



Jefferson Regional Foundation

2025



Report to the Community

GOING THE DISTANCE: PROGRESS, PARTNERSHIPS, & PURPOSE.

ISSUED 2026



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Purpose

It is the drive that provides meaning to our progress, guides our partnerships, and provides clarity to our shared vision.

Dear Community Partners,

The Jefferson Regional Foundation (JRF) received funding from Highmark and the Allegheny Health Network (AHN) when Jefferson Hospital affiliated with the AHN health system in 2013.

As a support organization of the Jefferson Hospital, our mission is to advance community health and well-being in the communities served by the Hospital.

In the years since the affiliation, JRF has offered capacity building support to hundreds of mission-driven, community-based nonprofit organizations and has served as a data-driven thought partner to county health leaders.

The Foundation has been present as an emergency grant-making partner during the worldwide pandemic, providing critical support to address food insecurity and health needs as our community partners and residents were challenged as never before.

Today, the board and staff of the Jefferson Regional Foundation recognize more than ever that in every community, the health and well-being of its members is the framework for a thriving community. Consequently, our efforts in grantmaking, community-driven research and community engagement are our driving forces.

Our efforts in strengthening community health are a shared undertaking, one that we proudly embrace with the residents and stakeholders who live and work within the 26 municipalities that comprise our footprint; our nonprofit partners; and the dedicated team at AHN Jefferson Hospital.

This Report to Community serves as a reminder of our commitment to promoting health and well-being through meaningful action. Together with our partners we have the momentum to make a positive impact by serving as thoughtful and engaged neighbors, participating in local health initiatives and supporting nonprofit organizations that are focused on improving the quality of life of residents in the Mon Valley and South Hills communities of Allegheny County. Since our founding, the Jefferson Regional Foundation has provided over 492 grants to more than 185 organizations totaling more than \$32 million.

This report serves both as an acknowledgement and a tool for accountability, reflecting JRF's premise that being a good neighbor requires staying informed and responsive. We believe that together, we can create a future where everyone thrives. As you review the highlights of the work from our partners, allow this to serve as a reminder and invitation to join us. A healthier world starts with healthier communities.

In partnership,



Dr. Trisha Gadson
President & CEO



Richard Talarico
Chairman of the Board of Directors

The People we Serve

The footprint of the Jefferson Regional Foundation includes 26 municipalities and 12 school districts that comprise the AHN Jefferson Hospital service area in Allegheny County, PA. The communities include the lower Mon Valley & parts of the South Hills.

