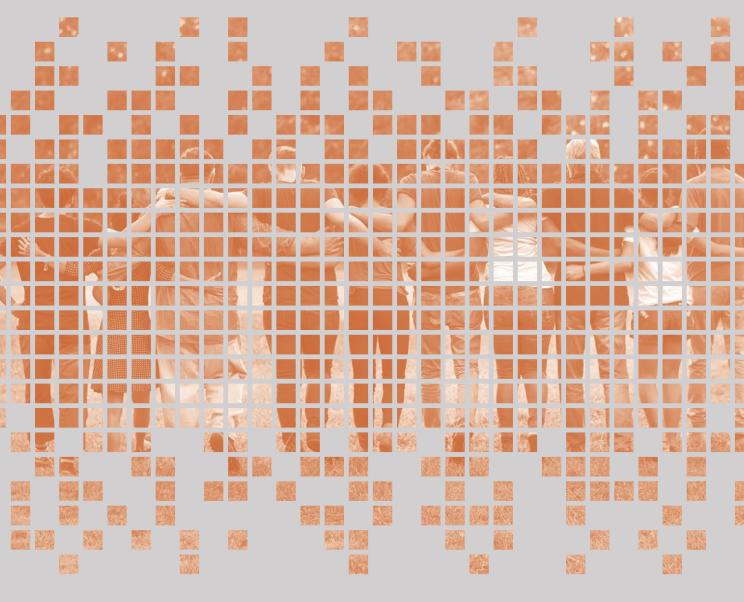
Jefferson Regional Foundation



BUILDING A FOUNDATION OF **COMMUNITY HEALTH** AND **VITALITY**

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

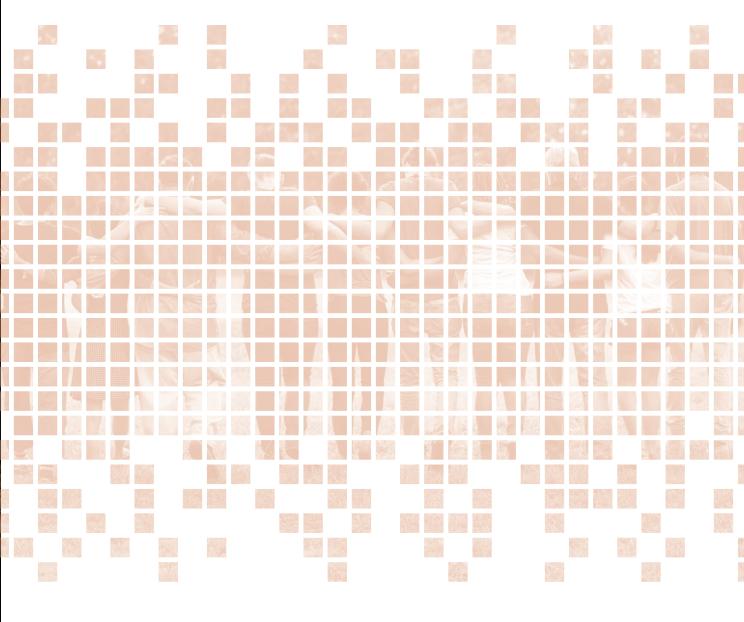
The mission of the Jefferson Regional Foundation is to improve the health and well-being of the community served by Jefferson Hospital through grantmaking, education and outreach.

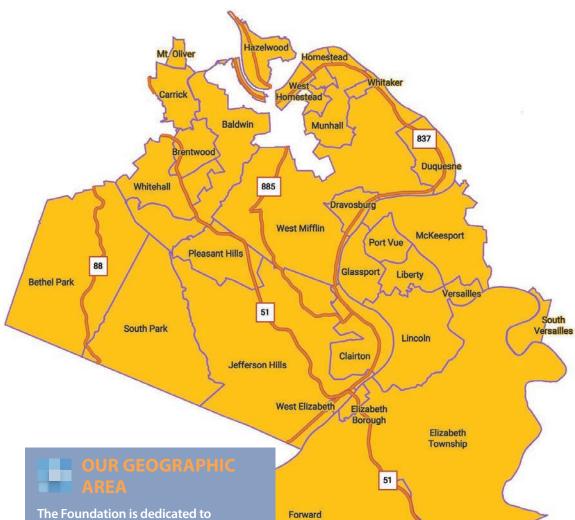
The Foundation will serve the community with integrity and transparency.



mission

Jefferson Regional Foundation





The Foundation is dedicated to grantmaking in the South Hills and the lower Mon Valley areas of Pittsburgh. As a newer Foundation, grantmaking is primarily focused in Allegheny County and the 27 municipalities that are part of the Foundation's legacy, which mirrors Jefferson Hospital's primary service area. The Foundation also works across twelve school districts and the area is diverse,

including both very healthy and very

challenged communities.

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LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT/CEO AND CHAIRMAN



JAMES G. GRAHAM



CHARLES R. MODISPACHER

We have pursued an important role as a place-based grantmaker by awarding grants totaling over \$10 million to invest in programs which align with our mission and priorities. Our 2018 **Report to the Community** is designed to celebrate the vision and efforts of the local leaders, organizations and partners who share our commitment to the health and vitality of our South Hills and Mon Valley communities near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Since Jefferson Regional Foundation was funded by Highmark Health in March of 2013, we have pursued an important role as a place-based grantmaker by awarding grants totaling over \$10 million to invest in programs which align with our mission and priorities. We know the work of our grantees makes a difference in the lives of individuals, families and communities and we hope that sharing some of their stories will inspire and inform you as well.

In addition to funding more than 85 organizations, the Jefferson Regional Foundation has connected with dozens of other leaders, groups and residents to convene and share information. Facing the particular impacts of suburban poverty, a valuable population of new immigrant and refugee residents, and a varied mix of communities with strong resources and others with deep-seated challenges, the Foundation's goal has been to build local capacity to address these challenges.

