

THE PENNRIDGE COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND



HOW SEVEN PENNRIDGE NONPROFITS DEALT WITH THE COVID-19 CRISIS

It has been a year since our Pennridge community of more than 50,000 residents faced the Covid-19 crisis. Our smaller local charitable non-profits have provided valuable support and services since last March, from making sure people get meals to helping others cope with everyday problems.

During the past few months, the Pennridge Community Recovery Fund spoke online and in person with seven of these groups, who've agree to share their stories of life during Covid-19 publicly.

These stories are inspiring, honest and heart-felt.

Please consider supporting these groups in the best way you can, from volunteering to offering financial support. Even a brief email or online message to them of support and thanks could **make someone's day.**

One of the greatest gifts a person can give another is *support.*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Between Friends Outreach**2
- Ivy Hill Therapeutic Equestrian Center**.....3
- Last Chance Ranch**4
- Pennridge Community Center**..5
- Pennridge Community Education Foundation**.....6
- Penn Foundation, Inc.**7
- RamPacks**8

SUPPORT OUR MISSION

The **Pennridge Community Recovery Fund** is a non-profit 501(c)3 helping charitable groups that provide food security, health care support, shelter, public safety, counseling, and social services in the Pennridge area.

Direct support of the Fund goes to efforts to raise awareness of these charities, for issuing microgrants to local non-profits, and to provide services as needed to groups asking for our help.

All donations go back into the Pennridge community in the form of services provided or microgrants. **Our first grant program benefitted local firefighters.**

You can support the Fund by going to www.pennridgefund.org and making an online donation. Just click the Donate tab or use the QR code below. Or send a check to:

PENNRIDGE COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND

Box 96

620 West Chestnut Street
Perkasie, PA 18944



*On behalf of the Fund's board, Scott Bomboy, President,
scott@pennridgefund.org*

“We have still shown our clients we are here to make a difference when they need it the most.”

Tara Stoop

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Between Friends Outreach accepts support on its website, including PayPal and Venmo donations, along with volunteer applications.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Tara Stoop

Between Friends Outreach
100 Mechanics Street
Doylestown, Pa 18901

267-424-2161

www.bfoutreach.net

BETWEEN FRIENDS OUTREACH



Between Friends Outreach, Inc. (BFO) is a volunteer non-profit dedicated to helping the veterans, domestic violence victims, the homeless and low-income residents in Central & Upper Bucks County and Montgomery County.

In What Ways Has the Covid-19 Situation Affected Your Group Negatively?

Covid-19 has negatively affected BFO by a drastic decrease in donations along with all fundraisers being canceled. At the same time all supply costs increased. We experienced a huge spike in clients and their needs and a total loss of volunteers.

In What Ways Has the Situation Affected Your Group Positively?

We still manage to field over 1,500 calls a month, we have still seen a client within 24 hours in person, we have delivered thousands of meals, countless deliveries of groceries, still found beds and resources. We have still shown our clients we are here to make a difference when they need it the most. We hear over and over we are the first person to actually answer our phone.

Has the Covid-19 Situation Affected Your Financial Support?

Covid-19 has brought our fundraising to a complete halt. We have learned that we do not qualify for any grants or Covid relief due to the fact we do not have any paid employees. We will remain 100% volunteer - we all have a story. We are here because we want to help make a difference.

What Story Will You Tell When This Is All Over?

Covid has absolutely brought out the best and worst in everyone. This has been a time to adjust, learn to value each other and realize everything can change in a heartbeat. We have delivered groceries/ meals to so many smiles behind a glass door. So many tearful eyes just saying “thank you!” People that never thought they could end up in this position are now clients. We will be thankful for those we were able to assist during this pandemic, some in small ways some in life changing ways before we had to move on to the next.

Do You Have A Message for the Community?

We love what we do. We get to make a difference each and every day! For more information, please visit our website at <http://bfoutreach.net>

IVY HILL THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN CENTER



Ivy Hill Therapeutic Equestrian Center creates therapeutic riding programs for individuals with cognitive, physical, emotional, behavioral, and psychological needs utilizing the equine experience.

In What Ways Has the Covid-19 Situation Affected Your Group Negatively?

