


# Moving Forward Together

Annual Report 2022-2023



The Lehigh  
**CONFERENCE**  
*of* CHURCHES



The Conference of Churches  
is a nonprofit agency  
connecting basic human  
needs to the most  
vulnerable people in the  
Lehigh Valley: food,  
housing, dignity, a sense  
of belonging, and a hope  
for the future. Our mission  
is simple. We help families  
and individuals maximize  
their independence and  
reach their full potential.



# A message from

## Abby Goldfarb, Executive Director

This year marks my 14<sup>th</sup> year at the Conference, my third as the Executive Director. The year I began approximately 500 of our neighbors walked through our doors for rental assistance. In 14 years we've increased our reach by 347%.

The Conference remains a mature, financially stable faith-based nonprofit with a history of meeting the emergent needs of our community. We continue to pivot into the service areas we do best, seeking funds in line with our goals, and employing only the very best staff.

The greatest gift we can give, and receive, as an agency this size is partnership. Problems are solved faster and more permanently when we work hand in hand with other agencies, city and county government, churches, and with you, our neighbor. Surrounding ourselves with others as passionate and compassionate as we are about interrupting poverty has allowed the Conference to be a part of something bigger than us - a united front to create deep and lasting change in our community. I have always been proud of the work the Conference does but there was something special about this year. And we owe that to our partners both old and new. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. We could not have done it without you.

## Katie Albarelli, Board President

When I was asked to write a message about Moving Forward Together, I honestly had no idea what to write. Truthfully, I am unsure of what "Moving Forward Together" means because it means something different to many, and not everyone has an interest in Moving Forward Together. To some, it means holding hands and letting bygones be bygones without recognition of how institutional and personal harms impact our present, and our future. To others, it invokes a collaboration within our fractured community to help our community move from fragile survivor to a place of equity, accessibility, and shared opportunity. To others still, it is a call to look into one's heart, to care for others no matter the division between us, and to recognize each person in our community as a true neighbor. I do not presume to have "the right answer" regarding how we Move Forward Together nor to tell you what that should look like. I will however, encourage, honor, and thank everyone who is engaged in the hard work and difficult conversations needed to effectuate meaningful and purposeful change in our community. These changes that would make the "room where it happens" reflect the city and community where the change is unfolding. If you are reading this then I have no doubt that you are involved in those conversations and actions that will shape our Lehigh Valley into a home for everyone, together. So, thank you and let's carry on.

# Together we can...

**Do more** - People have different strengths and talents. Putting these together with the Conference allows us to expand our reach.

**Be more** - Each and every one of our volunteers contributes in their own special way, connecting with clients and staff uniquely.

**Advocate more** - The more our volunteers know about the struggles people face with food and housing insecurities, the more they are able to engage and educate others.



SPIN

"It's been a while since SPIN has been coming to volunteer with the Conference. Our guys love coming to help where we can so thank you for allowing us to continue to do so and give back."



Rhonda K.

"Such a humbling and rewarding experience serving lunch for the Conference Kitchen. What I experienced will stay with me until I volunteer again. The work the Conference does is second-to-none. Continue doing good and good will follow you."

# Together we are...

Juan & Judith Albornoz  
 Anonymous  
 Asbury United Methodist Church  
 Asbury United Methodist Women  
 Alisa Baratta  
 Bethlehem Area Moravians, Inc.  
 Donald & Sonja Bowe  
 Fulton Brown  
 Michael P Brown  
 Calvary Baptist Church - Allentown  
 Kenneth Carlson  
 Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 Church World Service/CROP  
 Costco Wholesale - Allentown  
 Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries  
 Episcopal Church of the Mediator  
 Faith Presbyterian Church of Emmaus  
 First Presbyterian Church of Allentown  
 William Geiger  
 Jill Gentilotti  
 Geoffrey Hallock  
 Handyman's Shop, Inc.  
 Catherine Jaindl-Leuthe  
 Jordan UCC  
 Just Born, Inc - Community Affairs Dept  
 Phyllis Kempf  
 John Kemps  
 Terrence Kennedy  
 Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit  
 Gail Marsella  
 Chris Martin  
 Metropolitan Community Church of Lehigh Valley  
 Penn Northeast Conference - UCC  
 Phoebe Ministries  
 Anthony Pompa  
 William Reimold  
 Ronald & Jennifer Ruschman  
 Sam's Club  
 Daniel Schantz  
 Solomon's United Church of Christ  
 St. John Evan Lutheran - Emmaus  
 Kathryn Stagl  
 William Sugra  
 The Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

