



Community Connections

Sanofi in Pennsylvania

Winter 2026 Edition

Putting *Compassion in Motion* at the Pocono Mountains Community Fundraiser

Colorful pinwheels and open hands, symbolizing the **Compassion in Motion** in the room, decorated the grounds and tables at Mount Airy on a beautiful night in mid-September as the community came together to celebrate the 22nd annual Pocono Mountains Community Food Fest Fundraiser. Music was played, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres were enjoyed, brief speeches were made and heartwarming videos played. Three “Cornerstones of Compassion” were recognized for their many years of dedication in supporting the Community Fundraiser: East Stroudsburg University/ESU Foundation, Highmark BlueCross BlueShield and Lehigh Valley Hospital-Pocono. Most importantly, at the end of the night four deserving nonprofits each went home with \$25,000 to help fund the life-changing work they do in the community. The music cranked, the networking continued, and the crowd made a beeline to sample the delicacies of more than 20 of their favorite Pocono-area restaurants and bakers. Thank you to all who cooked, baked, and attended, and a special shout-out to the generous sponsors who make it all possible.



Caring for our Community

This issue of Community Connections turns our attention to the 22nd Annual Pocono Mountains Community Fundraiser and helping our neighbors in need. We also highlight local Science Technology Engineering Art and Math (STEAM) high school students and how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is enhancing their education with the help of Sanofi and the Pocono Mountains United Way.



Sanofi's Phillip St. James (far left) and the four nonprofits' representatives are shown here with ceremonial checks representing the \$100,000 in grants awarded by the 2025 Pocono Mountains Community Fundraiser. To Phillip's left are: Vincent Ford; Charece N. Sanders, Metamorphosis Women's Empowerment Initiative; Philip Gentile, NorthBound & Co.; Joe Mattioli; Kate Gregory; Timaki Johnson, Family Promise of the Poconos; Major Martha Wheeler, Salvation Army; Major John Wheeler, Salvation Army; Rose S. London and Dr. DaMary Bonilla-Rodriguez.

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2025 Pocono Mountains Community Fundraiser Grant Recipients



NorthBound & Co. received \$25,000 to help individuals in recovery by providing rides, gas cards and bus passes for recovery related needs.



Metamorphosis Women’s Empowerment Initiative received \$25,000 to support formerly incarcerated individuals with re-entry into the community, providing access to mental healthcare, housing, employment opportunities, etc.



Family Promise of the Poconos received \$25,000 to assist with their emergency shelter’s operations staff, food, transportation, case management, etc.



The Salvation Army received \$25,000 to support families, children and adults in making healthier food choices and taking a stand against diet related diseases.

Embracing AI for Education at PMSD

It was a great day at Pocono Mountain School District with the AI for Education initiative—an opportunity provided to local high school students by Sanofi and the Pocono Mountains United Way. A team of Science Technology Engineering Art Math (STEAM) students participated in a “Prompt-A-Thon” event, learning responsible, practical uses for artificial intelligence (AI) in education. The mission was to develop a solution to an environmental or air quality challenge using generative AI. Students and teachers worked together to come up with creative solutions. Participating students included Finn McGovern, Kailey Clifford and Valerie Cooper.

