In 2014, the Scranton Area Foundation celebrates an important milestone: our 60th anniversary of giving. Through understanding the most pressing needs of the community we serve, the Scranton Area Foundation is able to both direct needed resources towards helping to address these challenges, and to help philanthropic individuals in our community support causes that could greatly benefit from their generosity.

The Scranton Area Foundation is a public, community foundation whose primary mission is to enhance the quality of life for all the people in Lackawanna County through the development of organized philanthropy. The Scranton Area Foundation Center for Community Leadership & Nonprofit Excellence was established to help support the leadership of local nonprofit organizations through the delivery of programs and services that help them advance their mission.

The Foundation Acts As A:

• Steward in developing and managing permanent endowment funds.
• Grantmaker in providing resources and funding to support local organizations and community needs.
• Charitable resource in providing flexible giving options for donors.
• Knowledge organization in providing professional development programs for local nonprofit organizations, professional advisors, and the public at large.
• Convener in mobilizing community leadership to proactively address important issues.
On July 30 and August 12, 2013, the Scranton Area Foundation hosted an Open Forum on Community Needs. The purpose of this Forum was to hear directly from those in our community who are involved in the day to day activities of managing our area nonprofit organizations. The Scranton Area Foundation believes that listening to the community is important, as it allows the Foundation to keep in touch with the current challenges facing our region, and to use this knowledge to ensure that grant-making most effectively meets these community needs.

At the Open Forum, representatives from over 50 nonprofit organizations gathered to address the leadership of the Scranton Area Foundation. Presenters shared their insight and perspectives on the most current challenges confronting nonprofit organizations in Lackawanna County. This Open Forum was the first of its kind for the Scranton Area Foundation. For many organizations, the Open Forum represented the first time they were exposed to the mission, programs, and unmet needs of nonprofits other than their own. This presented an opportunity to network and discuss collaboration with other groups. As Lackawanna County’s Community Foundation, our impact on the community we serve expands far beyond the role of grantmaker. Civic engagement and community leadership remain an important priority of the Scranton Area Foundation, as we seek to generate and implement more effective, collaborative responses to the issues we face.

To all who continue to make our work possible, we thank you for your generous support.
## The Path Forward: Content

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants that make a difference</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Challenges Facing Our Community</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care</td>
<td>6-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>8-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workforce</td>
<td>10-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>12-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Culture</td>
<td>14-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Path Forward: Next Steps</td>
<td>17-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Forum Presenters</td>
<td>20-29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giving Back through SAF</td>
<td>29-31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Citing the Open Forum as an integral part of the Foundation’s long-range strategic planning process, SAF President & CEO Laura Ducceschi discussed the need for the Foundation to assess “how we serve the people of Lackawanna County as a grant-maker, community leader, steward of community resources, and philanthropic partner.” She also stated the importance of consistently staying in touch with the needs of the community, and serving as a central convener to bring community leaders together to address challenges.

*The Path Forward* represents the compilation of information and ideas shared at the 2013 Scranton Area Foundation Open Forum on Community Needs. It is designed as a tribute to the many non-profit organizations in our community who dedicate their time and resources to making a difference in our community, often with limited funding and while facing significant challenges. *The Path Forward* is presented to Scranton Area Foundation donors and friends, community leaders, and private and family foundations. We hope this is useful as an educational piece to enhance awareness of the most pressing challenges facing our community.
The challenges facing our community

Throughout the Open Forum, nonprofit organizations spoke of the economic downturn and the resulting decline in revenue, depletion of budgetary resources, and its contribution to dramatic reductions in government funding at the federal, state, and local levels. For local nonprofit organizations, this has compromised the capacity to sustain, much less expand, the delivery of basic programs and services to the community. The reduction, and in some cases the elimination, of these basic human services directly impact those individuals and families that are most vulnerable. At the same time, the need for these services continues to rise as the number of people struggling with economic hardship increases. According to local nonprofits, this has the potential to make a devastating impact on the health and welfare of the community.

These areas of impact include:

• Longer waiting lists for essential health and human services
• Increased rates of homelessness due to a rise in evictions and home foreclosures
• Rise in the incidence of criminal activity, juvenile delinquency, acts of child abuse
• Increase in substance abuse and mental behavioral health problems
• Greater number of visits to emergency rooms
Funding reductions have forced nonprofits to make internal cuts to their staff and their basic infrastructure, in some cases resulting in permanent layoffs. The inability to hire and retain trained, professional staff undermines their capacity to serve. In turn, unemployed and furloughed workers from both the private and public sectors must now turn to local nonprofits for assistance, resulting in a greater demand for client services.

