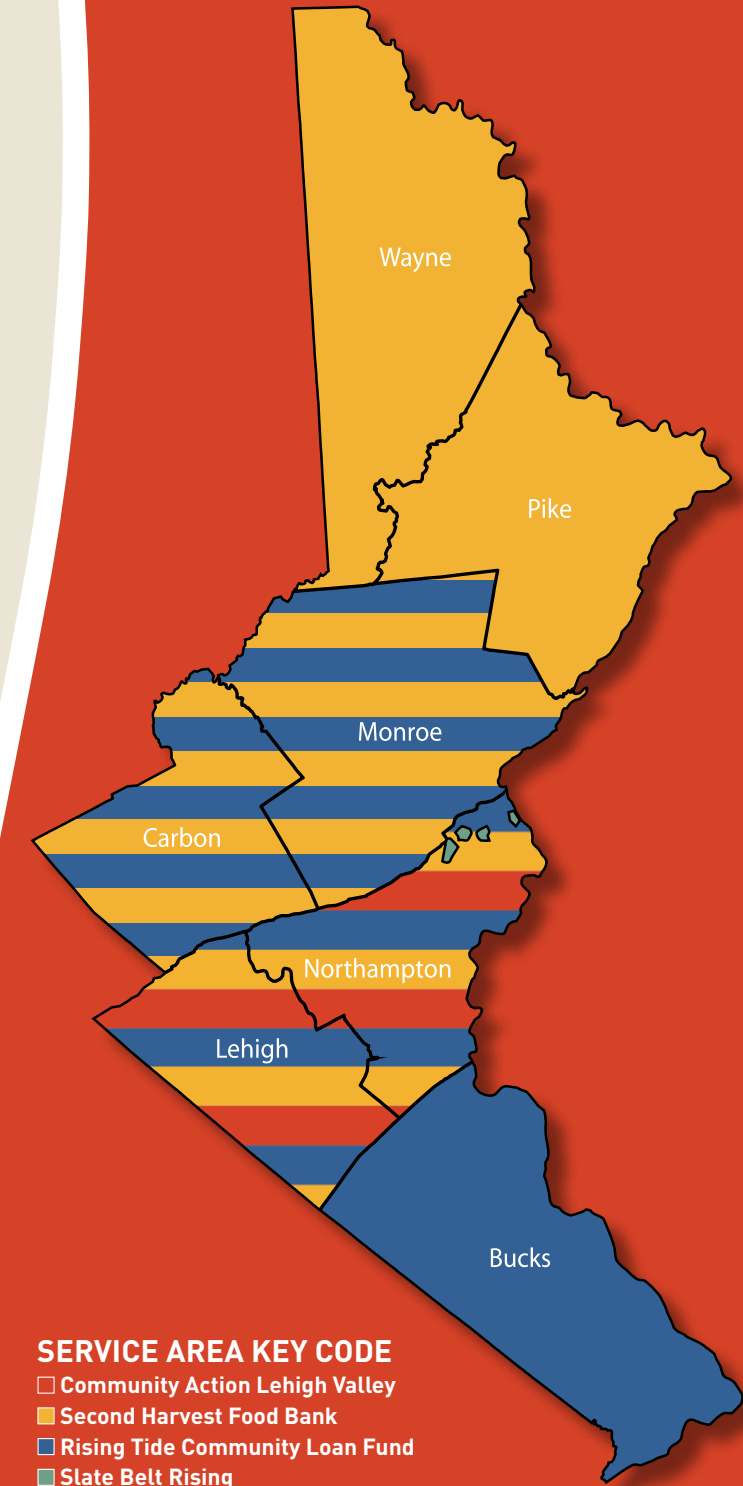
Second Harvest Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania
6969 Silver Crest Road | Nazareth, PA 18064
shfbvlv.org

Sixth Street Shelter
219 North 6th Street | Allentown, PA 18102
sixthstreetshelter.org

Slate Belt Rising
197 Pennsylvania Avenue | Bangor, PA 18013
slatebeltrising.org

The Seed Farm
5854 Vera Cruz Road | Emmaus, PA 18049
theseedfarm.org

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