



Community Connections

Sanofi and the Poconos

2023 FOOD FEST Fundraiser Edition

Sanofi's signature corporate social responsibility initiative in Monroe County, the Pocono Mountains Community Fundraiser, has now raised and distributed more than \$3 million for charitable organizations in the event's 20 years!

The 2023 Pocono Mountains Community Fundraiser was presented by AllOne Charities, Highmark BlueCross BlueShield, Lehigh Valley Hospital-Pocono, Mount Airy Casino Resort, News 28/22 and Sanofi. The 20th annual event awarded more than \$100,000 to benefit the life-changing work of four local non-profit recipients: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Elks Major Projects, Recovery Revolution, and Resources for Human Development (Street2Feet). Their stories are featured on the back of this newsletter.

We've also included some photos of sponsors and guests enjoying the Food Fest in Mount Airy's pavilion. Don't miss it next year!



Left to right: Phillip St. James (Sanofi), Jana Morris and Ashley S. (Recovery Revolution, Inc.), James Ellison and Mark Wade (Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeastern Pennsylvania), Tanya Guyer and Deb Penn (Pennsylvania Elks Major Projects, Inc.), Leslie Perryman (Resources for Human Development Inc.), Diana Roberts (Sanofi)

Non-Profit Recipients



"She feels like a mom and a friend," says mentee Kaylee Saldivar about her Big Brothers Big Sisters mentor, Susan Watkins. "You can tell her anything and she'll give you good advice."

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeastern Pennsylvania

is a mentoring program which matches "Bigs" (adult mentors) with children and teens who need a responsible and caring adult in their lives. By sharing experiences, activities, wisdom and knowledge, the "Bigs" can help provide the "Littles" (mentees) with a solid base during a formative and vulnerable time of life.

Big Brothers Big Sisters matches "Bigs" and "Littles" and provides support and guidance. "If they have any questions, that's what we are there for and how our agency can support that match," says CEO Jennifer Gimble.

The agency currently supports 16 matches in Monroe County and hopes to soon expand that number.

Pennsylvania Elks' Home Service Program provides at-home support and advocacy for people of all ages with developmental and learning disabilities. Through the program, families receive advice and guidance and are connected to resources, medical benefits

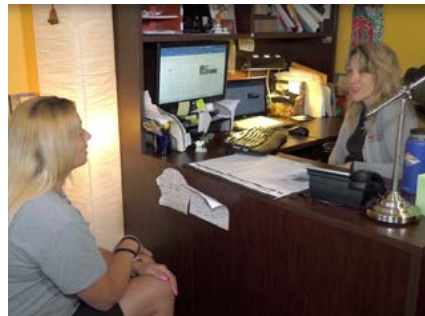
and programs they might not have known about. This program is free and offered throughout Pennsylvania.

Client advocate Tanya Guyer says: "If their insurance won't cover supplies, I have connections to other offices that might be able to get them. And I do supply a lot of emotional support... that's what these people need."



Makayla and Zechariah Hediger are on the autism spectrum and have ADHD. Thanks to the Home Service Program, they have learned to read and write and are attending school regularly for the first time.

Recovery Revolution is a drug and alcohol addiction treatment center. At little or no cost, it provides counseling and support to adolescents and adults in and around Northampton County.



Recovery Revolution offers a way out of addiction to people who have no funds or other sources of support.

"Individuals come in here at times close to death," says Executive Director Jana Morris. "We can give them tools which they take and use in their lives. It can absolutely turn their lives around."

Recovery Revolution also reaches out to students at area schools, operating a Prevention Education Program to intervene at a time when introduction to drugs is most common.

Resources For Human Development's "Street2Feet"

program is the region's only daytime resource center for those who are, or are at risk of becoming, unhoused. Clients can shower, do laundry, search online for available job and housing opportunities, and speak with case managers. They receive guidance and help filing paperwork and getting photo ID and other documents.



Street2Feet provides a hand up rather than a handout.

Director Leslie Perryman says, "It's the entire reason we do this work, to help people get back on their feet, because we are all one major life event away from being in a very similar situation."

Thank you, community partners!