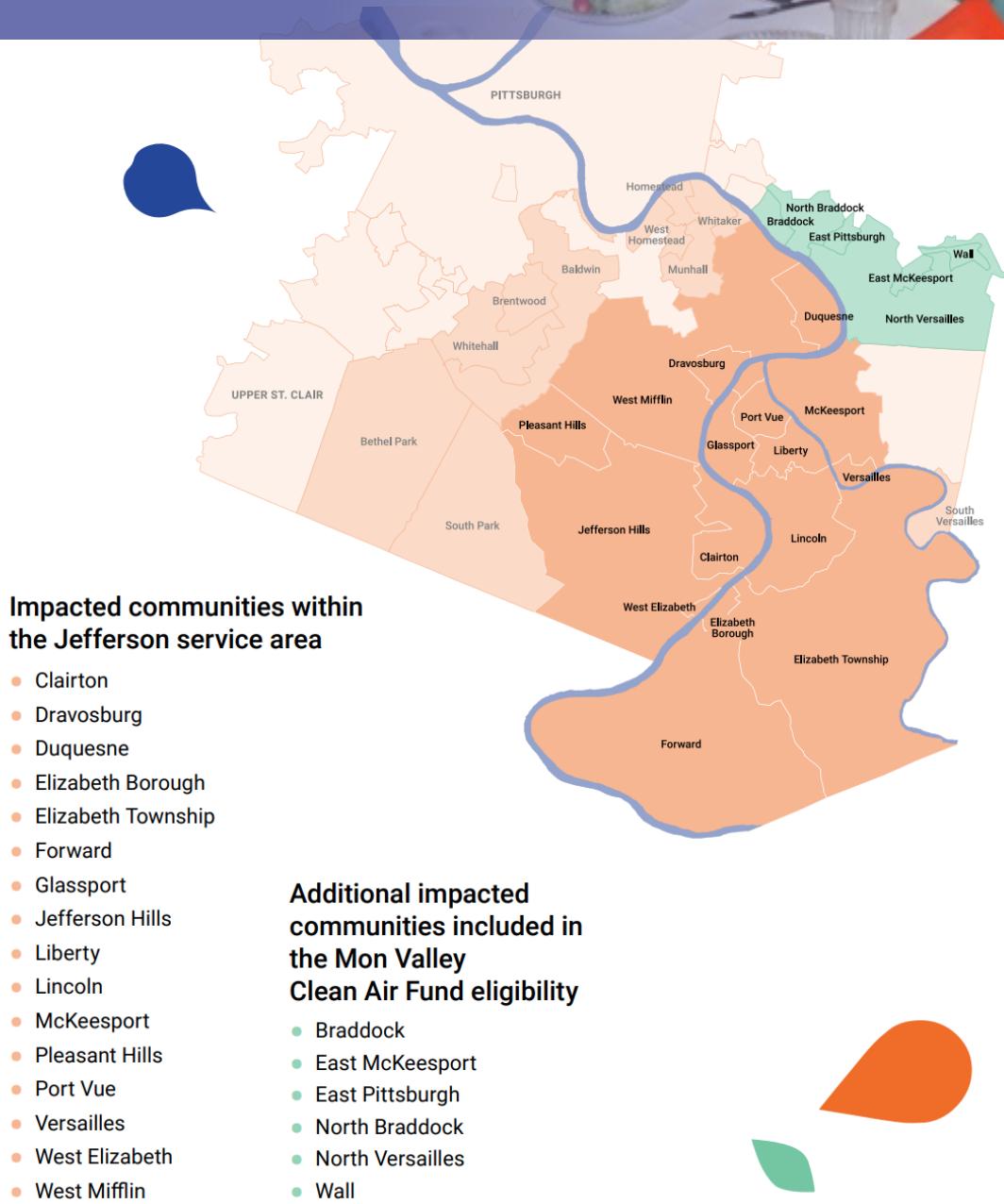
26 municipalities

12 school districts



The Mon Valley Clean Air Fund Footprint

In 2024, the Allegheny County Health Department tasked the Jefferson Regional Foundation with distributing U. S. Steel settlement funds following a 2018 air quality incident. The fund's geographic area, which governs grant eligibility, includes the 22 communities in the lower Mon Valley impacted by the incident. Sixteen of these affected communities are also part of the JRF Service Area.





Progress

Progress is often initiated via one conversation, one connection, and/or one idea at a time. It happens when listening leads to action, when innovation makes room for compassion, and when small changes spark bigger shifts in how communities grow stronger together. The Foundation's work driven by the current strategic plan includes meeting and engaging with residents, reimagining grant reporting, utilizing technology for storytelling, and supporting health initiatives. Progress means working alongside neighbors and moving forward with intentionality. These stories reflect that spirit, thoughtful steps that together co-create a lasting momentum for the Jefferson service area.

Meeting Patients Where They Are:

Recovery Medicine at AHN Jefferson Hospital

Substance use disorder continues to affect families and communities across the South Hills and Mon Valley, and health systems are working to integrate treatment and recovery into everyday care. In 2022, Jefferson Regional Foundation awarded a two-year, \$276,000 grant to AHN Jefferson Hospital to launch its Recovery Medicine program, an initiative designed to increase access to substance use disorder services for patients right at the point of care. The work was initiated in 2023 and continued through 2025.

The program began with a small but dedicated team, including a certified peer recovery specialist and a social worker, who partnered with other medical units at AHN Jefferson Hospital to identify and engage patients in need of support. Referrals came from across the hospital, and screenings for substance use disorder could take place at the bedside, virtually, over the phone, or through video visits, whatever made it easier for patients to take the first step.

Once fully staffed, the team's impact quickly grew. Over the course of the grant, the Recovery Medicine program served 841 patients at AHN Jefferson Hospital. Each patient was not only connected to appropriate recovery programs but also referred to AHN teams who could address broader social determinants of health, such as housing, food access and transportation.