In response to funding cuts, staff of local nonprofits spend more time engaging in community fundraising efforts to help offset these losses. As a consequence, the staff has far less time to devote to programs.

An additional result of decreased funding is that, capital improvements have been relegated to the status of deferred maintenance, a trend which will ultimately result in higher costs in the future and possible adverse health and safety consequences. The cost of deferring maintenance is calculated at a rate of three to four times higher than a repair scheduled in a timely manner. Over the long term, this could translate into compromised programs and services and a budgetary drain on nonprofits.
Children and Youth

Nonprofit organizations participating in the Open Forum indicated that early detection of learning difficulties and disabling conditions are a critical component of the cognitive, emotional, and social development of young children. There is demonstrable evidence that without these programs, the capacity to learn and to achieve any measure of academic success in school is seriously compromised. This is particularly true for children living in at-risk environments of severe economic hardship. The accessibility to quality education in the early years, at especially formative stages of development, cannot be over-emphasized. Nonprofit organizations play a key role in the success of early intervention programs with young children, particularly in the area of behavioral services.
Higher Education

Local colleges and universities participating in the Open Forum indicated that opportunities exist to build stronger relationships with community partners, particularly nonprofit organizations and direct service providers. Such relationships will strengthen the capacity of the nonprofit sector by providing a skilled volunteer base, while also enhancing the quality of undergraduate education by giving students clinical, hands-on experience in preparation for the workforce. In many cases, facilities located in and operating under the umbrella of an institution of higher education can be direct service providers at a minimal cost.

Higher education participants noted some of the challenges they are facing in regards to the ever-changing needs and demands of both the industry, and the broader economy. These areas of focus include curriculum development, and innovative content delivery. With the changes to traditional modes of learning and instruction, come an increased focus on the importance of technology literacy. Colleges and universities can be an integral part of helping individuals to increase their technological capacity by making computers and technology instruction available to residents and to the clients of nonprofit organizations.

Nonprofit organizations indicated that such resources and capabilities are critical to clients seeking employment, and also for those trying to navigate the medical and legal services available to qualified individuals. Displaced and unemployed workers need supportive services to assist them in transitioning to the workplace and to train for careers with increased prospects for employment.
Nonprofit organizations participating in the Forum discussed the higher rate of chronic disease and cancer in our local population. They referred to epidemiological studies that indicate a number of risk factors contributing to this. These risk factors include age, since a significant percentage of the local population is elderly when compared to national statistics. Lifestyle, including poor diet, lack of exercise, and lack of awareness and education are also contributing risk factors. Noting these facts, participants spoke of the need to provide more preventative measures, including screening, early detection, and health education, to address the specific needs and demographic profile of the population. In some cases, linguistic and cultural factors may adversely influence an individual’s choice to seek treatment. Health care providers would benefit from specialized training and education in treating and interacting with specific populations as the demographic profile of the region continues to change.
Mental Health Services

Multiple organizations cited gaps in the delivery of mental and behavioral health services. The number of clients seeking mental health services is reported to be at epidemic proportions and has been exacerbated by the economic downturn. According to participants, counseling and therapy provide preventative and therapeutic support in addressing such prevalent problems as domestic violence, child abuse, criminal behavior and juvenile delinquency, as well as addiction and substance abuse. Certain populations are specifically at greater risk when mental health services are inadequate. These include the elderly, children and adolescents, and individuals with chronic health conditions and disabilities. Access to mental health services are severely limited for residents of rural areas, where greater outreach is needed in the form of mobile or remote delivery of care. Participants agreed that reducing the rate of institutionalization through outpatient mental and behavioral health services consistently remains a more humane and a more cost-effective approach.

Dental Health Services

For individuals lacking dental insurance or for those with limited financial resources, access to dental care constitutes a major issue. There is currently a need for increased dental services for individuals in our region, as only a limited, fragmented range of services are available from a few nonprofit organizations. Many people have made a conscious decision to forego dental care because of limited income and financial burdens. The health consequences can be disastrous, as poor oral health carries serious health risks for affected populations, risks that include heart disease, diabetes, and even cognitive impairment. There are also equally grave economic consequences, as gaps in dental care and poor oral health adversely affect a person’s ability to secure and maintain a job or to advance in the workplace. As the populations most affected include the poor and low-income individuals and families, this issue compounds their inability to maintain economic independence and self-sufficiency.
Nonprofit organizations focused on housing issues in our community discussed the aging housing stock and its impact on the region, with the average age of residential buildings in Lackawanna County being 70 years. The significant elderly population living on fixed incomes are facing challenges in regards to housing, as these residents have restricted access to financing for home repairs. Without the monetary resources to either fix or remain in their homes, neighborhoods and communities struggle with blight and the need for property remediation. Expanded access to financing and loans for building repair and rehabilitation are needed to support weatherization and energy efficiency, as well as to fund new construction.
It is estimated that 25% of homeowners in Lackawanna County are unable to afford their mortgages. Financial counseling and education are critical needs to prevent and reduce the rate of foreclosures, as well as to help at-risk borrowers and tenants.