The Foundation has dedicated resources to a range of responsive initiatives which include convening organizations through the annual Jefferson Forum, hosting the Jefferson Community Collaborative, sponsoring trainings and leadership cohorts, sharing information through the Jefferson Community Directory resource guide and Community Snapshots, and engaging and connecting over 1,000 residents and local employees through a series of tabletop community conversations called Around the Table South.

We learn daily and benefit from many wonderful partners who have helped us to pursue our mission and deepen our knowledge and appreciation of the community. The Foundation is committed to building the capacity of community-based organizations to increase their impact and helping those organizations build pathways to connect and collaborate.

We invite you to join us in a commitment to the health and vitality of our communities.

Sincerely,

James Fraham

James G. Graham Chairman Jefferson Regional Foundation

Charles R. Modesgache

Charles R. Modispacher President and CEO Jefferson Regional Foundation

our principles

Fulfilling the Mission

The Jefferson Regional Foundation is dedicated to *investing in the health and vitality of the South Hills and Lower Mon Valley communities.* As a result, we operate with several principles in mind, all of which are designed to promote our long-term impact on the community:

- **Extending Jefferson Hospital's reach into the community** by strengthening the health status, opportunities and resources available to all residents
- **Investing grant resources with effective community organizations** in order to advance the Foundation's priorities
- **Promoting and strengthening the community's resources**, assets and voice
- Actively partnering with a variety of public, nonprofit and private organizations and leaders who share our vision
- Wise investment of the Foundation's funds for growth while preserving the principal
- **Gathering, sharing and leveraging important information** about community resources and existing and emerging needs
- **Building the capacity of community groups** to promote quality of life and fulfill the mission of the Foundation
- **Demonstrating promising or best practices** by supporting the development and expansion of interventions and programs









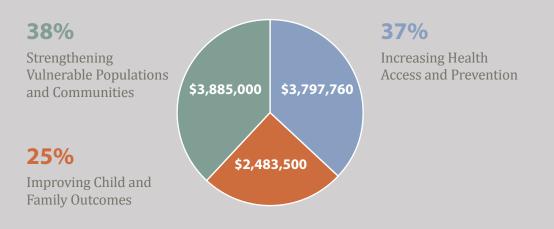
OUR STRATEGIC GRANT PRIORITIES

The Jefferson Regional Foundation is a place-based foundation investing in community health through three major priorities. Each of these priorities has specific areas of focus which are described on the following pages. Priorities are developed through gathering information and learning about community needs on an ongoing basis from local community health assessments, community groups and community conversations, as well as from regional and national resources.

- 1. Increasing health access and prevention
- 2. Improving child and family outcomes
- 3. Strengthening vulnerable populations and communities



Total Grants Awarded by Priority Area 2013–2018



strategic priorities

Increasing Health Access and Prevention

Social determinants of health, food, transportation, safe and clean environments have a significant impact on our health.

- Reduce barriers to accessing health and human services such as those related to information, insurance and transportation
- Develop prevention, awareness or improved integration of mental health and substance abuse
- Promote food security, nutrition and physical activity for better health and quality of life
- Foster community-based prevention and education programs that improve quality of life or health status
- Support community and domestic violence prevention programs

CCAC South Campus Food Pantry is helping to address food insecurity among local college students.

For brief descriptions of all grants, please visit our website: jeffersonrf.org



RECENT GRANTS THAT ADDRESS THE NEED TO INCREASE HEALTH ACCESS AND PREVENTION –

412 Food Rescue \$75,000 Albert Schweitzer Fellowship-Pittsburgh \$10,000 Allegheny HealthChoices, Inc. (AHCI) \$135,000 Center for Hearing and Deaf Services \$120,000 Community College of Allegheny County \$25,000

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY SOUTH CAMPUS FOOD PANTRY

As a college student, Courtney Seiler learned to tackle problems more pressing than midterm grades and term papers. She had to choose between the gas that would get her to the Community College of Allegheny County South Campus or the food she needed to stay focused. In her classes, her thoughts were interrupted by her growling stomach.

Seiler, 19, no longer worries about her next meal. Every month, she goes to the campus food pantry to load up on groceries. The freshman also works at the pantry a few hours a week, welcoming other students who qualify for the service based on income. Some walk in visibly embarrassed. Some only take a few items, believing that someone else needs them more than they do.

Others qualify, but never enter. "Their pride gets in the way. They say, 'Oh, it's a food pantry. I don't want to go," Seiler said. "But you can talk to the staff and they won't go around blabbing to everyone."

The Jefferson Regional Foundation gave \$25,000 to create and pilot the **food pantry**. **CCAC South Campus** was the first school to partner with the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and its pantry has become a model for other colleges.

The food pantry was created in 2015 after the security director caught a student stealing a hoagie from the cafeteria. He wanted to refer her for disciplinary action, but CCAC South Campus President Charlene Newkirk saw the bigger problem. "She was hungry."

Today, Newkirk and her staff try to reduce the stigma for students who visit the pantry by setting it in a quiet area away from most classrooms and student traffic that offers a discrete exit route leading to a bus stop. About 30 to 40 students use the food pantry every month. "They tell us their grades improve," said Dr. Kelli Maxwell, dean of Student Development. "They can concentrate and study more."

Sometimes, students confide in pantry workers when they face other problems, such as homelessness, said Darren Lesher, pantry coordinator. He connects them to other support services in and out of the college, including the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Jefferson Regional Foundation's support also bolsters other organizations combating suburban hunger, such as **412 Food Rescue**. The group recovers food that would otherwise be thrown out by retailers and restaurants and, using an app and volunteer drivers, delivers it to nonprofits to distribute, such as South Hills Interfaith Movement. The group also offers food education programs.

In three years, 412 Rescue saved more than three million pounds of food from being wasted. "It's perfectly good food," said Leah Lizarondo, 412 Food Rescue CEO and co-founder.

The Foundation also helped the **Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank** distribute more fresh produce to Jefferson area food assistance programs. An \$80,000 grant allowed local pantries to buy new equipment, including refrigeration; establish lines of credit for fresh food; and add technology that's helped with referrals for other services, such as housing and employment. "Not only did our agencies provide more food, they paired it with essential wrap around services," said food bank CEO Lisa Scales.