For patients, the experience was often transformative. As one shared in the hospital's final grant report: "I finally felt like I was treated like a person when I met with the addiction team. It meant a lot to me, not just from a medical care perspective, but because I was not judged and listened to"

With the Foundation's support, the program demonstrated the value of compassionate, coordinated care for people living with substance use disorder. Building on this success, AHN Jefferson Hospital has committed to continuing the Recovery Medicine program beyond the grant period to ensure that more patients will find dignity, connection, and support on their journey to recovery.



Listening to Residents: How the Mon Valley Clean Air Fund Is Advancing Community Health

In fiscal year 2024-2025 and the beginning of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the Jefferson Regional Foundation awarded grants from the Mon Valley Clean Air Fund (MVCAF), an effort that reflects the Foundation's deep commitment to improving public health and honoring community voices in the Mon Valley. There were 20 grantees totaling \$547,000 for nonprofit organizations working to address public health concerns in some of the region's most impacted communities.

The MVCAF is the result of a \$5 million legal settlement with U. S. Steel Corporation stemming from a 2018 fire at the Clairton Coke Works, which impacted air quality across 22 Mon Valley



communities. (Jefferson Regional Foundation was not a party to that litigation.) Of that settlement, \$2.25 million was designated for community-focused public health and air quality improvements to be distributed over five years through Jefferson Regional Foundation, starting in 2025. The Foundation receives \$450,000 annually for the purpose of grantmaking that reflects residents' priorities and to make progress toward healthier communities.

To guide the MVCAF's funding priorities, the Foundation held three listening sessions in October 2024, in McKeesport, Braddock, and online, attended by 80 residents. These sessions centered on two simple but powerful questions: What does a healthy community look like to you? And how might this fund help us get there?

From these conversations, a shared vision emerged. Residents want communities where children play in clean, safe environments and attend schools free of mold and toxins. They want seniors to have access to transportation and health resources. They want more green space, healthier food options and resources that address both physical and mental health.

Participants offered wide-ranging ideas: youth leadership programs focused on environmental justice; public campaigns about asthma and air





quality; subsidies for medications and air purifiers; access to fresh food; and transportation to medical appointments. Above all, they said they wanted solutions created by and for the communities most affected.

In response, the JRF Board of Directors awarded grants to a diverse group of organizations already active in the Mon Valley. These grants are a starting point, not only for cleaner air, but for stronger partnerships, more responsive services, and deeper

community engagement. Nonprofits that serve the impacted communities are encouraged to apply for the next round of grants under the MVCAF, and the Foundation welcomes both experienced and emerging organizations. More information, including eligibility and application details, can be found on the Foundation's website at jeffersonrf.org/grantmaking/mon-valley-clean-air-fund, or by contacting Director of Grantmaking and Strategy Kelleigh Boland at kelleigh.boland@jeffersonrf.org.

As of December 2025, \$547,000 was distributed to 20 community organizations from the Mon Valley Clean Air Fund. For more information, visit
<https://jeffersonrf.org/grantmaking/mon-valley-clean-air-fund/grant-awards/>

Using Social Media to Shine a Light on Leadership

The Jefferson Regional Foundation has embraced social media as more than a mechanism for sharing news or clever memes: It has become a platform for storytelling, celebration and connection. The Foundation is amplifying the people and organizations making progress toward healthier, more equitable communities through three innovative series:

Leadership Spotlight

Grantee Spotlight

Unified Voices



Leadership Spotlight honors individuals whose work reflects the Foundation's mission of advancing health and strengthening communities. These are leaders with measurable community impact, a commitment to collaboration and inspiring personal stories. Among the local leaders featured was Dr. Tiffany Evans, a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors and Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students at Community College of Allegheny County. "I thought it was incredibly considerate and thoughtful. It was a humbling experience. I appreciated it very much," said Evans. "I don't post a lot on my social media pages, so when there is a post about me, I get a lot of feedback, all of it positive."



"I thought it was incredibly considerate and thoughtful. It was a humbling experience. I appreciated it very much,"

Dr. Tiffany Evans

Grantee Spotlight shines a light on organizations actively supported by the Foundation's grants, highlighting their achievements, upcoming events and the difference they make in the region. From the Bhutanese Community Association of Pittsburgh's educational programming to the Mon/Yough Trail Council's commitment to outdoor wellness to the Partnership's work in local schools, each feature underscores the breadth of work being done to improve health, education and community engagement.