The shift to rental properties has led to less investment in neighborhoods, and a reduction in the tax base. Additionally, there is an increased need for more safe and affordable renting space, as local residents often experience a significant gap between income and rental costs. For example, participants noted that individuals and families relying on minimum wage jobs must maintain two full-time jobs to support even a modest rental space.

Homelessness is an unfortunate result of shrinking investment in public housing and large-scale affordable rental projects. In turn, rising rates of homelessness have resulted in an increased demand for shelters, transitional housing, permanent housing, and supportive programs and services for the chronically homeless. Open Forum participants discussed the need for a continuum of intensive case management including training in basic life skills, to help transition individuals and families to financial independence.
Workforce development and unemployment was an issue discussed by Open Forum participants. The lack of knowledge and resources on how to conduct an effective job search or prepare for an interview can be a significant barrier for the unemployed. As a result, education and supportive services from human resource professionals are needed. These services include training to assist with resume preparation, interviews, and locating and communicating with prospective employers. Job retention remains a serious issue, as clients need assistance with appropriate workplace etiquette, proper dress codes and appearance, health and wellness, and maintaining a life/work balance. Open Forum participants noted that these issues are particularly critical for women who are the sole providers for their families.
Cuts in workforce investment programs have had an adverse impact on the available services for adult, youth, and dislocated workers. Obtaining a GED, a high school equivalency diploma, remains one of the greatest challenges. Yet a GED remains the starting point for future career preparation and training. In recent years, the number of providers has been reduced to one, and there are limited seats available and lengthy waiting lists to enroll in classes. The cost of taking the GED has also become prohibitive for individuals with limited financial resources who are trying to meet basic needs.

Ultimately, the lack of employment opportunities and the scarcity of jobs carrying benefits and family-sustaining wages remain obstacles for all residents seeing financial stability and independence.
Transportation

Open Forum participants discussed how access to transportation is a major barrier to their ability address the needs and concerns of their client base. In Lackawanna County, there are a growing number of residents who are unable to purchase or maintain an automobile. Participants discussed that existing public transportation remains unaffordable to many, and they indicated that there is an increased need for transit vouchers to help address this problem.
The current transportation system in Lackawanna County presents some barriers to the delivery and accessibility of basic human services. For example, participants indicated that there is limited access to clinics and primary health care providers. Students are unable to attend classes at area institutions of higher education and workforce training centers. The failure to secure and maintain employment is also an issue, particularly when gaps in the transportation system do not meet the needs of workers assigned to atypical shift schedules. The inability to access child care services via transportation systems jeopardizes the capacity of low-income parents to attend school and remain employed.
The arts are an important part of the quality of life in our community. A vibrant arts community supports businesses and tourism necessary for economic revitalization, and it also helps to both attract and retain knowledge workers. First Friday in Scranton has proven to be an effective means of engaging local residents, while raising visibility and public awareness of the importance of the arts and of artistic and cultural programs. First Friday has also been successful in bringing people out into the community to patronize local businesses.
The arts have the power to unify a community, particularly across diverse populations. Arts and cultural programs can bring a community together and promote and enhance dialogue, as people have the opportunity to work together on community projects and to share ideas through a common venue. Participants spoke of the need for the arts to establish a stronger and more meaningful presence, and to engage and connect with the entire community.

Arts and cultural organizations often feel at a distinct disadvantage when “competing” with organizations that address such basic human needs such as hunger and homelessness. During times of severe economic distress, they are particularly sensitive to the fear that their organizations may be viewed as superfluous or a luxury. Representative organizations at the Open Forum made a compelling case for support for arts and cultural programs in reinforcing community identity, history, and pride. By providing recreational activities that attract both residents and outside visitors, these organizations can deliver a significant revenue stream that will help to revitalize distressed neighborhoods and to stimulate economic activity and local commerce.