Consumer Health Coalition \$75,000 Cribs for Kids \$45,000 Duquesne University \$60,000 Glassport Development Corporation \$8,500

Global Links \$50,000 Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank \$158,000

Increasing Health Access and Prevention

Behavioral health (mental health and addiction) are identified in local health asessments as a primary health priority.

ADDRESSING SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH AT THE FRONT DOOR

Like other health funders, Jefferson Regional Foundation is particularly focused on the social determinants of health, or the conditions in the places where people live, learn, work and play which affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes. When people lack access to healthy food, affordable transportation or language interpretation, or experience abuse, homelessness or caregiving challenges, their health can also be impacted.

In June of 2018, the Foundation awarded its largest grant to date, \$1 million over four years, to Allegheny Health Network's Jefferson Hospital to fund the Front Door Initiative for Social Emergency Medicine. The planned expansion of the existing Hospital emergency room, a front door for community needs, provides an ideal opportunity for the emergency department to also expand into a model of excellence for addressing the social determinants of health. This exciting project will identify promising practices, build strong community relationships, utilize community and health data, strengthen staff capacity and develop new initiatives to address holistic patient needs for sustained health and wellness.

Prevention Point conducts needle exchanges, dispenses naloxone and provides other public health services.

For brief descriptions of all grants, please visit our website: jeffersonrf.org



RECENT GRANTS THAT ADDRESS THE NEED TO INCREASE HEALTH ACCESS AND PREVENTION -

Jefferson Hospital/AHN \$1,300,000

One on One Fitness and Training, Inc. \$45,000

Jewish Healthcare Foundation \$25,000

Health Law Project \$30,000

Pittsburgh Mercy **Health Systems** \$18,000

Pleasant **Hills Police** Department \$41,000

The Pittsburgh Foundation \$50,000

PREVENTION POINT PITTSBURGH

A few days each week, Karen Fricovsky ventures into South Hills neighborhoods to post signs on telephone poles — invitations to anyone and everyone to learn about drug overdose prevention. The signs include the time and place — a specific street corner — where she stands and waits to teach those willing to listen about the opiate overdose treatment naloxone and how they can use it to save a life.

Sometimes Fricovsky, a retired nurse, waits, but gets no takers. Other times, she hosts a popup public health seminar for residents on a busy sidewalk. She begins with the warning signs of an overdose, such as blue lips and labored breathing. She covers how to respond by calling 911 and performing rescue breathing. Then, she shows them how to administer naloxone and sends them off with free doses of the overdose antidote.

And when the opportunity presents itself, Fricovsky implores opiate users to always have someone with them who can intervene with treatment when they are using.

She knows from experience that such preparation prevents tragedy. She once gave naloxone to a jitney driver, who administered it to a woman in his car whose eyes had rolled back in her head. "He saved her life," she said.

Fricovsky is a community health advocate for **Prevention Point Pittsburgh**, a harm reduction and needle exchange program. The Jefferson Regional Foundation funded two community health advocate positions in the Jefferson area to address the growing opiate crisis, which has seen overdose deaths become more prevalent than deaths due to auto accidents, homicides or suicides. Prevention Point staff travel to three locations in the city every week to conduct needle exchanges, dispense naloxone and provide other public health services. But not everyone can make it to those sites, so the community health advocates wade into the neighborhoods.

The two-year, \$200,000 Jefferson Regional Foundation grant also funds a marketing campaign intended to reduce the stigma attached to the opioid epidemic, and pays for a full-time staff member to connect residents of Jefferson communities to services, offer educational sessions and build support in communities where services may be needed.

"We want the community to know that people are not evil because they use substances," Prevention Point Executive Director Aaron Arnold said. "It is a medical problem, not a moral failing. We want to fight the stigma that naloxone enables people."

Others are also shedding light on the opioid epidemic. **Saltworks Theatre Co**. addresses the drug crisis through original plays performed by young actors and presented to middle and high schools. The Jefferson Regional Foundation funded *Off Script*, which dramatizes the opioid problem through the stories of typical students – the athlete with an injury, the overscheduled good girl, the party boy, etc.

The play was performed 54 times in one school year and was so successful Saltworks added a new anti-drug play to its repertoire, *The Way Out.* "The audience can relate and see themselves vicariously through the characters in the play," Saltworks Executive Director Norma Alrutz said. "It's more effective than a talking head."



Prevention Point Pittsburgh \$200,000 Saltworks \$45,000 Squirrel Hill Health Center \$80,000 University of Pittsburgh-Bridging the Gaps \$30,000 Vintage \$99,000

YMCA \$110,000

strategic priorities

Improving Child and Family Outcomes

Youth are the largest group in poverty. We know that poverty affects health and wellness.

- Enable high-quality maternal and infant services to promote parent engagement and strong child development
- Increase access to high-quality early childhood centers across the region
- Support high-quality afterschool and summer programming across the region, which enhances safety, academic performance and life skills



For brief descriptions of all grants, please visit our website: jeffersonrf.org



RECENT GRANTS THAT ADDRESS THE NEED TO IMPROVE CHILD AND FAMILY OUTCOMES –

Adagio Health \$49,000 Angels' Place, Inc. \$20,000 Best of the Batch Foundation \$260,000 Beverly's Birthdays \$35,000 Boys & Girls Club of Western PA \$50,000

MELTING POT MINISTRIES

At age 8, Abednego Maloya moved halfway around the world from Malawi to suburban Pittsburgh. He learned English and made some friends in his new home of Baldwin, but sometimes felt alienated from other students in the predominantly white school district. "There is a stigma of Africa being a poor continent," he said. "You try to bury that and blend in, but there were times when you feel disengaged."

The one place where he could be himself was **Melting Pot Ministries**, an after-school and summer program for students in Baldwin, Bethel Park and South Park. Inside a church basement, he received academic support and bonded with fellow immigrants, refugees and children who had moved from urban neighborhoods. He played basketball and went on field trips to Sandcastle Waterpark, where he met his first girlfriend. "I didn't feel like a stranger at Melting Pot," he said.

