

the Ligonier Valley ENDOWMENT

2024 Annual Report

The Ligonier Valley Endowment seeks to preserve and steward the physical and cultural heritage of life in the Ligonier Valley and to encourage further enrichment in aesthetic, educational, recreational and cultural dimensions. Through grants awarded to local charities and qualified non-profit organizations, The Endowment connects donors to the central needs of the community. The Ligonier Valley Endowment relies on the generosity of the citizens and supporters of our community to fulfill this purpose.

Endowment Grant Helps Restore Ligonier Landmark

For more than 125 years, Heritage Methodist Church's stately stone bell tower and landmark clock located on the southwest corner of the Diamond has greeted residents and visitors alike with its comforting hourly bell chiming and familiar place to check the time. "We extend our gratitude to The Pittsburgh Foundation and the Ligonier Valley Endowment for their generous support of Heritage Methodist Church's commitment to the Ligonier community," said Rev. Dr. Ronald J. Geisler. "We purchased and installed a digital bell and clock controller with the grant funds. This installation not only preserves the historical significance of the clock but also ensures its functionality for years to come."



Longtime Community Volunteers Inspire Future Leaders with Family Scholarship Fund

Cook Township residents Art and Cheryl McMullen have quietly dedicated decades of volunteer service for the betterment of the Ligonier Valley Community. Whether it was overseeing the Diamond's Christmas Decorating and Lighting project, organizing a special event, or supporting multiple Ligonier Valley non-profit organizations, they personify the meaning of a community volunteer.

Art and Cheryl continue to support the spirit of volunteerism by establishing the McMullen Family Scholarship to recognize and support students who actively contribute to the Ligonier Valley through community service. Cheryl McMullen said, "Art and I hope to inspire and reward students who are making a positive impact while encouraging others to give back to their community. We believe it is an important investment in building future leaders."

2024 Community Grant Recipients:

Chestnut Ridge Community Volunteer Fire Company

The Cook Township-based volunteer fire company will use their grant funds to purchase dress uniforms.

Community Center of West Fairfield – The community center will utilize their Endowment funds to facilitate the completion and furnishings of the new pavilion to enhance the existing ball fields and playground.

Cook Township Community Center – The community center applied their grant funds toward resurfacing the existing tennis courts and the construction of new pickle ball courts.

Heritage Methodist Church – The stately stone church located on the southwest corner of the Diamond houses a Ligonier landmark, the tower clock. Church leadership will use Endowment funds for engineering and wiring for the digital bell and clock controller.

Laughlintown Community Center – A popular location for community gatherings, the Center will use funds to replace the HVAC system and repair ADA walkways and ramps.

Laurel Mountain Borough – The municipality will use funds to purchase a Savvy Citizen subscription, which allows government entities to alert local citizens with vital information, and the purchase of a Google Workplace subscription.

The Learning Lamp – The only preschool and daycare facility located at the northern end of the school district will utilize grant funds for classroom materials at their Laurel Valley Elementary School location.



Ligonier Borough – The municipality will use grant funds for an equipment upgrade including a portable radio and laptop for the Emergency Management Coordinator.

The Ligonier Township Recreation Board with the Loyalhanna Watershed Association serving as the pass-through organization – The Ligonier Township Recreation Board will use the endowment funds to make improvements to the popular Ligonier Valley Trail.

Ligonier Valley Band Boosters – The Band Boosters are utilizing Endowment funds for competition equipment, fundraising equipment, and a new parade banner.

Ligonier Valley Boys Basketball Boosters – The Basketball Boosters will purchase new warmup athletic wear for student athletes with their grant funds.

Ligonier Valley Cheerleading Boosters – The Cheerleading Boosters is utilizing their grant funds toward concession trailer repairs and competition equipment.

Ligonier Valley Junior Olympic Wrestling Association – The association is utilizing their grant to enhance the wrestling program with the purchase of 150 singlets for wrestlers.

Ligonier Valley Railroad Association – The LVRRA used their grant award for professional architectural services for the restoration of the historic Darlington Train Station's roof.