In terms of specific challenges in our community, participants spoke of the need for increased studio space and galleries, as well as funding to support instruction for residents of all economic backgrounds. Participants also indicated that in many cases, local schools have seen their budgets for the arts severely reduced, and nonprofits often have the responsibility of filling this void.
Representatives from the nonprofit community discussed the importance of the environment to a vibrant community. The issue of conservation was a key topic, particularly in regards to the importance of permanently protecting land and preserving public spaces for recreational use. The need for increased funding to support ongoing care and maintenance of existing trails and parks, as well as to extend their scope and accessibility was also discussed.

The environment’s connection to tourism and economic development was made by participants, as they indicated the importance of programs dedicated to conservation as a part of attracting visitors and tourism, all nessesary components for economic development. More community education is needed to inform residents of the benefits of strong environmental and conservation programs, as well as building partnerships with the private sector. Participants discussed the importance of advocacy to ensure the conservation of our natural resources and the preservation of our history and cultural heritage remain a priority.
The Challenges

There is a general consensus among nonprofits and community leaders that the economy will continue to remain an issue, impacting the community particularly in that many former sources of available funding may never reach their previous levels or be restored. This impacts the long-term viability of individual nonprofit organizations and forces these entities to consider moving away from their role as competitors and instead towards collaborators and partners to both survive and to address unmet needs. Partnerships with organizations outside of their immediate fields of interest should also be considered, in order to maximize their effectiveness. The complexity and scale of problems such as poverty and homelessness will likely require the collective efforts of multiple organizations. In order to reduce fragmented services, funders may seek out and support proposals with a collaborative model to avoid duplication of efforts.

Understandably, budget constraints and limited staff resources of many area nonprofits often preclude these organizations from taking advantage of educational, training, and professional development opportunities that would strengthen their capacity to weather the economic downturn. Strategic planning is a service which many nonprofit organizations have identified as important to their long term goals, yet difficult to afford in limited operational budgets. In some cases, the future sustainability of nonprofit organizations and the essential services they provide are dependent on their access to support in areas such as organizational planning; board leadership and governance; best practices in fundraising and development; and endowment building.
**THE ROLE OF SAF**

**Convener**

In addition to providing critical funding and leadership development to support local nonprofit organizations, the Scranton Area Foundation recognizes the importance of its role as a convener, and the resulting benefits to our community. As a convener, SAF can help both grantees and funders to identify common issues; to prioritize where and how to focus their attention and resources, and most important of all, to build a coalition for collective action, and regional impact. Working together will result in greater collaboration between organizations and in initiation of new partnerships. All groups stand to gain from these relationships. Even more important, the community as a whole benefits when data, resources, and expertise are shared to address common issues.

**Collaborative Grantmaker**

Data gathered through both surveys and programs administered by SAF indicate there is a clear demand for SAF to facilitate a collaborative process of identifying critical community needs and formulating innovative approaches to meeting them. In response to this demand, SAF has revised the annual grant cycle to include a Collaborative Impact Grant. These grants will fund a significant or large-scale project developed and implemented by multiple organizations working collaboratively. During a time of diminished resources and shrinking budgets, collaborative grant opportunities will compel nonprofit organizations to pool their resources and work together, resulting in less duplication and a more efficient alignment of services. This initiative will help to maximize the impact of monetary grant awards administered through SAF, with a more efficient use of funds on the part of grant recipients. In addition, SAF will continue to provide Community Needs Grants to meet the ever-changing needs of our community, and which help individual nonprofits deliver services and programs.
EDUCATOR

As part of our long-range strategic plan, SAF established the Center for Community Leadership & Nonprofit Excellence. This initiative will serve to enhance the leadership and professional development of nonprofit organizations through seminars in Capacity Building, Strategic Planning, Endowment Building, Financial Management, and Leadership Development. These seminars are a component of SAF’S goal to further strengthen and sustain the nonprofit sector of our region. SAF will continue to partner with local individuals and organizations to identify topics of interest and to deliver valuable educational programs, making them available at no charge to nonprofit staff and board leadership, community leaders, and in many cases the public at large. By offering these programs free of charge, SAF intends to help support the future sustainability of organizations and the essential services they provide.
The Scranton Area Foundation is grateful to our community nonprofit organizations for their dedication and commitment to our region, and would like to thank all those individuals and organizations who participated in the two-day Open Forum. The information shared and presented at this community event will assist the Scranton Area Foundation in continuing to distribute impactful grants to our community based on information that both accurately reflects current needs, as well as to fund programs that show demonstrable success in solving problems.