Now 23 and a graduate of Andrews University in Michigan, Maloya works at Melting Pot as a program coordinator, giving back to other children. Melting Pot hires certified teachers to help the 100 youth who attend.

Melting Pot Ministries Executive Director Brenda Lockley said economically disadvantaged children who move to the suburbs come for safety and better schools. But they often feel isolated, cut off from activities because of transportation issues. "Our kids can't join the school play or sports teams because their parents can't pick them up."

Being poor in an affluent community can be traumatic. "They're going to school with kids whose fathers are lawyers and drive BMWs. Meanwhile, their mother doesn't even have a car and she makes \$19,000 a year and works nights." The Jefferson Regional Foundation awarded Melting Pot a two-year \$50,000 grant to strengthen the academic performances of South Park and Bethel Park students and to connect new families to the program.

The Foundation also invested \$50,000 in the LaRosa Boys & Girls Club Year of the Teen program developed for teens in McKeesport, Duquesne and surrounding communities. The club has designated time, space and programming exclusively for members ages 12 to 18. It has organized basketball and flag football leagues, financial literacy and life skill programs, and educational visits to Community College of Allegheny County campuses and Pittsburgh businesses, as well as outdoor field trips, such as kayaking and biking.

Some 200 youth attended the program rebranded as, "The Club," Director Jim Barry said. "A 16-year-old kid from McKeesport may not want to go to the Boys & Girls Club. However, they will come to The Club."

The Foundation's support for local youth also includes a three-year \$105,000 grant to the **Human Services Center Corp.** to expand its Emerging Leaders Program for at-risk, low-income seniors in West Mifflin Area and McKeesport Area High Schools. The staff works one-on-one with students on exploring careers; applying to college; developing "soft skills," such as effective communication, teamwork and leadership; building a resume; and more.

Last year, more than 96 percent of the students moved on to pursue a postsecondary education. "It's inspiring to see how we can provide a direct trajectory out of poverty by helping the students move on to college," Director of Programs Leah O'Reilly said.



Center of Life \$115,000 Every Child, Inc. \$75,000 Gwen's Girls, Inc. \$60,000 Human Services Center Corporation \$105,000 LaRosa Boys and Girls Club \$50,000 strategic priori

Strengthening Vulnerable Populations and Communities

The health and wellness of all residents is key to a healthy community building the capacity of these groups is *important*.

- Focus on low-income residents or households across the **Jefferson** region
- Increase opportunities for refugee, immigrant, and international populations
- Support the transition of recent military veterans
- Improve access to information and independence of older adults and their caregivers
- Build capacity of community organizations for local impact
- Strengthen and develop community leadership across the Jefferson region

Veteran's Breakfast Club creates communities of listening around veterans and their For brief descriptions of all grants, please visit our website: jeffersonrf.org

RECENT GRANTS THAT ADDRESS THE NEED TO IMPROVE CHILD AND FAMILY OUTCOMES -

Melting Pot Ministries \$180,000

stories.

Methodist Union of Social Agencies \$90,000

Sisters Place \$125,000

Student Conservation Association \$125,000

Venture Outdoors \$65,000

The Mentoring Partnership of **SWPA** \$25,000

NurturePA, Inc \$50,000

VETERANS BREAKFAST CLUB

Tim Kellermann couldn't sleep after returning home from the war in Afghanistan in 2008. His nightmares would take him back to the Korengal Valley, where his Army unit was locked in a heavy firefight against the Taliban. Crouching behind a wire fence, he watched fellow soldiers crumple to the ground and helicopters swoop down through the smoke to retrieve the dead and wounded.

Kellermann rarely talked about the war – until last year, when he walked into the Veterans Breakfast Club, a veterans storytelling program.

At a recent Spoonwood Brewery event, he stood with the microphone again to speak to other veterans and their families, friends, and neighbors. "Korengal Valley is one of the deadliest valleys," he said, his voice cracking. "It gives me the goosebumps thinking about that place. We lost 30 guys there."

Todd DePastino, a Mt. Lebanon author and historian, started Veterans Breakfast Club 10 years ago "to create communities of listening around veterans and their stories to ensure that this living history will never be forgotten." The nonprofit has hosted 400 storytelling events throughout western Pennsylvania so far. The demand encouraged the nonprofit to expand to include evening events and trips to military sites in Europe and Vietnam.

For Kellermann, sharing his story is cathartic. "It changed my life. It's amazing to tell my story and know that I'm not the only one going through it."

The Jefferson Regional Foundation awarded the breakfast club a two-year \$95,000 grant to expand post-9/11 storytelling and support the reintegration of service men and women into the community. Each storytelling session has a theme, such as "the war that never seems to end." At the Spoonwood Brewery event, Kellermann talked about his frustration over the closing of the military outpost in Korengal Valley, which then fell into the hands of the Taliban. "I felt robbed of everything I did."

Later in the session, emcee Nick Grimes cracked a joke about the Army-Marine rivalry that made people laugh. These intense and light moments are preserved in a podcast, *Truth about War*. (Think of *The Moth* with a military twist.)

Some of the younger veterans talk about their struggle to re-adjust to civilian life, but they find strength in the community of vets of all ages. Dan Gimiliano, 97, carried his Bronze Star of Valor to a meeting, 73 years after the Army sergeant received it during World War II. "You are a superstar," said Mike Garrison, a Vietnam veteran.

The Jefferson Regional Foundation also helps connect post-9/11 veterans to their communities with a two-year \$100,000 grant to **The Mission Continues**, which organizes veteran-led service projects. The grant supported a South Hills platoon's work helping refugees and immigrants. Veterans and other community members, for example, built a play space for immigrant children to use while **Literacy Pittsburgh** worked with their parents to improve their language skills.

"We want our veterans to connect to each other and the communities they are living in," said Stephanie Grimes, city impact manager for The Mission Continues. "We provide pathways for personal growth and community impact."