New Florence Volunteer Fire Company – The Fire Company will use their grant funds to update a Rescue Engine fire truck and purchase a Jaws of Life®.

STAT, Inc. – The equine-based therapeutic program will enhance their children's activities with new reading supplies.

Weeders & Seeders Garden Club of Ligonier – This dedicated group of community-minded gardeners will utilize their Endowment funds to make improvements to the Veterans' Park area of the Borough's Municipal Lot.



New pavilion at Community Center of West Fairfield.

Named Community Funds:

- Artuso Family Fund • Andrew A. Balog Fund • William E. and Virginia Wiebel Bitzer Fund
- Brallier Family Fund • John and Catharine Cathey Fund • Jim and Gerry Cooper Fund
- Anne and Paul Coyne Fund • Craig Family Fund • Marvin and Mary Louise Gantz Fund
- Stephen and Janice Gooder Family Fund • George J. and Sarah B. Heideman Fund
- Kistler/MacDonald/Tuscano Fund • Ligonier Valley Band Concert Fund
- Ligonier Valley Endowment Fund • Ligonier Valley Endowment Governors' Fund
- Ligonier 250 Fund • Dolores W. Marotta Fund • Robert Martin Family Legacy Fund
- James and Rebecca Mauch Fund • Richard W. and Helene S. Moore Fund
- Thomas H. Jr. and Theresa L. Nimick Fund • J. David and Pat J. Piper Family Fund • Ingrid and William Rea Fund
- Martha Lou Schove Fund • Helen Shannon Fund • Victor P. Smith Family Fund • Pam, Bill and Todd Stablein Family Fund
- Regis and Diane Synan Fund • John R. and Helen L. Thorne Fund • John S. and Kathryn G. Tosh Fund
- Margaret M. Tosh Memorial Fund • Barry and Kitty Tuscano Fund • Robert and Teresa Tuscano Family Fund
- William N. and Virginia B. Tuscano Fund • Edward and Mary Rea Weidlein Fund • Vernie S. and John H. West Fund

36

Named Scholarship Funds and 2024 Recipients

8

Thomas and Nancy Donchez Scholarship Fund
Saylor Clise

Marvin and Mary L. Gantz Scholarship Fund
Mikayla Smitley

Ligonier Valley Endowment Scholarship Fund
Luke Lentz
Zoe Plummer

Carmen Joseph Marotta Scholarship Fund
Not awarded in 2024

R. K. Mellon Family Scholarship Fund
Ella Pierce
Cheyenne Piper

McMullen Family Scholarship
Erin Mundorff

Patricia A. Urban Scholarship
Mackenzie Boring

If you are interested in establishing a Named Fund or Named Scholarship Fund, please contact the Ligonier Valley Endowment office at 724-238-3970.

A Special Thank You to Candy Bellas!

The Ligonier Valley Endowment Board of Governors is grateful and appreciative to Candy Bellas for selflessly donating her time and talent to manage the Endowment's administrative office. Candy embodies the spirit of the organization and the Ligonier Valley School District Community it serves.



2024 Scholarship recipients

L-R: Saylor Clise, Mackenzie Boring, Erin Mundorff, Mikayla Smitley, Cheyenne Piper, Zoe Plummer, Ella Pierce, and Luke Lentz.

The Ligonier Valley Endowment Fund: \$

Total Contributions 2024 \$1,095,211.00

Total Grants Awarded:

Community \$204,693

Scholarships \$35,000

Total \$239,693

Cummulative Awards:

Community \$4,879,778

Scholarships \$252,200

Total \$5,131,978

Endowment Fund balance as of

12/31/2024..... \$8,389,186.00

90

Donors

Ms. Barbara J. Artuso

Mr. Frank B. Artuso

Mr. & Mrs. John E. Artuso

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Mrs. N. P. Artuso

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Mr. David P. Steimer

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Foundation)

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Mr. & Mrs. William B. Tuscano

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Mr. & Mrs. Thomas L. Vankirk

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the **Ligonier Valley**
ENDOWMENT

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724-238-3970

www.ligoniervalleyendowment.org

The Ligonier Valley Endowment is a component fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation.

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