In order to be as inclusive as possible, invitations to participate in the Open Forum were extended to a comprehensive master list of nonprofit organizations. No one was declined the opportunity to participate upon request if they were a 501(c) 3 organization serving the residents of Lackawanna County.
AFA [Artists for Art] Gallery
AFA was founded as a regional visual artists’ organization whose purpose is to promote the appreciation of the visual arts, and to provide support for regional visual artists.
Presenter: Bill Teersteg, Regional Artist

Alzheimer’s Association
Formed in 1980, the Alzheimer’s Association is the world’s leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research.
Presenter: Barbara Wilson, Constituent Events Manager

Baptist Bible College & Seminary
Baptist Bible College & Seminary’s mission is to provide excellence in biblical higher education for effectiveness in global Christian leadership.
Presenter: Melissa Feldman, Executive Assistant to Institutional Advancement

Ben Franklin Technology Partners Northeastern Pennsylvania
Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Northeastern Pennsylvania links early-stage technology firms and established manufacturers with funding, people, technology, universities and other resources to help them prosper.
Presenter: Ken Okrepkie, Regional Manager

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania
The mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.
Presenter: Tricia DiBlasi Thomas, Executive Director

Bread Basket of Northeastern Pennsylvania
The Bread Basket of NEPA Pantry System works in cooperation with area churches and public agencies as a non-perishable food program to provide emergency food supplies to needy families in the area.
Presenter: Sandra Roberts, Executive Director
Catherine McAuley Center
The mission of the Catherine McAuley Center is to directly minister to women and to the economically poor; to provide temporary shelter for women and children in crisis; to assist women to attain safe, affordable, permanent housing; to provide women support services leading to self-reliance; to assist women to attain medical and community resources.
Presenter: Sr. Susan Hadzima, IHM, Director of Programs

Catholic Social Services / St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen
Sponsored by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Scranton, and supported in collaboration with volunteers and donors from all faiths, St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen serves over 225 hot nutritious meals daily to the hungry.
Presenter: Monsignor Joseph Kelly, Diocesan Secretary for Catholic Human Services

Countryside Conservancy
The Countryside Conservancy is dedicated to protecting lands and waters in and near the Tunkhannock Creek Watershed for the public benefit now, and for the future. The Conservancy works in Lackawanna, Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties in northeastern Pennsylvania.
Presenter: Bill Kern, Executive Director

Dress for Success
The mission of Dress for Success Lackawanna is to promote the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support, and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.
Presenter: Mary Ann Iezzi, Executive Director

EOTC-Employment Opportunity & Training Center
EOTC offers a variety of programs that promote family stability and economic self-sufficiency. Programs and services give parents the skills they to nurture their children, ensure that children have the foundation to thrive in school, and enable adults to pursue new careers that enable them to better provide for their families.
Presenter: Sharon McCrone, Executive Director

Everhart Museum
The Everhart Museum seeks to spark the imagination, challenge thought, and provide enjoyment. Through their collections, exhibits, and programs, the Everhart Museum strives to integrate natural history, science, and art into the lives of people.
Presenter: Cara Sutherland, Executive Director
Friends of the Poor
The mission of Friends of the Poor is to ease the burden of living in poverty and enhance the quality of life for all who live in low-to-moderate-income communities.
Presenter: Sr. Ann Walsh, IHM, Director

Friendship House
Friendship House provides quality programs and services designed to enhance the emotional, behavioral and social well-being of children and families in the communities we serve.
Presenter: BethAnn McCartney, Business Development & Community Liaison

Geisinger-Community Medical Center
Geisinger-CMC offers a complete continuum of educational, diagnostic, therapeutic and rehabilitative services and programs while remaining profoundly connected to the community and sincerely committed to the future of healthcare in the region.
Presenter: Barbara Bossi, Assoc. Chief Administrative Officer

Greater Scranton YMCA
The Greater Scranton YMCA provides programs and services dedicated to promote youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. The Y is committed to offering financial assistance to ensure that no one is turned away due to their inability to pay.
Presenter: Dan Albert, [former] CEO

Habitat for Humanity
Habitat for Humanity believes that every man, woman and child should have a decent, safe and affordable place to live. They build and repair houses in Lackawanna County using volunteer labor and donations. Habitat houses are sold to families at no profit and are financed with affordable loans.
Presenter: Ken Quigley

Jewish Family Service of Lackawanna County
Jewish Family Service is a human service organization which reflects the Jewish tradition of caring and compassion for all people in need. Through professional counseling, advocacy and educational programming, their services seek to enhance and strengthen the quality of individual, family and community life.
Presenter: Sheila Nudelman Abdo, Executive Director