Virtuous Academy \$25,000

The Western PA Diaper Bank \$32,000 Women for a Healthy Environment \$40,000

WQED \$50,000 Young Women's Christian Association of Pittsburgh (YWCA) \$35,000 Youth Opportunities Development \$135,000 YouthPlaces \$50,000

Strengthening Vulnerable Populations and Communities

We are investing in the capacity of key local organizations to serve the health and wellness of local residents – including immigrants and people with lower incomes.

REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS: WELCOMING NEW JEFFERSON AREA RESIDENTS

When a panel of local immigrant leaders spoke at the first Jefferson Forum in 2015, the Forum participants were very surprised to learn that the South Hills area hosted more than 40% of the refugees and immigrants in our county. Particularly over the past decade, refugee resettlement agencies selected local apartment communities to house new immigrant families. The children enrolled in local school districts such as Baldwin-Whitehall and Brentwood while the adults worked at entry-level positions while learning English. These new community residents contribute to the local economy and culture and have gained citizenship, opened local businesses, and are buying homes in the area.

The Foundation has supported a number of organizations and efforts to help refugees and immigrants thrive, including the *Bhutanese Community Association of Pittsburgh* which serves over 5000 new residents who primarily live in the Jefferson area. Resettled by the U.S. government from refugee camps in Nepal where they lived for a number of years, the Bhutanese refugees who initially came to Pittsburgh attracted a large group of family and friends from other cities to join them in our region.

The Squirrel Hill Health Center opened a site in Brentwood to provide medical, dental, and other services to local residents.

For brief descriptions of all grants, please visit our website: jeffersonrf.org



RECENT GRANTS THAT ADDRESS THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN VULNERABLE POPULATIONS AND COMMUNITIES –

Allegheny County Library Association \$363,000 Allegheny Intermediate Unit/Latino Family Center \$25,000

Bhutanese Community Association of Pittsburgh \$60,000 The Blessing Board \$65,000

Eastern Area Adult Services, Inc. \$50,000 Economic Development South \$300,000

SOUTH HILLS INTERFAITH MOVEMENT (SHIM)

A man in his 40s lived in a stately house in a South Hills subdivision, where he cared for his three children. He would get the kids off to school, help them with their homework and take care of other domestic chores while his wife held down a wellpaying job in the medical field.

His comfortable upper-middle class life came crashing down when she filed for divorce, leaving him panicked and ashamed to ask for help. When he eventually sought assistance, he turned to the **South Hills Interfaith Movement (SHIM)**, which helps a growing number of people living in the suburbs who face economic hardship.

"He is embarrassed. It's very hard for men to say, 'I need help' because they think they are supposed to be the one who provides for the family," said Corrie Yanko, service coordinator for SHIM. She referred him to a low-cost attorney at Neighborhood Legal Services to help him with the divorce, counseled him with recertifying his x-ray technician license and provided him with contacts for food and clothing assistance.

"SHIM helps suburbanites in need, an often-hidden population of people staring down poverty," said SHIM Executive Director Jim Guffey. "Suburban poverty looks different than urban poverty. Resources in the suburbs aren't always as visible. We have to work harder to make them accessible."

The Jefferson Regional Foundation awarded SHIM a \$100,000 grant in 2015 for outreach and rebranding to help the nonprofit offer assistance and counseling to more people in the South Hills. The nonprofit, formerly called South Hills Interfaith Ministries, was renamed to broaden its appeal. The grant helped pay for marketing, a full-time development staff, partnerships with businesses and a stronger volunteer program. Another \$300,000 grant was awarded in 2017 to help relocate the Prospect Park Family Center and the Early Childhood Program to a safer, larger space at the former Wallace School in Whitehall.

The staff offers parenting skills to refugees, who have fled Bhutan, Burma and other countries. In addition, they help parents arrange services for children with developmental and language issues and mentor middle and high school students.

The **Squirrel Hill Health Center** also serves the growing refugee population at its Brentwood center, which opened in 2016 with the help of a \$200,000 grant from the Foundation. The Center offers medical, dental, OB/GYN and other health services to local residents, including refugees and immigrants. Interpreting services are available for the 60 percent of patients whose English language skills are limited.

Just as important are the relationships the Foundation helped the Center establish in the community. "The Center is now seen as part of the community, not as an interloper," said Susan Friedberg Kalson, CEO of Squirrel Hill Health Center.

The Foundation's grant making for increasing the capacity of community organizations also includes \$250,000 awarded to the **Best of the Batch Foundation**. It allowed the nonprofit to more than double its space in their Homestead facility, where it offers alternative education during the day, afterschool and summer programs. The nonprofit expects to significantly increase the number of students it serves. "Our building is a safe place where kids can just be kids," said Executive Director Latasha Wilson-Batch.



Economic Development South/Clairton Cares \$110,000 The Forbes Funds \$50,000

Global Switchboard \$50,000 Grounded Strategies \$60,000

ioby \$60,000 Jewish Family and Community Services \$145,000

LifeSpan \$60,000 Literacy Pittsburgh \$100,000

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Strengthening Vulnerable Populations and Communities

Grantees serve as catalysts for hope and action through strong partnerships with community leaders and important expertise.

BUILDING CAPACITY AND LEADERSHIP

As a Foundation, we rely on the strength of our nonprofit partners to address community issues and implement solutions. We are also aware that growing demands for services related to suburban poverty and shifting demographics as well as stagnant government resources present particular challenges for community organizations in our area. The Foundation continues to invest in building the capacity of local organizations and leaders through a variety of strategies in addition to hosting an annual Forum and the Jefferson Community Collaborative. The Foundation was the first funder of the Forbes Funds Executive in Residence program, which offers free executive coaching to local nonprofit leaders.

Both current and emerging leaders have also participated in targeted learning cohorts which build skills as well as a valuable peer network. Organizations have built new competencies through a number of Foundation grants which offered expert training and consultation in crowdfunding, data analysis and mapping, the development of outcomes and survey design.

The mission of Economic Development South is to strengthen the region's business and residential communities by building innovative partnerships.

