



Phoenixville Community  
Education Foundation

taking education to new heights

# 2017

Annual Report

[www.PCEFonline.com](http://www.PCEFonline.com)

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## Celebrating 15 years of giving back

In 2017 PCEF celebrated its 15th Anniversary! This is a milestone that could not have been achieved without the on-going support of our many advocates, donors, and volunteers. Fifteen years ago, our founders had a vision of supporting Phoenixville students in and out of the classroom by offering some small scholarships and mini-grants. Today we have programs in every PASD building affecting every grade, from pre-K through 12th.

In the past 15 years, over \$200,000 has been donated to support literacy programs. We have delivered over 5,700 fully-stocked backpacks to students in need. More than 400 students are learning stringed instruments. And over 12,000 students have benefitted from Teacher Mini-Grants. In all, you have helped us deliver over **\$2.5 million** of support to education in Phoenixville.

In our most recent fiscal year, we increased the amount and number of college scholarships we award, expanded our Phantom Food Packs program, and increased our teacher mini-grant dollar amount. We could do this because our friends supported our annual Phantom Fundraiser, they donated to our annual Pack a Backpack school supply drive, and they made generous gifts of time and resources throughout the year.

Our mission is to secure and provide resources that enhance the overall educational experience within the Phoenixville Area School District, including learning initiatives, preparedness programs and out of the classroom activities.



*Joan Cadigan  
Executive Director*

# ...and it's thanks to you.

PCEF has a committed and vibrant Board of Trustees devoted to our vision of helping each child realize his or her fullest potential, and we enjoy a beneficial partnership with the Phoenixville Area School District.

Together with you, our generous friends, we feed hungry children every weekend, we provide the funding to teach kids to read, we send our best and brightest to national and international academic and extracurricular competitions. Students have the opportunity to play string instruments, feel safe at school with bully prevention programs, take multiple AP exams that they otherwise wouldn't be able to afford. We even provide funding to kids whose parents might not have the money to send their young child on a field trip with the rest of their class. In our Destinations with Directions program, students who may not see college in their future are motivated to pursue higher education.

Without PCEF, NONE of this would happen. In an era when funding is low and schools across the country are cutting programs, here in Phoenixville, PASD is able to introduce NEW programs because of you and PCEF!

Below is just a sample of what you did in 2016-2017.



## BOOK-IN-BAG PROGRAM

THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES READING-LEVEL APPROPRIATE BOOKS FOR ALL KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS TO TAKE HOME AND READ EACH NIGHT. THIS HELPS THEM PRACTICE THEIR LITERACY SKILLS AND MOTIVATES THEM TO BECOME AVID READERS.



**"SHARING HOW I USE MAGAZINES IN A CLASSROOM WITH FRIENDS...  
...I FELT LIKE A TEACHER!"**

**- STUDENT RECIPIENT OF NEW BOOKS & MAGAZINES**

## Our programs reach all age groups and academic levels

### PRINCIPAL GRANTS

Designed to help fund special learning opportunities and creative assemblies throughout the year.

### TEACHER MINI-GRANTS

Funding open to all PASD teachers offering new and innovative learning initiatives in their classrooms.

### STUDENT MINI-GRANTS

Provide PASD students access to grant dollars for educational opportunities offered outside of their schools.

### AP TESTING FEES/SAT PREP

Gives students with financial needs the opportunity to apply for assistance in paying for Advanced Placement testing.

## PA JR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE COMPETITION

Supports students who compete in this state-wide science competition and travel to Penn State University to present their projects.

## ACTIVITIES ACCESS

Helps kids participate in extracurricular activities that cost more than they or their families can afford.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships offered to graduating seniors attending a post-secondary institution, college, or university in any field of study.

## MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Provide funds for Model U.N. - an educational simulation and academic competition where students learn about diplomacy, international relations, and the United Nations.