The Pidcock Company  
 Trinity Episcopal Church  
 UCC Greenawalds  
 Union United Church of Christ - Neffs  
 Weisenberg Lutheran Church  
 Andrew Weiss  
 Life Church  
 SPIN  
 First Pres (Bill Eves)  
 Rotary Passport Club of Lehigh Valley  
 SYNC  
 Good Shepherd  
 St. Timothy's  
 St. Nicholas  
 The Barn  
 Faith Pres.  
 Calvary Moravian  
 Transformation Church  
 Heidelberg UCC  
 Service Electric  
 Lehigh Valley Phantoms  
 St. James Lutheran  
 Grace Lutheran  
 Asbury Methodist  
 St. Anne's  
 Emmanuel UCC  
 Grace UCC  
 MALV  
 Greenwald UCC  
 Beth-EL/KI Sisterhood  
 Salem UCC  
 St. Paul's Trexlertown  
 St. James Coopersburg  
 Bob Lawhorn  
 St. John's Coplay  
 First Pres (Scott Gradwell)  
 Redeemer Lutheran  
 Lehigh University  
 Lauren Fischer  
 Truist  
 Smackin Sandwiches  
 Sheridan Ellis  
 Starbucks (Airport Rd)  
 Cedar Crest College

St. John's Whitehall  
 Andesa Services  
 Janey Zimmerman  
 Whitehall High School  
 Pinebrook Family Answers  
 Sue Golden  
 Paula Arner  
 Serald Ward  
 Linda Lenhart  
 Jason Blumenfeld  
 Elizabeth Benke  
 Elijah Newsome  
 Benny Espallat  
 Mark Sherrill  
 Emma Scotto  
 Isabelle DiTullio  
 Louis Cabezas  
 Isabella Lee  
 Nina Rivera  
 Eshita Ajvalia  
 Margaret Fleming  
 Connie Hernandez  
 Nadira Kaleem  
 Ann Minkursky  
 Amberi Cieri  
 Chyenne Weasher  
 Genevieve Ashley  
 Sarah Davis  
 Samantha Gillespie  
 Kayle Grohotolski  
 Erin Kreider  
 Kathryn Murphy  
 Lauren Renner  
 Madisen Straub  
 Victoria Teammell  
 Madison Vankirk  
 Lauren Mele  
 Danielle Hendricks  
 Samantha Henson  
 Nicolette Florenece  
 Morgan Frantz  
 Nanette Smith  
 Dianne Manges  
 Christien Carolan

Michael Carolan  
 Andrew Yawega  
 Verbana Savage  
 Eli Flagg  
 Krista Dilworth  
 Parker Ryan  
 Takyra Batz  
 Mary Samell  
 Morgan Bentley  
 Nancy Lay  
 Alexie Blum  
 Jazmyn Davis  
 Cheryl Alessi  
 Israel Martinez  
 Elizabeth Norman  
 Edward Norman  
 Susan Smith  
 Carrington Smith  
 Nadia Shahda  
 Kathlyn Macalintal  
 Nevaeh Wright  
 Cesar Florian  
 Hannah Rice  
 Chloey Medina  
 Ariana Polanco  
 Joyce Yacaub  
 Anthony Bortane  
 Heather Weikert  
 Veronica Augello  
 Lynnette Delbridge  
 Dottie MacLaughlin  
 Sheila Lanshe  
 Nelson Matos  
 Beth Kulig  
 Dariana Nieves  
 Jayce Snyder  
 Darnell Anderson  
 Mettkai Castro  
 Daryn Lopez  
 Tyler Wagner  
 Justin Williams  
 Noah Encttautegui

*Thank You*



## Truist

“It was a privilege and an honor to fulfill a lot of the wish-list items such as body wash, shampoos, razors/shaving cream, toothpaste/brushes, shelf-stable food items, and the always-needed diapers to the many folks that you serve. The best part was prepping, packing, and serving lunch to over 100 neighbors in downtown Allentown yesterday!”