Unified Voices tells the story of collaboration and how organizations, residents and coalitions work together to address challenges and improve well-being. Each installment shares examples of partnerships in action, raises awareness of available resources and recognizes the contributions of those making a difference.

Together, these series not only raise visibility for local leaders and grantees but also weave a larger narrative about the shared commitment to healthier communities. By celebrating leadership,



spotlighting partners, and amplifying collaborative efforts, the Foundation is using social media to reflect the vibrant, interconnected network working toward lasting change.



Strengthening Connections via Zoom Yields a Greater Impact

As part of its 2024–2028 strategic plan, the Jefferson Regional Foundation has committed to reducing the administrative burden for grantee partners and advancing innovative practices in philanthropy. In spring 2025, the Foundation introduced a new option for grantees to report their progress: the ability to submit interim grant reports through a 45-minute Zoom conversation with Foundation staff instead of the traditional written report.

This novel approach reflects the Foundation's commitment to "meeting organizations where they are." Grantees receive a set of guiding questions in advance and then meet virtually with Foundation staff to talk through program updates, organizational changes and impact stories. The conversations also provide space for technical assistance and networking connections that written reports cannot always capture.



The change has been welcomed by many organizations. For example, Latasha Wilson-Batch, Executive Director of Best of the Batch Foundation, said the conversations feel more meaningful than a written submission, noting that “a conversation about our work instead of just a written report goes a long way.”

Others value the back-and-forth exchange that the Zoom option makes possible.

“I’m just delighted that there’s different options and I love when there’s engagement like this,” said Denise O’Connor, Executive Director of the Mid-Atlantic Mothers’ Milk Bank. “I love the fact that there is a potential for back and forth instead of just submitting a report.”

While some organizations continue to prefer the written format, feedback overall has been overwhelmingly positive. By offering both options, the Foundation ensures that grantees can choose the method that best supports their work, while strengthening connections and shared learning in the process.

“a conversation about our work instead of just a written report goes a long way.”

Latasha Wilson-Batch





Partnerships

Partnership is core to who we are at the Jefferson Regional Foundation. Across all our communities, collaboration is what turns shared challenges into shared solutions and fuels every effort forward. Whether it is JRF's data-driven work paired with United Way's 211 service; the Jefferson Community Collaborative's growing network of more than 100 nonprofits; or the generation of a new tool that connects organizations and grantees in real time, each partnership is built on trust, listening, and a common drive. This contagious spirit of alliance is also demonstrated by nonprofit leaders who launched a new county-wide initiative that includes a few JRF grantees. This effort shows what's possible when leaders come together to support families through turbulent times. These stories reflect how partnership strengthens the entire community and creates a network of strong programming, connection and resilience.



Nonprofit Cooperative Strengthens Support for Immigrant Families Facing Uncertainty

Once it was clear that a new direction from the federal government would impact services for immigrants, Dana Gold and other nonprofit partners sprang into action.

Gold is the Chief Operating Officer for Jewish Family and Community Services (JFCS), a Pittsburgh-based social services agency that provides an array of programs to support communities within our region, including immigrants and refugees. The largest percentage of immigrants in Allegheny County live within JFCS's footprint. Gold met with policy makers who made it clear that tough times were ahead for organizations like the JFCS and the families they serve.

"I met with all the refugee resettlement agencies, immigrant service organizations, youth-serving, and immigration legal service providers. I'm familiar with who does this work in our region and said 'We cannot risk what our community needs by competing with one another,'" said Gold.

Thus was born the *Collaborative for Immigrant Impact*, a coalition of 18 nonprofit organizations working to ensure that immigrant and refugee families in Allegheny County continue to have access to the support they need to live, work and thrive.

Jefferson Regional Foundation's role has been pivotal, both as an early funder and as a trusted partner.

"They stepped in immediately, even before this



group was formally established," said Gold.

The group of nonprofit organizations quickly established shared principles and values and codified them in a memorandum of understanding signed unanimously by all members. The group also elected a steering committee that ensured organizations of varying sizes and perspectives would help shape the work.