With the mandated closure, Ivy Hill lost all of its sources of revenue. Deemed non-essential, we couldn't hold lessons and had to cancel several in-person fundraising events. Initially, we feared that the benefits lost that riding provides for our clients with their physical and emotional well-being was going to be a huge set back in their progress. Not being open left many in our Ivy Hill family feeling depressed because they were removed from the people and animals they had learned to count on.

In What Ways Has the Situation Affected Your Group Positively?

During the initial closure, staff and volunteers rallied to offer help with keeping the horses and barn clean and healthy. Once we returned, everyone went out of their way to make sure new protocols were enforced/adhered to. Families were thankful for us being open as some said we were their child's ONLY recreational activity. Having an enforced closure reminded us all of how vital we are socially, emotionally and physically for each other as well as with those we serve.

Has the Covid-19 Situation Affected Your Fundraising or Financial Support?

Thankfully, during the last 8 ½ months of 2020, our supporters came out in droves. We had one donor who helped cover our horse care for two months. Since we could not have our Kentucky Derby party, we held #WHYiIVY, a virtual race. We also got generous support from Foundations Community Partnership; the Rite Aid KidCents program, and the Wawa Foundation. These donations and special purpose grants allowed Ivy Hill to open up with full staffing and our equine partners well cared for.

What Story Will You Tell When This Is All Over?

We are located in a small community. Our Ivy Hill family is an even smaller community within that, and people opened their hearts to their neighbors like never before. Our staff and friends volunteered to care for our horses. Because we did all this together these acts of generosity and kindness are now a part of our history.

Do You Have A Message for the Community?

At Ivy Hill, our motto is Horses + Love = Hope. After navigating through the pandemic, we would amend that to say, People + Horses + Love = Hope. To our staff, volunteers, community members and leaders we are forever grateful.

"Families were thankful and tearful for us being open as some said we were their child's only recreational activity."

Laura Brockett-Strausser

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can sponsor a horse or riding lessons and take part in matching gift programs. Information is at <https://www.ivyhillquestrian.org>.

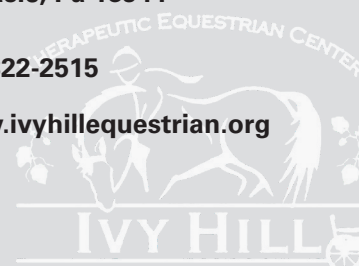
CONTACT INFORMATION

Laura Brockett-Strausser

Ivy Hill Therapeutic
Equestrian Center
1811 Mill Road
Perkasie, Pa 18944

215-822-2515

www.ivyhillquestrian.org



“It is such a great feeling walking around the Pennridge Community and being able to interact with animals adopted from our facility.”

Jackie Burke

LAST CHANCE RANCH



Last Chance Ranch (LCR) rescues and rehabilitates equines, farm, and domestic companion animals. We are dedicated to promoting and educating the public to humane and responsible treatment of equines, farm animals and other domestic companion animals including dogs and cats. LCR provides a safe and secure refuge for abused, unwanted or neglected animals.

In What Ways Has the Covid-19 Situation Affected Your Group Negatively?

Covid-19 has significantly impacted our organization's ability to raise much needed funds for the animals. With most major fundraising events cancelled or postponed, our thrift store and programs closed for three months, we lost fundraising revenue between \$60,000-\$90,000 during 2020.

In What Ways Has the Situation Affected Your Group Positively?

As an animal rescue, we have seen a huge increase in adoptions since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic. In the year 2020, we placed 1,000 animals. We feel confident we'll place more than 1,000 animals this year.

Has the Covid-19 Situation Affected Your Fundraising or Financial Support?

We cancelled the majority of our in-person fundraisers; however, we held online fundraising events when possible and they helped tremendously. We did see an upswing in monetary donations when holding special fundraisers. We were able to get a few emergency grants to help cover the deficits created.

What Story Will You Tell When This Is All Over?

We never knew the impact a pandemic would have on our organization. Essential worker became a new way of life and our staff continued to fight our battle against animal cruelty while under an immense amount of pressure for their own well-being. Fortunately, our staff was able to rise above the Pandemic, rescue more animals than we did during the prior year and successfully heal broken spirits. Our animal intake slowed down in March and April, when we were facing an uncertain fate, but once adopters started to flock to our organization, we knew it was time to return in full force. Pivot and Adapt, conducting safe adoption appointments, social distancing and adapting to new means of fundraising online. Our team was able to successfully adapt to the ever-changing environment to continue our mission.