**20%** Increase in  
volunteers

# Success is measured...

**Housing Services** - Provides monetary support such as: first month rent and security deposit, back rent, utility deposits, preventing shut off notices, and evictions.

225

people per month complete an assessment for rental assistance



**Outreach** - Makes connections and relationships with those living unsheltered, connect them with resources, such as housing, food, ID's, & social security benefits.

344

percentage increase of PA ID requests and payments

**Conference Kitchen** - Serves 3 meals a day Monday - Friday to anyone who is hungry.

38

percentage increase in meals served with an average of 5,557 meals per month



**Landlord Engagement** - Links landlords to housing programs and advocates for affordable rent.

50,000

dollars provided to landlords for the "incentive program"

**Housing Support** - Provides transitional and permanent housing in conjunction with Conference housing programs.

120

beds are available in our shared living or apartment housing support programs



**Drop in Center** - Teaches life skills, social activities, provides showers, lockers, internet access, case management.

839

unique individuals accessed drop-in center services

...by the support we receive from our funders, staff, donors, and volunteers. We are very proud of the following accomplishments:



**Physical and Mental Health Services** - In conjunction with provider partnerships, provides on-site care, vaccines, and additional referrals.

**5** vaccine clinics were held for the community and staff



**Employment Services** - Assists with interview preparation, resume writing, application assistance, and connecting job seekers with jobs.

**91** people in 2022 obtained gainful employment.



**Intensive Case Management** - Services clients with serious and persistent mental illness to better manage their illness, increase mastery of life skills, and improve sense of well being.

**256** referrals received from outside agencies for an ICM Case Manager

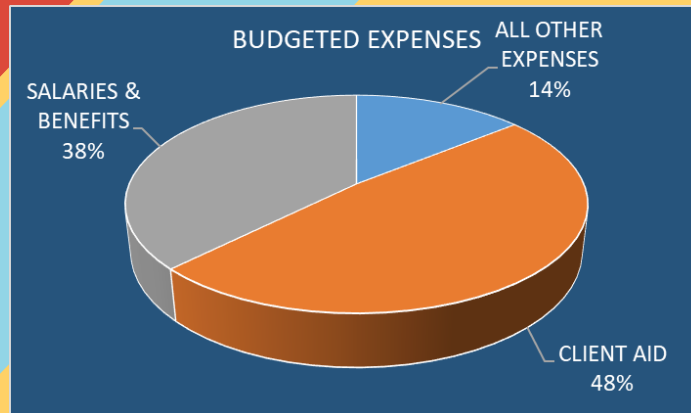
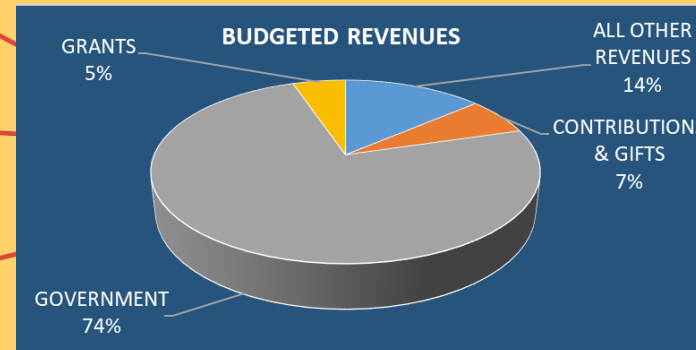
# The Finance Picture

While 74% of our total income comes from contractual agreements, we rely heavily on our community to address hunger and homelessness in the Lehigh Valley. Foundation grants, church contributions, as well as business and individual giving allows us to offer live saving services such as the Conference Kitchen, Daybreak drop in center and all support services. Both Contributions & Gifts and Grant Awards have increased year over year, and are projected to continue to grow in this year. Client Financial Aid remains our largest expense.

**GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS** includes \$3.8 million in rental assistance and other pass-through financial aid to clients. Also includes increases of 21% in county revenue, 50% in city revenue and 131% in federal revenue over last year's budget.

**CONTRIBUTIONS & GIFTS** includes \$230K of in-kind donations, \$90K in church contributions, \$50K in business contributions and \$147K in individual contributions.

**ALL OTHER REVENUES** includes United Way funding, special events, program and miscellaneous revenues. Total is \$99K less than last year's budgeted amount primarily due to less rental income.



**CLIENT AID** in FY 2023-2024, we anticipate our pass-through funds to increase by 23% over last year's budgeted amount.

**SALARIES & BENEFITS** are calculated based off of our current and projected new positions throughout the fiscal year.

**ALL OTHER EXPENSES** includes rent, utilities, office equipment and supplies, audit fees, other professional services, depreciation and miscellaneous expenses.





Hannah C.—Joyful Giving

“I LOVE making bingo prizes for Daybreak! I'm super excited about providing more bingo prizes and that the Daybreak folks enjoyed them! That makes my heart so happy! “

321

H&HA Week participants

This year's Robert C. Campbell Lecture brought Sister Joan Chittister to the Lehigh Valley to speak on peace, human rights, women's issues, and monastic and church renewal.



The community participated in a series of events for “Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week” 2022. Events included: Game of Rent, panel discussion, prayer vigil, One Night Without a Home, podcast, community forum, and the sold-out Keynote Speaker Matthew Desmond.



156

attended the Campbell Lecture

207

listened to Keynote Speaker



Whitehall High School

“Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your team for the past two days. Our students truly enjoyed the experience, as did we, the staff; they are already asking me this morning when we can return! “



Rachel F.

“Today marks the official launch of our newest initiative, Scentos Gives! We are so proud to create products that inspire joy and creativity. We hope our donation to Daybreak helps spread a little color across the Lehigh Valley!”

# Member Churches

We thank the following member churches and organizations that help us fulfill our pursuit of serving and advocating for our neighbors in need. Without you, our progress would not be possible.

Church of the Good Shepherd UCC  
Jerusalem Western Salisbury Church  
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
Christ Church UCC Schoenersville  
San Martin de Porres  
First Presbyterian Church of Allentown  
St. Mark's UCC  
St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Emmanuel UCC - Allentown  
First Church of Christ Scientist  
Asbury United Methodist Church  
Grace Episcopal Church  
St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Nativity Lutheran Church  
Episcopal Church of the Mediator  
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Ripple  
The Barn  
Successful Start Ministries  
Central Moravian Church  
St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Ziegels Lutheran Congregation  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church Breinigsville  
Salem UCC - Catasauqua  
Faith United Church of Christ - Center Valley  
St. James Lutheran Church of Coopersburg  
St. John Evan Lutheran - Emmaus  
Faith Presbyterian Church of Emmaus  
Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit  
St. Mark's Lutheran  
Liberty Worship Center/ Reach Ministries