Pooling resources was central to the model. Since its launch, the immigrant-serving nonprofit organizations have raised nearly \$4 million to mitigate any budget shortfalls its members experienced. The nonprofit cooperative has distributed close to \$1 million since June. Its top priorities are case management, legal services, safety and advocacy.



“We have supported the expansion of immigration services,” said Gold.

These mission-driven nonprofit leaders meet quarterly to share information, identify gaps and launch new programs. Members range from large social service agencies to grassroots organizations like Hello Neighbor, South Hills Interfaith Movement (SHIM), and the Bhutanese Community Association of Pittsburgh (BCAP). Together, they provide services for every stage of life.

“The Jefferson Regional Foundation has always been insightful, community focused and data driven. When they step forward to support their neighbors, I think other people should follow,”

Dana Gold



PA 211 Southwest: A Program of United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania Provides Insights into Community Needs

The Jefferson Regional Foundation and United Way's PA 211 Southwest have launched an information-sharing partnership, including a customized data dashboard that gives the Foundation greater insight into community needs.

PA 211 Southwest is a free and confidential helpline resource that connects residents to local health and human services providers. Residents can call, text, email or chat online (always with a human, never with a bot) and can be referred to local human services organizations. Residents contact 211 for help with housing, food, paying utilities, and a range of other needs, such as how to enroll in public assistance programs. People can also search the 211 database, which is updated year-round by a team of database experts, for services they need.

The dashboard reveals how many people contacted the service and their needs over a given period of time. It also tracks demographics such as race, age, veteran status and more, enabling the Foundation to view community needs through an equity lens across its entire service area.

Foundation staff review this data on a monthly basis to better understand the social service ecosystem and monitor emerging trends. The data shows where residents who contact 211 have been referred for help, and the Foundation can work with the United Way to ensure that whenever possible, people in need are referred to the service providers nearest to them.

Between July 2024 and June 2025, PA 211 Southwest received nearly 9,000 requests for help from residents within the Foundation's footprint, which underscores both the scope of local need



and the importance of connecting people with timely support.

"It helps all of us to identify unmet needs and then work to find supports that are tailored to address those needs," said Heather Sedlacko, Executive Director of PA 211 Southwest. "Sometimes we see warning signs that can help tell a community that there's a crisis coming before it happens."

So far, the data has revealed that housing and utility assistance are the most common requests among residents in the Foundation's service area. Staff also observed that referrals are frequently made to county-wide organizations, reflecting how regional resources play a critical role in meeting local needs and how further partnerships with United Way can help direct residents to local resources in their communities.

"We collect stories and data and translate that into actionable strategies that the nonprofit sector can take on, that decision makers can implement. And the Jefferson Regional Foundation is an important partner in all of this," said Sedlacko. "They're deeply engaged in addressing our community's most pressing human needs."



Strengthening Connections The Jefferson Community Directory and Message Board



The Jefferson Community Collaborative is an investment and initiative of the Jefferson Regional Foundation. It was created in 2015 as a community engagement effort which convenes more than 100 nonprofit partners that provide services in the footprint of the Foundation. In addition to networking opportunities, the Collaborative offers capacity building resources to local nonprofits.

Collaboration among local organizations is the key to building healthier, stronger communities, which is why the Collaborative is an example of the partnerships that support more engaged communities. A continuation of this commitment inspired the creation of two online tools: the

Jefferson Community Directory in 2022 and the Collaborative Message Board, launched in the summer of 2025, both of which help nonprofits share resources, exchange information and better serve residents across the Foundation's 26-municipality service area. These tools were identified as a need by participating nonprofit organizations.

The Jefferson Community Directory functions as a powerful resource, making it easier for organizations and residents to locate community services. Listings can be filtered by any category, school district, or municipality. This ensures that users can quickly connect with services that are both accessible and reflective of the communities they represent.



Complementing the Directory, the Collaborative Message Board provides an online forum where nonprofit partners can post events, request support and share resources with one another. By creating a central space for information exchange, the Message Board strengthens relationships across the nonprofit network and encourages timely collaboration.

Both tools were created to ensure that nonprofits can remain responsive to the evolving needs of local communities. Importantly, the platforms are built with flexibility in mind: allowing nonprofit staff to update their Directory listings, claim organizational profiles, and post new opportunities on the Message Board as their services grow and adapt.