## YOUTH & PHILANTHROPY AT PAMS AND PAHS

Grant-funded program where participants learn about local nonprofits in their community and see first-hand the impact these organizations have on the people they serve.

## “NOT BY MYSELF” SCHOLARSHIP



SCHOLARSHIP  
BENEFACTORS WITH  
2017 RECIPIENT

“I am grateful to have grown up in this caring community that has foundations and organizations, like PCEF, to provide deserving students the opportunity to continue their future successes.”

--a 2017 PCEF  
scholarship recipient

PCEF WAS PROUD TO  
PARTNER WITH CLASS  
OF 1967 PASD ALUMNI,  
TOM PERAMBO, BILL  
WILLIAMS, AND ANDRE  
THORNTON, TO CREATE THE NEW  
NOT BY MYSELF SCHOLARSHIP. THE SCHOLARSHIP  
WAS BESTOWED UPON A DESERVING SENIOR WHO  
EXEMPLIFIES STRONG ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND A  
SENSE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE.

### **SUMMER BRIDGES TRANSITION**

Summer Bridges is a four-week program to help selected 9th graders make a smooth transition from middle school to high school, both academically and socially.

### **OLWEUS BULLYING PREVENTION PROGRAM**

Olweus is a school-wide program at PAMS that has been proven to reduce bullying throughout the school setting.

### **PAPA S.A.F.E. PROGRAM**

PCEF provides funding to the Summer Academics For Enrichment program for its Friday field trips.

### **PACK A BACKPACK**

This program provides over 500 fully-stocked backpacks each year to economically-disadvantaged students in pre-K through high school

### **DESTINATIONS WITH DIRECTION (DWD)**

DWD motivates selected high-school students to pursue opportunities in higher education. They are often the first in their family to go to college.

### **PHANTOM FOODPACKS**

**FOR OUR YOUNGEST STUDENTS, IN JUST THE LAST TWO YEARS, PCEF HAS PROVIDED 3600 WEEKEND MEALS TO HUNGRY CHILDREN. THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES NUTRITIOUS FOOD TO STUDENTS WHO OFTEN GO HOME TO EMPTY CUPBOARDS.**

**“WE ARE GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE SUCH A GIFT... NOTHING WENT TO WASTE!”**

**- PARENT OF A PHANTOM FOODPACK RECIPIENT**



# Building a legacy for the next generation

## PCEF FOUNDERS

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Joseph Little	Keith Wickstrom
Erin MacArthur	Kenneth Winston

This year we launched a legacy giving program and created our Builders' Circle, which recognizes donors who have contributed \$1,000 or more during our fiscal year. We introduced these initiatives at our 15th Anniversary Celebration Event while honoring our Founding Members.



When PCEF's Founders started this journey 15 years ago, they had a mission and a vision that we are honored to continue to build.

**THE IMPACT THAT PCEF and all of our amazing supporters have had on the Phoenixville community IS TRULY INSPIRING.**



# it takes collaboration to make it work

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2016-2017 SUPPORTERS

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Phoenixville Area School District  
Phoenixville Community Health Foundation  
Phoenixville Federal Bank & Trust

### GRANT & CORPORATE CONTRIBUTORS

Betsy Barron Fine Art Photography  
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The Leo and Peggy Pierce Foundation  
The Vanguard Group Foundation  
The Wawa Foundation

Vollers Company  
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BB&T Bank  
First Resource Bank  
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SEI Investments Company  
Verizon

### 2017 CORPORATE SPONSORS

Dialysis PPO Cost Containment  
Eagle Wolfington Leasing Corporation  
Innovative Dentistry of Valley Forge  
Law Offices of McDonnell & Associates  
Magic Memories Child  
Development Center  
Phoenixville Federal Bank & Trust  
Phoenixville Hospital  
Phoenixville Jaycees Foundation  
The Party Center/Total Rental  
Valley Forge Eye Care  
Whitsons School Nutrition

### BUILDERS' CIRCLE

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