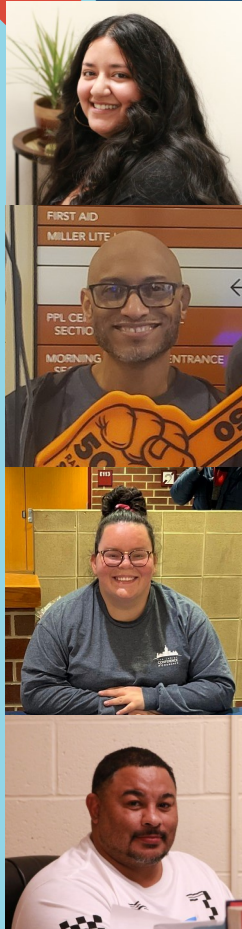
Lighthouse Missions Ministry  
St. John's UCC - Fogelsville  
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Fogelsville  
St. John's UCC - Laurys Station  
Solomon's United Church of Christ  
Grace Lutheran Church - Macungie  
Union United Church of Christ - Neffs  
Heidelberg UCC  
Good Shepherd UCC  
St. Paul's UCC - Trexlertown  
St. Anne's Episcopal Church  
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church  
Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Life After Death Prophetic Ministries  
Iglesia Metodista Unida La Trinidad  
St. Stephen of Hungary Catholic Parish  
Faithpointe Church of the Nazarene  
St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
St. Ann's Church  
Allentown Rescue Mission  
Phoebe Ministries  
Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting  
St. Thomas More Church  
Salem United Methodist - Slatedale  
Endeavor Community Church  
Full Effect Cathedral  
Christ's Church at Lowhill  
Chestnut Hill Church  
Jesus is the Way Ministries  
St. John's UCC - Slatington  
Calvary Moravian Church  
MorningStar Moravian Church

New Beginnings Fellowship  
Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church  
St. John's Lutheran Church - Allentown  
Whitehall Mennonite Church  
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church  
Union Evangelical Lutheran Church  
St. John's UCC Allentown  
Union Baptist Church  
Trinity Memorial Lutheran Church  
St. Paul's UCC - Seiberlingville  
Grace UCC  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
Transformation Church  
Jordan UCC  
Vision Misionera Ministries  
Jordan Evangelical Lutheran Church  
St. John The Baptist  
Egypt Community Church  
Annunciation BVM - St. Mary  
St. Margaret's Episcopal Church  
Metropolitan Community Church of LV  
Our Lady Help of Christians  
Cedar Lutheran Church  
New Bethany EC Church  
Lighthouse Baptist Church  
Faith Tabernacle Deliverance Temple  
St. Paul's Lutheran Blue Church  
Slatington Baptist Church  
UCC Greenawalds  
Immaculate Conception BVM  
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish  
Salem United Methodist Church - Allentown

# Board, Leadership & Management Team, and Staff

## Board of Directors

Katie Albarelli, President  
Fulton Brown, Vice President  
John Long, Treasurer  
Scott Brooks-Cope, Secretary  
Becky Beckwith  
J. David Bohri  
Michael Brown  
Richard Brown  
Yuvette Hailey  
Leslie Ever Hernandez  
Kari Holmes  
Joseph Kemmerling  
Paul Knappenberger  
David Leber  
Kevin Nadolski  
Charlene Smalls  
Kathleen Reznik  
Pam Weiss  
Malcolm West



## Leadership Team

Abby Goldfarb, Executive Director  
Deanne Malacsics Best, Director of Programs  
Shawn Milisits, Director of Finance  
Christine Rinker, Director of Administration

## Managers & Supervisors

Chris Clayton, Kitchen Supervisor  
Riley Kreuzer, Asst Housing & Homelessness Mgr  
Marie Lisby, HOPE Supervisor  
Allison Moretz, Linkage Coordinator  
Elly Nieves, Housing Manager  
Ben Stephens, Housing and Homelessness Mgr  
David Watson, Clinical Manager

## Awesome Staff

Maria Alvelo-Nunez	Bridget McArthur
Jason Carey	Kristen Miller
Mark Crable	Christopher Moran
Elizabeth Cunningham	Allison Moretz
Ebony Dickerson	Rigo Nieves
Michaele Edouard-Seide	Moses Odida
Ethan Farrow	Jenny Ramirez
Francisco Figueroa	Jonathan Robles
Tamika Hollis	Ivana Romero
Sasha James	Aaliyah Smith
Riley Kreuzer	Peg Sterner
Maria Lopez	Gladys Swoyer
Kendra Loyd	Khalil Tawwab
Carmen Lugo	Genie Watson
Laura Macnamara	Tammy Yura
Adriana Madera	Yuslenny Zorilla
Sam Martinez	



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