



### **Mission Statement**

Our mission is to build a better community by helping people to help themselves. ProJeCt improves the community and helps economically and educationally dis-advantaged adults and children by assisting them to meet their most basic emergency material needs, developing their capacity to care for themselves, and mapping a path toward self-sufficiency through education that builds real-life skills and opportunities.

# **Board of Directors**

#### Officers

President – JoAnn Bergeron Nenow, retired
Vice President/Treasurer – Cary Giacalone II, Concannon, Miller & Co.
Secretary—Rev. Susan D. Ruggles, St. John's Lutheran Church

#### **Members**

Alan Abraham, Abraham, Borda, Corvino, Butz, LaValva & Co. P.C.
Patrice R. Amin, Northwood Hand Center & Hampton Inn
William Bryson, Attala Steel Industries
Debra Ashton-Chase, Ashton Funeral Home
Daniel E. Cohen, Hof & Reid, LLC
Rabbi Melody Davis, Temple Covenant of Peace
Sharon DiFelice, Crayola
Isaac Hof, Hof & Reid, LLC
David T. Lyon, MD, MPH, retired
Pete Reinke
Thomas J. Schlegel, Fitzpatrick Lentz & Bubba, P.C.

Linda Tretiak, retired
Mary Wilford-Hunt, Lafayette College

# From our Leadership to You:

Webster dictionary de nes "journey" as "an act of traveling from one place to another." For families whom we serve the journey begins with their determination to overcome the consequences of poverty and enroll in one or more of our valuable programs and services.

This past year, more than 5,000 clients enrolled in our programs and services. They began their journey determined to succeed, supported by our skillful staff, dedicated volunteers and with the nancial support that your generous gifts provide. It has been said, "Success is a journey, not a destination."

As our students travel on their journey, whether it be obtaining a GED, learning English, developing computer literacy skills, becoming a citizen or completing early education classes, they are provided the support system that they need to realize their dreams and reach their destination...graduation. For our students, graduation is a transformative moment. Despair is transformed into hope and dependency is transformed into opportunity. This past year, we proudly awarded diplomas and certicates to 80 graduates. We are privileged to be able to help so many who are eager to change their lives and become contributing productive members of our community.

Our graduates realize that the end of their journey with ProJeCt means the start of another one. Many will go on to enter the world of work, some for the rst time. Some will advance their education to prepare for positions in business, healthcare and other professional occupations.

We are very grateful to you, for your generous support that helps to make the journey toward a brighter future possible for so many.

Sincerely,

Janice Komisor Chief Executive Officer JoAnn Nenow Board President

JAn B. Nemas

# **Starting the Journey**



Teenesha struggled in school most of her life. Education was never a priority. She knew her goals were unreachable in her current situation and needed to make a change. She had to better herself. Her dream of achieving her G.E.D. and becoming an Ultrasound Technician would never be a reality if she didn't make some much needed changes in her

life. Teenesha turned to ProJeCt.



"My life took a dramatic turn to the point where I needed to better myself."

-Teneesha McDougle

# **Overcoming Obstacles**

As a single working mother, Mary had been struggling to complete her GED. She had been enrolled with ProJeCt in the past, but didn't have the extra support or time to commit to finishing. This time, with academic and case management support, Mary finished and passed her GED in three short months.

Mary was determined to go college. She was accepted into the Nursing Program at Northampton Community College. In her first semester she struggled with a math class and



instead of quitting, she came back to ProJeCt for extra support from her former teachers and case managers. She completed her first semester with a 4.0 GPA.

# **Reaching Goals**



Jessica Paredes watched her son, Erik, struggling in school and worried that he would drop out. Jessica made the decision to get her GED to inspire her son.

Jessica not only modeled educational resolve, but she also started her own business. Jessica designs, constructs and paints rustic signs and wooden home décor items. A recent commission had her hand-crafting signs for the team at ProJeCt.

"I wanted to be a better example.
Quitting isn't an option."

Jessica thought a business might be a good way, as a stay-at-home mom, to contribute to the household budget. Her husband taught her woodworking skills and she does the manufacturing herself. Jessica even customizes her signs for clients.

"I like to uplift people," she said. "I could have been another statistic." She credits ProJeCt with giving her confidence and for connecting her with new friends that are still part of her life today.

# Join ProJeCt at the 2020 Highmark "Virtual" Walk For A Healthy

Community!

Leave your sueakers home and water bottles on the shelf. Why: Help raise money for ProJeCt of Who: Family and Friends of ProJeCt Where: You choose the location When: Now until June 30 Easton

For more information, contact 610-258-4361 x18 jrzeszowski@projecteaston.org

WWW.PROJECTEASTON.ORG

With recent public health concerns, Highmark has decided to take the annual Highmark Walk for a Healthy

Community and turn it virtual!

We invite you to walk or run wherever you are and help raise awareness and funds for ProJeCt of Easton. All monies raised, go directly to support our programs. Due to the impact of COVID-19, the need for unrestricted funding is even greater now. Please consider donating using the enclosed

projecteaston.org to make your

envelope or visit

gift in support of the 2020 Highmark "Virtual" Walk.