For brief descriptions of all grants, please visit our website: jeffersonrf.org



RECENT GRANTS THAT ADDRESS THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN VULNERABLE POPULATIONS AND COMMUNITIES –

Mon Valley Initiative \$60,000 Penn State Greater Allegheny \$40,000 South Hills Interfaith Movement (SHIM) \$400,000 Steel Rivers Council of Governments \$40,000 The Forbes Funds \$60,000

NeighborWorks Western Pennsylvania \$30,000

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SOUTH

Mayor Richard Lattanzi grew up in Clairton at a time when shoppers lined the business district and the steel mill ran at full blast. He envisioned himself joining his father in the mill, but domestic steel production had taken a dip. By the time he graduated from high school in 1982, U.S. Steel Clairton Works had significantly downsized. Lattanzi watched Clairton go from a robust steel town to a city on life support, so broke that the state took over its finances in 1988. "It was all doom and gloom," he said.

Clairton's remaining 6,800 residents were living in a food desert. Geographically isolated with no convenient transit, residents would often resort to buying food at convenience stores or a drug store. "For a senior without a car, it became an ordeal to buy a pear," said Gregory Jones, former executive director of **Economic Development South (EDS)**.

But that is changing. The Produce Marketplace, a green grocer, has opened in the heart of the town. EDS, a community development group, owns the store and subsidizes any losses.

Lattanzi said the green grocer is a crucial first step to bringing back the town, which in 2015 was removed from the state's distressed cities list. "I think the community will rally around the green grocer," he said. "They will be able to buy food to make dinner, not just snacks."

EDS will also sponsor food education programs, including cooking demonstrations. "When you don't have food access for 20 years, your diet changes," Jones said. To help kids establish healthy habits, the Apple a Day program will allow kids under 18 to get a free piece of fruit every day at the green grocer. The Jefferson Regional Foundation gave EDS \$180,000 over three years for community development assistance in Clairton.

Before Jones made changes, he solicited ideas from the ground up. For the past three and half years, EDS worked with politicians, social service leaders, religious leaders and others in Clairton to identify community needs. "The same 25 people who came to the first meeting are still coming," Jones said.

To address another priority —affordable senior housing near transit — Jones is working with the Mon Valley Initiative to develop a senior center in the next three years. They also plan to add more social services that will provide residents with health, education and transportation.

The Jefferson funds enabled Clairton to leverage other dollars, including a \$2.8 million state Neighborhood Partnership Program grant. That money will help the city refurbish storefronts, create affordable housing and possibly bring in a medical facility.

As Clairton's population dwindled from over 20,000 in the 1950s to 6,800 now, large tracts of unused land popped up around the city. The committee is studying ways to turn those eyesore into assets, such as trail development and large-scale urban farming.

Just imagine — made-in-Clairton produce for sale at the new green grocer.

Lattanzi said that working with EDS has given him hope for the revival of his hometown. "People were true blue and stuck around Clairton. They knew it would come back."



The Mission Continues \$150,000 United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania \$162,000 University Center for Social and Urban Research, University of Pittsburgh \$24,000 Veterans Breakfast Club \$130,000 YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh-Spencer Family YMCA Branch \$25,000

HE JEFEERSON FORU

When the Jefferson Regional Foundation invited South Hills community leaders to its first Jefferson Forum in 2015, board members wondered whether anyone would show up for the daylong conference. For starters, the Foundation was new to the area.

Their concern proved to be unfounded. **Community leaders flocked to the inaugural** conference, which quickly became an annual signature event, attracting 250+ participants from 140 organizations.

During the first Forum, participants walked up to stations with headings such as "Mental Health and Substance Abuse." They wrote on color-coded Post-It notes — pink for assets, green for challenges and blue for great ideas. For example, one attendee wrote, "reduce stigma" as a challenge for substance abuse and "needle exchange" as a great idea. By the end of the day, about 1,000 notes were posted, creating a kaleidoscope of brainstorming.

Such sharing of ideas helps inform the Foundation's priorities and grant making. It also confirmed a role for the new Foundation in convening South Hills and Mon Valley community leaders to share information, promote opportunities for networking and explore strategies for strengthening the region. "It's our community check-in," Jefferson Regional Foundation Executive Director Mary Phan-Gruber said.

The goal of the annual Forum is to foster capacity building, but the experience varies each year. "Creating Our Story," for example, was the theme of the fourth annual Forum. Participants walked up to the photo booth holding up signs such as, "My Passion is Human Services," and told their personal stories.

Ashley Potts walked on stage wearing a suit and looking like other professionals in the crowd. Her polished image belied her harrowing youth as a heroin addict. "By age 20, I was homeless, on my way to state prison and about to commit suicide because no one in my life wanted me around."

She fought back from the brink, she said. seeking treatment and working her way through college and graduate school. Now 32 and a social worker with the **Allegheny** Health Network **Center of** Excellence for Opioid Use Disorders,



MY PASSION IS HEALTHCARE

she is an

advocate for providing services to substance abusers and removing the stigma of addiction. "I don't think there is such a thing as a bad kid. I think there is such a thing as a kid who needs help."

Khara Timsina, Executive Director of the Bhutanese **Community Association of Pittsburgh**, told another story of survival. In 1992, he was forced out of his native Bhutan. Yet, he believed he would be returned to his homeland in short order. Instead, he spent 17 years in a refugee camp in Nepal. "It was tough," he said.

Timsina and other adults started a school for the children in the clearings of woods. Now, having been resettled in Pittsburgh, he is helping other refugees learn English, prepare for citizenship tests and otherwise adapt to their new country.

The Forum also offered skill-building workshops. In one room, a seated audience practiced mindfulness, a process of focusing attention on the present moment. "The goal is not to make the mind stop," Stephanie Romero, Executive Director of Awaken Pittsburgh told them. "We want to change the relationship to thinking." Such tools can help nonprofit workers deal with the stress of their jobs and help clients cope with the pressures in their lives.

THE JEFFERSON FORUM

Another story was brought to the stage, this one fiction, but all too real. **The Saltworks Theatre Co.'s** original play, *The Way Out*, opens with the funeral of a teenage girl, who had died of a drug overdose. It then steps



back in time with five young actors revealing the events that led to her tragic death. It's a cautionary tale the theater company performs in middle and high schools.