Do You Have A Message for the Community?

It is such a great feeling walking around a neighborhood in the Pennridge Community and being able to interact with animals adopted from our facility.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can adopt an animal, volunteer, and also donate to support Last Chance Ranch on its website at <https://www.lastchanceranch.org/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jackie Burke

Last Chance Ranch
9 Beck Road
Quakertown, PA 18951

215-538-2510

www.lastchanceranch.org

PENNRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER



We provide information and resources and activities in such areas as education, entertainment, and nutrition, health, and travel. Our customers are adults 55+ in the broad community of Pennridge School District, as well as community businesses and groups that support our goals.

In What Ways Has the Covid-19 Situation Affected Your Group Negatively?

The Seniors looked forward to coming to the Center to socialize. They are living in isolation and fear. We call many of them weekly. Our Center is there for them. They can call us anytime. But they need more.

In What Ways Has the Situation Affected Your Group Positively?

Like many, in an effort to continue moving forward, we currently hold our meetings via Zoom. We have a couple of team members who consider themselves 'fossils' when it comes to technology. These fossils, as they call themselves, were uncertain how meeting via Zoom was going to work and feared they would not be able to manage using the technology on their computer. Further solidifying the rock stars they are, they managed seamlessly!

Being unable to operate as we have in the past 13 years has forced us as an organization to 'dig deep' and look for other ways to add value to the district. We are in the planning stages of launching a social media campaign honoring the heroes of the district...stay tuned!

Has the Covid-19 Situation Affected Your Financial Support?

Prior to our Center closing on March 16, 2020, we had many events planned. These events helped pay our bills. We applied for many grants and were denied. We did receive The Cares Act Fund Grant. That grant only gave us money for COVID-19 related items. We received no Loss of Revenue or Operational Expenses. 90% of the funds needed to operate our Center are raised in the Community.

What Story Will You Tell When This Is All Over?

By working together and staying strong we can get through anything.

Do You Have A Parting Message for the Community?

We need funding to be able to maintain the only opportunity that many of our Seniors have to get out of their homes and spend time with others.

"We need funding to be able to maintain the only opportunity that many of our Seniors have to get out of their homes."

Peggy Lewis

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can volunteer at the Center and support it in several ways. Contact the Center below for more information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Peggy Lewis

Penridge Community Center
146 East Main Street
Perkasie, PA 18944-5421

215-453-7027

www.pennridgecenter.org

“The inability to raise money greatly impacts the funds available for Classroom Innovation Grants we offer to teachers in the district.”

Becky Schlotter

HOW YOU CAN HELP

PCEF welcomes involvement from the community at any level. Please contact us by email if you would like to get involved. If you cannot volunteer but would like to help, send your tax-deductible donation to the address below.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Becky Schlotter

**Penridge Community
Education Foundation**

**PO Box 397
Perkasie, PA 18944**

Becky.Schlotter@gmail.com

www.thepcef.org

PENNRIDGE COMMUNITY EDUCATION FOUNDATION



**PENNRIDGE
COMMUNITY
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**

PCEF is dedicated to enhancing the academic, health and wellness, and extracurricular programs offered by the Penridge School District to students. With a coalition formed with local leaders, the foundation provides resources that enrich teaching, inspire learning and encourage innovation.

In What Ways Has the Covid-19 Situation Affected Your Group Negatively?

Since Spring 2011, PCEF has held ‘A Lovely Evening’ at Sellersville Theatre, our main fundraiser. Due to the pandemic, we were unable to do it in 2020. We are faced with not being able to host the event again this year. Sadly, the inability to raise money greatly impacts the funds available for Classroom Innovation Grants we offer to teachers in the district.

In What Ways Has the Situation Affected Your Group Positively?

Meeting monthly via Zoom has provided the team with the feeling of togetherness, much needed humor, feeling hopeful, the need to be creative and the ability to take small steps towards moving forward!

Has the Covid-19 Situation Affected Your Financial Support?

The pandemic has negatively impacted our fundraising efforts. We were unable to host A Lovely Evening in 2020 and are faced with not being able to host it again this year. A couple of years ago, with the support of the district, we launched a Graduation Raffle Fundraiser. Winners were awarded priority seating and parking as well as a concession voucher at Stabler Arena. With graduation taking a different direction last year due to the pandemic, we were unable to sponsor the raffle.