THE PATH FORWARD | SAF 23
Johnson College
Johnson College delivers industry-focused learning in a caring environment designed to develop graduates prepared to enter into and advance in their careers. The College serves the surrounding region by providing programs of technical education.
Presenter: Dr. Ann L. Pipinski, President

Keystone College
Keystone College educates students in a liberal arts tradition that values civility, integrity, and curiosity, fostering a global perspective on cultural diversity, environmental sustainability, and life-long learning. Students can prepare for leadership and broaden their educational experiences through athletics, global learning opportunities, an extensive career development center, and a range of student activities.
Presenter: Charlotte Ravaioli, Vice-President for Institutional Advancement

Lackawanna College
Lackawanna College’s mission is to provide a quality education to all persons who seek to improve their lives and better the communities in which they live. The College’s vision is to be the nationally recognized, premiere two-year open-enrollment college of choice.
Presenter: Paul Strunk, Vice President for College Advancement

Lackawanna County Library System
The Lackawanna County Library System operates ten libraries in seven communities throughout the county, as well as a traveling bookmobile. The libraries provide access to research and programs to help the residents of the county learn and thrive.
Presenter: Mary Garm, Library System Administrator

Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority
Lackawanna Heritage Valley National and State Heritage Areas is a partnership of government, business, civic organizations, and individuals dedicated to the development of the region’s historic, cultural, economic, and natural resources through preservation, education, and promotion of our heritage.
Presenter: Natalie Gelb, Executive Director

Lackawanna Pro Bono, Inc.
Lackawanna Pro Bono provides lawyers free of charge to clients in need who make 125% or less of federal poverty guidelines and reside in Lackawanna County. Lawyers volunteer their services in civil cases ranging from landlord/tenant disputes to protection-from-abuse orders.
Presenter: Sylvia Hahn, Executive Director
Lackawanna River Corridor Association
The Lackawanna River Corridor Association (LRCA) was created by local citizens in 1987 to promote the restoration and conservation of the Lackawanna River and its watershed resources in Northeastern Pennsylvania.
Presenter: Bernard McGurl, Executive Director

Marley’s Mission
Marley’s Mission is a non-profit organization that provides equine-based therapy free of charge to children and their families who have experienced trauma. Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) has shown evidenced-based efficacy in patients who have experience abuse and now suffer with depression, anxiety and other symptoms as a result of abuse.
Presenter: Rebecca Haggerty, Vice-President, Board of Directors

Marywood University
Marywood University, sponsored by the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, roots itself in the Catholic intellectual tradition, the principle of justice, and the belief that education empowers people. The University integrates an enduring liberal arts tradition and professional disciplines to create a comprehensive learning experience.
Presenter: Luciana Herman, Corporate/Foundation Relations

Meals on Wheels of Northeastern PA
Founded in 1969, Meals on Wheels of Northeastern PA, was one of the original agencies funded under the Older American Acts to provide nutritional services to homebound older persons. The agency has developed to become the major provider of nutritional services to the elderly and disabled population of Lackawanna County, serving approximately 800 meals per day.
Presenter: Linda Steier, Vice President

NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania
The mission of NeighborWorks Northeastern PA is to increase the financial stability of families and individuals by providing programs and services that create and preserve responsible homeownership and affordable housing.
Presenter: Jesse Ergott, President & CEO
Northeastern PA Philharmonic
The mission of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic is to present live symphonic performances and music education at the highest level of artistic excellence, enriching and engaging the people of our region.
Presenter: Patricia Arvonio, Director of Administration

Northeast Regional Cancer Institute [NRCI]
The Northeast Regional Cancer Institute is a local, non-profit organization working to ease the burden of cancer in Northeastern Pennsylvania. NRCI focuses on community and patient services, hospital and practice support services, and cancer surveillance.
Presenter: Laura Toole, Director of Community & Patient Services

Path to Change
PA Treatment & Healing is a private nonprofit provider of licensed treatment for high risk youth and their families. Their unique treatment approaches have been nationally recognized as a model treatment program in dealing with delinquency prevention and intervention.
Presenter: Andrea Brancati, Program Manager

Scranton Cultural Center
The mission of the Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple is to rejuvenate a national architectural treasure as a regional center for the arts, education and community activities appealing to all.
Presenter: Michael Melcher, Executive Director