Together, the Directory and Message Board have become vital resources for increasing visibility, promoting collaboration and amplifying the collective impact of nonprofit organizations working throughout the Jefferson region.

**Visit the Jefferson Community Collaborative website at
<https://jeffersoncollaborative.org/>**



Utilizing JRF Community Snapshots to Support Public Storytelling



Integrating community storytelling with data illuminates neighborhood strengths and needs that support advocacy for healthier communities. The Jefferson Regional Foundation’s Community Snapshots are tools designed to achieve that goal. They are a set of 39 one-page data summaries that provide high-level information on the conditions where people grow, live, work, and age that impact health outcomes. The snapshots include information about the 26 municipalities, 12 school districts, and one overall summary of the full-service area of the Foundation. Designed for community-based organizations and community leaders, these tools can be used to help guide program planning. Updated routinely as new data becomes available, the Foundation is partnering with the Western PA Regional Data Center (WPRDC) and the University of Pittsburgh’s University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR) to refresh the Snapshots in 2026. The updates will reflect feedback gathered from partners, including the Vision Council, nonprofit leaders who live and work within the Foundation’s footprint. The updated data tools will refine geographies, strengthen storytelling, and highlight additional community assets.





Purpose

Purpose is what guides every act of service and every connection that strengthens a community. It's what drives neighbors to care for one another and inspires leaders to act when they see a need. Across the Mon Valley, churches like Divine Restoration and St. Paul AME are living that purpose by providing families food support, offering hope, and reminding us that compassion is a powerful form of community leadership. The desire for promoting health and meeting needs is also matched by a creative approach used by Jefferson Hospital's Community Garden Program. Their work reflects the heart of Jefferson Regional Foundation's determination to stand alongside and engage those who serve others and to help ensure that purpose is met with the resources to make a difference.

Faith in Action: Mon Valley Churches Answer the Call to Provide Nourishment

With more and more families beset by food insecurity, two Mon Valley spiritual leaders have stepped up with the help of the Jefferson Regional Foundation to make sure none of their neighbors go hungry.

Pastor Eric Ewell, who leads Divine Restoration Church in Duquesne, knows what it is like to grow up without enough to eat and knows how it feels to be patronized by those providing help.

“Everything that we do, we do because we love people. That’s the hope: when we give, we hope they receive from a loving place,” said Ewell.

Ewell, a Duquesne native, founded Divine Restoration with his wife, Sonia, 13 years ago. From day one, they have tried to provide as much support to people in need as possible, but they dialed up their efforts when the COVID-19 pandemic put many people out of work and left children without regular school breakfasts and lunches.

“The church made a decision collectively that if we had to exhaust all our finances making sure people had food and making sure people had homes, that’s what we would do. We set out to feed as many people as we could,” said Ewell.

That’s when the foundation community stepped in, including JRF, which has provided a grant that supports Divine Restoration’s food pantry and the community meal the church serves the fourth week of every month since federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits only provide three weeks’ worth of food each month.

Between the food pantry, the community meal, and another program that provides vegetables to senior citizens, Divine Restoration serves approximately



Pastor Eric Ewell



Rev. Paul Waite

140 people each month, relying entirely on volunteers to do the work.

In nearby McKeesport, the Rev. Paul Waite leads the congregation in which he was raised, St. Paul AME Church, which runs a food pantry that draws people not only from McKeesport but several nearby communities including Clairton and Liberty Borough. Jefferson Regional Foundation is among the foundations that provide support to help Waite and his congregation provide food to 200 families each month, a number Waite expects will only get larger as families feel the sting of cuts to public assistance.

“We are there to help provide families in the community with good wholesome food to help them stretch their grocery bills and get by,” said Waite.

In addition to the food pantry, which, like Divine Restoration, provides groceries every other week, St. Paul AME also provided lunches last summer to unhoused people living in nearby Hope Park and is likely to do so again.

“The Jefferson Regional Foundation has been very supportive. I don’t know what we would do without them,” said Waite.

From Garden to Community:

Cultivating Better Health by Integrating Food



AHN Jefferson Hospital

You may not expect to find an on-site garden growing produce for a food pantry on a hospital campus, but that is exactly what you will find at AHN Jefferson Hospital. As the Jefferson Regional Foundation continues to respond to community health needs, a new collective initiative at the Hospital aimed at mitigating chronic disease disparities through food access and nutrition education sparks hope.