That afternoon, all participants gathered for the Jefferson Café, where they could choose a discussion table from among 19 different topics suggested by participants.

At one table, Lora Hutelmyer of **Venture Outdoors** led a discussion on how to promote diversity and inclusion in the environmental and outdoor activity movement. At another table, the discussion focused on the challenge of creating an app for a nonprofit.

Community leaders also discussed how to encourage important conversations in their work and lives. Tracy Soska, a retired assistant professor at the **University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work**, urged them to not only create courageous conversations, but also "a courageous space" that fostered those discussions.

Jefferson Regional Foundation Program Officer Kelleigh Boland distilled the courageous conversation notes into three themes – trauma and stress, partnerships and inclusion. "When you are face-to-face and engaged The Forum is an interactive, hands-on conference where ideas bubble up from people in the trenches, working with clients who face poverty, substance abuse, mental health and other issues.

in dialogue, you focus more on commonalities than differences," she said.

Colleen Fedor, too, was struck by how common themes percolated from so many different conversations. The Executive Director of **The Mentoring Partnership of Southwestern Pennsylvania** said she was also

inspired by the idea of courageous conversations that she and others were exposed to at the Forum, "It's a beautiful thing," she said.





Jefferson Forum



JEFFERSON COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE

jefferson community collaborative

On a day in March, leaders and staff from community service organizations gathered to listen, learn and discuss ways to improve the quality of life in Pittsburgh's South Hills and lower Mon Valley communities. They explored, for example, a Community College of Allegheny County web-based program that asks only six questions before suggesting career options suited to a person's strengths and weaknesses. They were offered a crash course on the opioid crisis that haunts the region, state and nation and how they could save a life with the anti-overdose drug naloxone, if the circumstance arose.

The event was the regular gathering of the **Jefferson Community Collaborative**, a group of more than 90 community organizations serving the South Hills region that evolved from their appetite for opportunities to network, learn and collaborate.

Such opportunities were at the top of the wish lists of the community organizations the Jefferson Regional Foundation canvassed several years ago as it developed a more grassroots approach to informing its grantmaking. "People kept saying, 'We don't have a way to gather and network in this area. We know some of the organizations, but not that well, and we don't have a way to work jointly on projects," said Executive Director Mary Phan-Gruber.

One response was the **Jefferson Forum**, a daylong annual conference where 250 community organizations and leaders connect, discuss and collaborate around issues affecting the South Hills and Mon Valley. The Collaborative is an unanticipated byproduct. Not only was the inaugural Jefferson Forum in 2015 well received by the organizations that attended, they made clear their desire to gather regularly and more often, as well as their willingness to devote time and energy to help make that happen. Today, the Jefferson Community Collaborative holds general membership meetings five times a year and has become an incubator of promising ideas and practices, and a means to expand the capacity of community service organizations and encourage them to work together on community aspirations. Attendance remains strong and enthusiastic and includes organization executives, staff, and others with a stake in the well-being of communities in the Jefferson area.





Topics and themes covered during the gatherings have ranged from workforce development to mastering relationships among generations. Community organizations are also profiled at each meeting to acquaint others with their work and foster partnerships and collaboration. "It helps organizations think about how they might relate to the work of others," said Phan-Gruber.

JEFFERSON COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE

And the meeting format varies. Those who attended the gathering in March, for example, found a series of information stations to visit, including one that showcased CCAC's career assessment web tool and one where the nonprofit **Prevention Point** offered instruction on how to counteract an opioid overdose.





"The nonprofit world is such a different animal. Everyone is in their own little silo and you are all chasing the same money. You look at fellow nonprofits as competitors," said Jim Barry, director of the **LaRosa Boys & Girls Club in McKeesport**. "In the Collaborative, we help other nonprofits and vice versa. I never went to a meeting where I wasted my time."

While the Foundation brought them together, the organizations themselves assumed the lead role in deciding how the Collaborative is structured, identifying issues and mobilizing work groups to tackle them. The outcome of their work has proven so fruitful and popular that the Foundation added a Program Associate position to work fulltime with the Collaborative to help it realize its growing ambitions.

Planning and leadership responsibilities that define what the Collaborative will be and how it will work fall to a Vision Council composed of executive leaders in decisionmaking positions at member organizations. They take the lead in identifying the priority issues to address based on their experience and understanding of the region and that of others, including other Collaborative members and stakeholders and the Foundation. They also serve as advisors for the Jefferson Forum organized by the Foundation every year.

"Action" teams drawn from the general membership design and implement projects that arise from Collaborative discussions. These small groups work on projects related to issues identified as community priorities. They've organized a lunch series for frontline





JEFFERSON COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE

community workers focused on resource sharing and how to better navigate human services, health care and other systems. They've coordinated health initiatives including a recent one on tobacco cessation. There is a team devoted to gathering and presenting data to define critical issues in the region and engaging municipal leaders in the work of the Collaborative.





The Foundation supports such projects with opportunities for small grants to help finance them. It also encourages its grantees to join the Collaborative and helps spread the word of how it has become a valuable community resource. "It informs our grantmaking and it's a way to connect our grantees with one another and to other organizations," Foundation Program Officer Kelleigh Boland observes, "We bring ideas. They bring ideas. It really works both ways." The value of the Collaborative can be as simple as one organization lending a helping hand to another. In other cases, the benefits extend farther.

C O M M U N I T Y • C O L L A B O R A T I

When, for example, Jim Barry learned from Collaborative discussions that **Melting Pot Ministries** was having trouble tracking educational achievement data for children in its afterschool program, he offered software his nonprofit uses to mine that information. "It worked great," he said. The Collaborative also developed the Jefferson Directory, a comprehensive resource guide for the South Hills and Mon Valley communities that is regularly updated and published.