Scranton Lackawanna Human Development Agency [SLHDA]
The Scranton-Lackawanna Human Development Agency (SLHDA), Inc. supports its mission to coordinate and mobilize both human and financial resources for the economically challenged citizens of Lackawanna County in the areas of education, health and welfare, child care, employment and training, and in other human resources and activities in a concerted and continued attack against poverty and its effects.
Presenter: Sam Ceccacci, Executive Director

Scranton Primary Health Care Center
The mission of Scranton Primary Health Care Center is to provide quality primary health care to the poor at reasonable cost to the community. The Center has grown over the past 35 years to provide services in internal medicine, pediatrics, gynecology, a prenatal clinic, and social services, including an outreach to the area’s homeless population.
Presenter: Mary Lucille Czyzyk, [former] Executive Director
Scranton Shakespeare Festival
It is the mission of the Scranton Shakespeare Festival to give the Northeastern Pennsylvania community and the surrounding area a profound understanding of Shakespeare’s work through innovative performances in professional productions. The organization’s goal is to bring accessible, free-of-charge, open air theatre to diverse audiences.
Presenter: Rosey Hay, Director

Scranton Tomorrow
Scranton Tomorrow is committed to the economic, recreational, cultural and collective improvement of the Greater Scranton Area. The organization informs and engages local residents in a way that results in an improved quality of life for all, while establishing Scranton as Northeastern Pennsylvania’s premier urban center.
Presenter: Leslie Collins, President

St. Joseph’s Center
A sponsored mission of the Congregation of Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Joseph’s Center strives to be a sign of hope to individuals and families who have special needs. Today, individuals diagnosed with Intellectual Disability or a developmental delay, pregnant women, young families, couples hoping to adopt, and people who require outpatient therapy can find help at St. Joseph’s Center.
Presenter: Sr. Maryalice Jacquinot, IHM, Executive Director

The Arc of NEPA
The Arc is dedicated to securing for each individual with intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to realize personal dreams through choice in how one lives, learns, works and enjoys life. The Arc is further committed to reducing the incidence of intellectual and developmental disabilities through research, education and advocacy.
Presenter: Don Broderick, Executive Director

The Commonwealth Medical College
The Commonwealth Medical College educates aspiring physicians and scientists to serve society using a community-based, patient-centered, interprofessional and evidence-based model of education that is committed to inclusion, promotes discovery and utilizes innovative techniques.
Presenter: Dr. Steven Scheinman, President and Dean
The Scranton School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children
An active partner and resource for the community, The Scranton School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children prepares each deaf and hard of hearing student for all aspects of life through a continuum of high-quality, individualized education and extracurricular programs.
Presenter: Jon Konzelman, Assistant to the Principal

The Wright Center
The mission of The Wright Center is to continuously improve education and patient care in a collaborative spirit to enhance outcomes, access, and affordability.
Presenter: Brian Ebersole, Senior Vice President for Mission Delivery

United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern PA
The mission of United Neighborhood Centers is to work together with neighbors to provide services and create opportunities which empower individuals and build strong interdependent communities.
Presenter: Michael Hanley, Executive Director

United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties
The mission of the United Way is to improve the quality of life of the people of Lackawanna County and surrounding communities by serving as a catalyst for community problem solving and by conducting an efficient, encompassing, volunteer fundraising effort to positively impact the community’s most compelling social problems.
Presenter: Gary Drapek, President & CEO

The University of Scranton
The University of Scranton is a Catholic and Jesuit University animated by the spiritual vision and the tradition of excellence characteristic of the Society of Jesus and those who share its way of proceeding. The University is a community dedicated to the freedom of inquiry and personal development fundamental to the growth in wisdom and integrity of all who share its life.
Presenter: Julie Schumacher Cohen, Director of Government and Community Relations

Voluntary Action Center
Dedicated to the concept of people helping people, VAC provides services to individuals and organizations in the areas of volunteerism, information and referral, and prevention.
Presenter: Deborah Peterson, Executive Director
Women’s Resource Center
The Women’s Resource Center provides comprehensive services for female and male victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking in Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties. The mission of the organization is to end domestic and sexual violence through advocacy, education and social change.
Presenter: Margaret Ruddy, Executive Director

Additional Presenter on Community Issues: Sondra Myers
Sondra Myers is the Senior Fellow for International, Civic and Cultural Projects at the University of Scranton and Director of its Schemel Forum, a not-for-credit continuing education for enrichment program.