Food insecurity is a significant determinant of health. Individuals with limited or inconsistent access to nutritious food are more likely to develop chronic health problems, exacerbate existing conditions, and/or develop new health challenges.

The Hospital currently offers patients access to the Healthy Food Center, a food pantry which incorporates physician's instructions and provides dietitian recommended food and education to increase long-term, positive health outcomes.

A new collective initiative is planned for three communities within the Hospital's footprint: Clairton, Homestead and West Mifflin. This effort will include a community health worker via the Hospital to identify and work towards minimizing gaps within the food ecosystem. The Foundation will assist the initiative by convening nonprofit partners that offer food resources in the focus communities. The results of this new shared effort could possibly inspire a wider initiative aimed at mitigating the stress of limited access to food for additional local communities.



All A-Board!

JRF Board Tours Offer Board Members Opportunities to Engage with Communities Served

Each spring and fall, the Jefferson Regional Foundation Board of Directors takes time to leave the conference room and step directly into the neighborhoods where the Foundation's mission takes root. The JRF Spring 2025 Board Tour offered members the opportunity to learn more about the people, organizations and community assets that shape South Park and Bethel Park.

The April 5 tour began in South Park, where Board members were greeted by Borough Manager Karen Fosbaugh and other local leaders. Stops included the South Park Historical Society's restored Consolidated Coal Freight Station and the South Park Township Library, both of which served as gateways for conversation about community strengths, pride and areas of opportunity. A panel discussion with representatives from the school district, planning commission and Historical Society highlighted how these institutions work together to preserve history, support families and plan for future growth.

Board members then traveled to Bethel Park, where Borough Manager Kristen Denne guided them through the Schoolhouse Arts & History Center and Splash Park before a driving tour of the community. The day concluded at the Bethel Park Community Center, where a panel of civic leaders (including the mayor, school district president and Historical Society president) described the ways their organizations foster education, culture and civic engagement.



“Since we are a place-based foundation, this is a great way to make sure we are mission aligned, making the best and most informed decisions,” said Board member and Grants Committee Chair, Caitlin Green.

The first Board Tour took place in 2024, with stops in McKeesport, Dravosburg and Homestead. The Foundation designs these tours with input from local community leaders, such as borough managers and school superintendents, who recommend the stops and participate in the day’s discussions. This approach ensures that Board members hear directly from those most deeply connected to community priorities.



“The work of the Foundation is centered on playing a role in improving the health and well-being of the areas served by the hospital. The tours are a wonderful opportunity to shine a spotlight on the strengths of the people and the relationships that exist within their communities.”

Richard Talarico, Board Chairman



Advancing the Vision

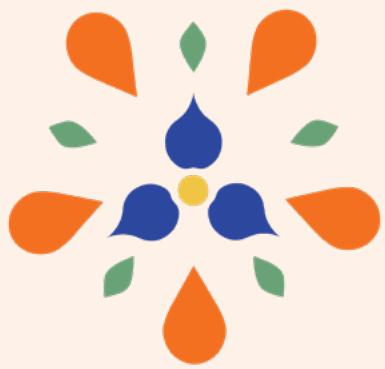
At the heart of the mission of the Jefferson Regional Foundation is a steadfast commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of residents within the communities surrounding AHN Jefferson Hospital that honors the lived experiences of community members. As we look to the future, the JRF vision that people and families are thriving by building on community strengths is rooted in bold, proactive approaches that embrace community engagement and strategic grantmaking that are driven by community health data. When we come together to learn from and inspire each other, we have the power to impact both communities and lives by taking positive action.

We believe that healthiness is a holistic approach to positive physical, mental, social and economic conditions. We recognize that the most effective

solutions come from within communities themselves. We strive to ensure our partners have equitable access to tools, opportunities, connections, ideas, and resources that meet the moment and are responsive to community needs. Through our strategic plan we are working to amplify voices and increase opportunities that support lifelong health.

As we move forward, our team remains guided by the belief that improved community health is a shared responsibility. Therefore, we will continue our pledge to foster partnerships and invest in the emerging needs of residents and communities within the Hospital service area. We are pleased to have you as a partner with us in this vital work moving forward.





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