The idea of a mental health first aid program was also the product of the Collaborative. The program, which was seeded with a Foundation grant, offers youth and adults free basic mental health training to help deepen their understanding of mental illness and reduce the stigma associated with it. Some 700 people in the Jefferson region have received basic mental health training in less than three years. "It has been hugely successful," said Candy Vasquez, behavioral health project coordinator for **Allegheny HealthChoices**, which administers the program.

The opportunity to network, brainstorm, collaborate, form partnerships, and share knowledge and practices not only helps to improve the effectiveness and capacity of community services in the region, it also broadens the impact of the Jefferson Regional Foundation's grantmaking, Mary Phan-Gruber said. "When we address an issue with the

Collaborative, we get a lot more bang for the buck."

The Jefferson Community Director

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Regional Foundation Jefferson

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AROUND THE TABLE SOUTH

Conversations that Build Community

During its inaugural year in 2018, Around the Table South engaged 1,000 people from across the Jefferson region around more than 100 tables to share mealtime conversations about how to make our communities healthier, safer and more dynamic. Spearheaded by the Jefferson Regional Foundation and Jefferson Community Collaborative, Around the Table South was designed to foster new relationships, elevate civic conversation, and inspire action to support positive change.

Offered for the first time in the Pittsburgh region, **Around the Table South** drew a large and diverse group of participants from South Hills and Mon Valley communities, and the majority (62%) met someone

"It was beneficial to connect with people who care about our community...It energized everyone and sharing ideas brought new ones! new at their Table. A wide range of organizations served as hosts and led conversation tables at local libraries, churches, schools, agencies, restaurants, businesses, workplaces and homes over meals throughout the week. Guests were encouraged to discuss issues and ideas to build a healthy community, and the most frequently discussed topics were: mental health, equity and social inclusion, youth development, health and wellness, education, transportation, economic issues and poverty and civic engagement. The Tables also provided an opportunity for some organizations to gather insights about a specific area of concern.

around the table

SOUTH

For 75% of the participants, engaging in the Table conversation with other community members made them feel more connected, informed and inspired to act. A number of hosts have described initiatives prompted by **Around the Table South**, and Table participants can also pursue seed funding for small projects through Ideas from the Table, a mini-grant fund established by the Jefferson Regional Foundation. Over 90% of participants indicated the event should be repeated annually.

Post-event surveys were collected from 746 participants and analyzed by the University of Pittsburgh's University Center for Social and Urban Research. The results are gathered in a separate Foundation report available on the website **www.aroundthetablesouth.org** or in print by request. By sharing the results, the Foundation hopes to inform and inspire the community through its role as a community convener.



"As a library we should be encouraging/ conducting these sorts of conversations anyway – this initiative provided the focus and structure to have a constructive discussion about local issues. In other words, this project helped us do our job better. "

"It allowed me to connect with community members on another level that I wouldn't typically do. It opened my eyes to challenges I didn't know existed in our community."



Moving forward by investing in the health and vitality of South Hills and Mon Valley communities.

JEFFERSON REGIONAL FOUNDATION BOARD AND STAFF

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Eligibility Criteria

There are three criteria for initial eligibility for grant funding.

- Community-based organizations must have a current IRS tax-exempt nonprofit 501(c)(3) status or have a relationship with a currently taxexempt organization serving as the fiscal agent.
- 2. A program or project must primarily serve the Jefferson target area. The Jefferson area encompasses the South Hills and Lower Mon Valley in Allegheny County.
- 3. The program or project will supplement or complement but does not compete with any activities of Jefferson Hospital or the Allegheny Health Network.

Grant Proposal Process

The Jefferson Regional Foundation uses an online grant system and accepts Letters of Intent (LOI) throughout the year. Applicants should visit the website www.jeffersonrf.org for instructions on how to submit a Letter of Intent online and to view past grant awards. In response to a Letter of Intent, Foundation staff will talk with key leadership of the organization/program, explore additional questions, and examine whether a program or project is a good potential match to the Foundation's mission and priorities. If the program/project is ready to move forward, Foundation staff will invite the organization to submit a full proposal through the online grant system. Please note that Foundation staff are available for questions by phone or email.

The Jefferson Regional Foundation Board considers grant proposals for approval at three meetings a year in March, June and December. Board action occurs only after proposals have been reviewed by the staff and recommended by the Grants Committee.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

At the end of the June 30, 2018 fiscal year, the total market value of the Foundation's investment portfolio was nearly \$99 million, which represents an increase of 32% over the initial principal of \$75 million.

Grants awarded from inception to that date totaled close to \$9 million. This report reflects grants awarded over four years and readers are referred to **www.jeffersonrf.org** in the grants tab to view detailed listings of all grants awarded to date by year.

The Foundation makes a limited number of multi-year commitments to grantees. As of June 30, 2018, these outstanding grant commitments, which are expected to be disbursed over the next three years, totaled \$1.3 million.

The Foundation's independent auditors, Baker Tilly Virchow Krause LLP, have provided annual audited financial statements which are in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The Foundation's most recent 990 tax return filings are also available via link by visiting the financials section of our website.

MOVING FORWARD

The health and vitality of Jefferson communities requires ongoing attention and effort by individuals and organizations. As a place-based Foundation, we recognize that building community health over the long-term is both a responsibility and an opportunity. Our use of Foundation resources is guided by this commitment and an understanding of our roles as grantmaker, convener and information bank.

Our priorities recognize and respond both to deep community needs and to related issues as they emerge, and are continuously strengthened through our engagement with the community, grantees, and the Jefferson Community Collaborative. For example, while mental health has been identified as a priority, we have developed a more specific focus on the public health issue of the opioid epidemic. A growing local interest in workforce development has emerged as an area of focus for the Jefferson Regional Foundation and the Jefferson Community Collaborative. We are genuinely thrilled with the level of civic engagement inspired by our Around the Table South initiative and are dedicated to seeding new community project ideas that emerge from these conversations through mini-grants. We are committed to sharing the results publicly to inform and encourage other community initiatives.

We continue to learn about strengths and issues facing the Jefferson area, and we look forward to continuing our work with passionate community leaders and organizations to develop localized solutions and resources.



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