GIVING BACK THROUGH SAF

For the past 60 years, the Scranton Area Foundation has worked closely with individuals, businesses, and nonprofit organizations that care deeply about their community and who would like to make a lasting difference through philanthropy. In the world of charitable giving, SAF continues to serve as a highly trusted community resource, offering a wide range of fund offerings and gift options.

Whether you choose to make a one-time gift, establish a fund, or include the Scranton Area Foundation in your will or other form of planned giving, SAF can help you fulfill your charitable goals and make a lasting difference in your community for many years to come.

WAYS TO GIVE THROUGH SAF

Community Needs Fund
Donors who give to the Community Needs Fund allow SAF to meet and respond to our communities most critical and changing needs, like those discussed in the Open Forum. The Community Needs Fund is the Unrestricted Endowment of the Foundation. It is gifts to the Community Needs Fund which allow the Scranton Area Foundation to have the flexibility to direct grants based on a professional assessment of our changing community.
Jeanne Bovard Administrative Endowment Fund
This fund was established in September 2012 to honor the legacy of Jeanne Bovard, the former Executive Director of SAF who served the Foundation and the community for 25 years. The fund is used to support the long-term sustainability and work of SAF, enabling our community foundation to continue serving, supporting, and providing funding for non-profit organizations, programs, and projects which enhance the quality of life for people in Lackawanna County.

Establish a fund through SAF
When you decide to establish a fund through The Scranton Area Foundation, we will match your gift. The Scranton Area Foundation is committed to serving as a partner in continuing to improve our community.

Donor Advised Funds
Allow you to make an outright gift to SAF and provide you with the opportunity and flexibility to make recommendations for grants from your fund. Since SAF administers your fund, you are assured of its permanence and the continuity of your legacy.

Donor Designated Funds
Are funds whereby the donor selects a specific recipient organization or organization(s) they wish to support.

Field of Interest funds
Allow a donor to designate a special area of interest or issues such as the arts, education, healthcare, or the environment to which grants may be made from this fund.

Organizational Endowments
Help a nonprofit organization build sustainability into their organization for the long-term. This type of fund is established when a nonprofit organization agrees to transfer all, or part, of its endowment to a designated fund within SAF, or to begin to build an endowment for their organization through SAF.

Scholarships
SAF manages numerous Scholarship Funds that benefit a variety of students, educational institutions, and fields of study. Each scholarship is unique and is designed to fulfill the philanthropic aspirations of the original donor.
Memorial Funds
Any of the funds named can be created as a Memorial Fund to honor the legacy of someone of special significance to you. Establishing a Memorial Fund is a simple option to direct gifts or donations from friends or family members into a fund that supports a cause that was important to a loved one.

Planned Gifts
Planned giving allows donors to have an enduring legacy beyond the scope of their own lifetime. If you would like to defer your gifts by including the Scranton Area Foundation in your will or estate plans, or through other types of life income and planned gifts, SAF can work with you or your advisor to ensure that your charitable gift makes a permanent contribution to your community.

For more information on how the Scranton Area Foundation can partner with you in supporting and serving the community we love, please contact us at 570-347-6203, ext. 302, or at safinfo@safdn.org. We invite you to learn more by visiting our website at www.safdn.org.

GET INVOLVED

Volunteer
Nonprofit organizations throughout our community depend on countless hours of service of generous volunteers. Please take a moment to reflect on the causes that you are passionate about and would like to support by donating your time and your talents. The experience of volunteering can be life-changing for both you and those you help.

Participate
One of the most important lessons of the Scranton Area Foundation Open Forum is the power of community engagement. When people come together to exchange ideas, they feel invested in their communities and empowered to bring about change. You can be an active participant in this process by attending community meetings, public hearings, and special events, and by lending your voice, your insight, and your ideas.
OFFICERS
Kathleen Graff, Chairman
David Hawk, Vice Chairman
John P. Kearney, Treasurer
William J. Calpin, Jr., Secretary

MEMBERS
Rosemary Broderick
Ida Castro
James F. Clemente, CPA, MT
James J. Gillotti, Esq.
Matthew E. Haggerty, Esq.
Cathy Ann Hardaway
Alan F. Hughes
Paula Mackarey
Ann Lavelle Powell, Esq.
Maryla Scranton
Mary Ann Sorokanich
Jack Tighe
Cynthia A. Yevich

SAF STAFF
Laura Ducceschi, MBA, MA
President / CEO

Eileen G. Crimi
Finance Manager

Cathy Fitzpatrick
Grants Administrator

PUBLICATION DESIGN
Laura Drapek
SAF Intern

© Copyright 2014 The Scranton Area Foundation