# **Measure of Success**

#### **High School Equivalency Diploma**

Acevedo, Kassandra Atra, Fayez Boone, Jada Carter, Gianna Costanzo, Dylan Edwards, Drejha Espada, Karen Fontan, Ariana Garo, Robinson Gomez, Juan Herrera, Guadalupe Johnson, Gary Kratzer, Kelly Lam, Cheung
Lam, Connie
Lawton-Fields, Reafeal
Ledee, Evanisse
Lizardi, Johnny
M'Balla, Tena
Miller, Drew
Moore, Special Joy
Pena, William
Perez, Barbara
Poirier, Sierra
Ramthun, Rebecca
Raub, Nickolas

Rivera, Christopher Rivero, Yessica Sanabria, Maria Sandi-Fonseca, Marjorie Taitt, Michael Villa, De'Lacia White, Shelly Ann Woolridge, Terrance Zamora, Mary Zong, Ashley

#### U.S. Citizenship

Bekele, Vanessa

Manos, Juana

Lopez Melendez, Yalissa

#### **English as a Second Language Certificates**

Asmeg, Khadija Carrera, Ofelia Fonseca, Marjorie Sandi Hernandez, Rocio Jaramillo, Claudia Leon, Monica Lopez, Wilbert Lu, Lei Matos, Evelidy M'Balla, Guy M'Balla, Tena Mendez-Gonzaga, Guadalupe Merchan, Paty Orocio, Ofelia Shakieva, Kamila Tello, Ana Maria Tenezaca, Alina Vasquez, Diana Velez, Veronica Villegas, Mayte

#### **Early Childhood Education Diploma**

Carrera, Christian Gonzalez, Santiago Mendez-Ponce, Vicente Ventura, Melissa

#### **IET/ Manufacturing Certificates**

Belon, Stephanie Boyer, Miriame Cortez, Danelia

Espinal, Sonia Matos, Evelidy M'Balla, Tena

Pina, Elsa Oliveros-Suares, Azucena

#### **Digital Literacy Certificates**

Edwards, Drejha Gaughran, Katherine Johnson, Amanda Joseph, Yashika Kratzer, Kelly Poirier, Seirra Rua-Yuksel, Asuman Sandi-Fonseca, Marjorie Sun, Xiu Hong

## Daniel E. Cohen Award

The Daniel E. Cohen Award, which was established in 2014, recognizes an individual, organization or business who exhibits exemplary leadership in working to improve the lives of the underserved and disadvantaged in our community. The 2019 recipient of this award was Alan Abraham.



"When people try
to help themselves we believe
that it's the community's moral
obligation to provide them with
every resource at
its disposal".

- Alan Abraham

Alan has shared his 40 years of expertise in accounting and financial management. He donates 20 hours a week as a volunteer CFO. He has guided staff through the development of a new chart of accounts, trained staff in the use of new software and oversees the development of best practices in nonprofit financial procedures. Alan's efforts have not only been focused on building the capacity of ProJeCt's team, but also in the added value of sharing what we learn and develop with others in our sector. Alan's generosity and expertise will be at the heart of ProJeCt's ability to grow and do more good in the Lehigh Valley. He is truly deserving of the 2019 Daniel E. Cohen Award.

# Highlights 2018-2019

39 Families enrolled in Family Literacy
175 Students enrolled in SIZZLE!®
366 Adults enrolled in Adult Literacy
400 Students enrolled in Student Success Program
432 Clients were served in Emergency ASSIST
4285 Clients served by the Food Pantry

## **Events**

#### Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community

On June 1, 2019, ProJeCt of Easton participated in the annual Highmark Walk for a Healthy

Community at DeSales University in Center Valley, PA. With over 50 participants including Team Kiwanis of Palmer and the First Presbyterian Team, almost \$10,000 was raised for our pro-



grams. Many thanks to our sponsors and all who participated.

#### **Simply Savory**

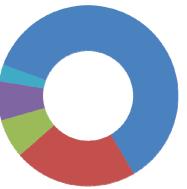


ProJeCt of Easton's signature event brings together a tapas cuisine and local wineries and breweries. This year's event netted \$25,000. Thanks to our sponsors, culinary participants and attendees, our event was a great success.

# Financials for Fiscal Year 18-19

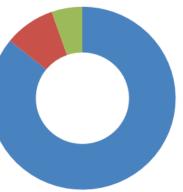
#### Revenue

Contributions	61%	\$943,757	
<b>Gov Contracts</b>	22%	\$337,589	
<b>United Way</b>	<b>7</b> %	\$107,638	
<b>Special Events</b>	<b>7</b> %	\$106,482	
Investment Inc.	3%	\$57,600	
Total		\$1,533,066	



#### **Expenses**

<b>Client Services</b>	86%	\$1,402,327
Administration	9%	\$144,285
Fundraising	5%	\$87,523
Total		\$1,634,135



#### **Client Service Expenses by Program**

Adult & Family Literacy	<b>52</b> %	\$722,506
SIZZLE!®	11%	\$153,503
Food Pantry	19%	\$270,992
<b>Emergency Assist</b>	9%	\$130,791
<b>Student Success Program</b>	9%	\$124,535
Total		\$1,402,327



Helping People Help Themselves Project

Lehigh Valley PA Permit No 550 **US** Postage Non-Profit

Anytime between May 9 – June 30, you choose how and when you walk

(treadmill, park or trail, or around the neighborhood) – it's your choice!

To register or to donate visit walkforahealthycommunity.org



**Administration 610.258.4361** projecteaston.org

Fowler Literacy Center 610.258.1100