Our loss in funds greatly impacts our ability to offer Innovation Classroom Grants to the teachers in Penridge School District.

What Story Will You Tell When This Is All Over?

At a time where there has been much to feel uncertain about, PCEF has continued to stay positive, move forward and be hopeful about the future.

Do You Have A Message for the Community?

Find the positive and let that guide your way.

PENN FOUNDATION, INC.



PENN
FOUNDATION
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
SERVICES

The Penn Foundation's mission is to instill hope, inspire change, and build community. We have been serving the community for 65 years.

In What Ways Has the Covid-19 Situation Affected Your Group Negatively?

Penn Foundation's challenges have been lost revenue and increased expenses due to the extra safety measures put in place to re-open. The costs of additional cleanings, PPE equipment, reconfiguring of office space, and COVID testing also affects us.

In What Ways Has the Situation Affected Your Group Positively?

We have learned a lot about connecting in new ways with clients. We have gained a deeper understanding of those we serve, who on a regular basis face the fear and anxiety that became familiar to many of us. We have worked to reduce the stigma that still surrounds mental health by educating and supporting our community as it struggled to cope with new realities.

Has the Covid-19 Situation Affected Your Financial Support?

Penn Foundation has continued to be the beneficiary of strong community support despite COVID. Donors responded to our call with overwhelming support. We also were the recipient of in-kind donations. Furthermore, many regional organizations established COVID relief funds and programs to help the most vulnerable in our community.

What Story Will You Tell When This Is All Over?

A story of hope, resilience, and incredible support from our clients, our community, our partners, and our staff! Additionally, we are incredibly grateful for the generosity of our caring community.

Do You Have A Message for the Community?

Penn Foundation joined the St. Luke's University Healthcare Network on March 1, 2021. Without this partnership, the impact of COVID on our future would look quite different.

"We have gained a deeper understanding of those we serve, who on a regular basis face the fear and anxiety that became familiar to many of us."

Jennifer Smith

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Penn Foundation has various sponsorship and donation programs on its website at www.pennfoundation.org, including planned giving.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jennifer Smith

Penn Foundation
P.O. Box 32
Sellersville, PA 18960

215-257-6551

www.pennfoundation.org

65
YEARS

RAMPACKS



The mission of RamPacks is to provide food on weekends and school holidays to children experiencing food insecurity in the Penridge School District so they are able to come to school ready to learn.

In What Ways Has the Covid-19 Situation Affected Your Group Negatively?

In the beginning we lost most of our volunteers because most are seniors and did not feel safe going out of their homes to shop, pack the bags or deliver the bags. Starting this fall, we had to revise the way we get the food to the children due to strict school COVID rules as well as students learning in so many different ways. Our original plan to deliver bags to schools every Friday morning was not able to happen until the district agreed on how it could be done safely. So now some bags are delivered directly to homes, and some are delivered to schools.

In What Ways Has the Situation Affected Your Group Positively?

Penridge School District has been giving free food to EVERYONE in the district which has helped with some families who may be new to the situation of food insecurity due to COVID unemployment. Our mission has remained the same and our numbers that we serve have increased as we have expanded to all of the elementary schools. Also, we began working closely with the Penridge Food Service Director, and we even started purchasing some of our food through their vendors which has helped us as we do not have to send volunteers out shopping.

Has the Covid-19 Situation Affected Your Fundraising or Financial Support?

It is hard for us to say since we only started last year, but we are receiving enough donations to supply the number of children we serve each week. It put a halt to our fundraising so we are relying on churches and personal donors only.

What Story Will You Tell When This Is All Over?

People have become much more aware of food insecurity during this isolating time and we have gotten many offers from caring people and churches to help with RamPacks, both financially and in volunteering safely. We were prepared to go out and “sell” our mission in the community and work to raise funds in our second year. However, we have been very successful despite our low profile.

Do You Have A Message for the Community?

Thank you, Penridge Community!

“We had to revise the way we get the food to the children due to strict school COVID rules as well as students learning in so many different ways.”

Donna Huff

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can become a corporate sponsor, or make a single or recurring donation at the RamPacks website.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Donna Huff

RamPacks
104 Green Street
Sellersville, PA 18960

rampacks2019@gmail.com

www.rampacks.com