

ENGAGE







Centre Foundation recently celebrated its 40th anniversary and we paid homage to our humble beginnings. Now, we are turning the page and looking ahead to the next 40 years of Centre Foundation and Centre County.

Our future-focused vision includes a commitment to increasing opportunities for everyone who calls Centre County home. An important part of this commitment is looking inward and reflecting on our own practices and policies. To that end, the Foundation is taking active steps to prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within our strategic plan so your generosity will create a positive impact for all members of our community.

Additionally, we welcomed new board members Madhuri Desai, Cristin Long, and Ellen Matis who bring new perspectives to Centre Foundation.

Every year as we look back on the year before, we are reminded that YOU are the driving force behind the impact we have created together. We are inspired by how you continuously join us in our mission to create a more vibrant community and Centre County every day.

As you read the following stories about the generosity of our community and the differences made by local nonprofits, you will feel the direct impact that your philanthropy has on the future of Centre County. You will witness how one person can make a difference that will last a lifetime. Join us as we embark on our journey through the next 40 years (and beyond).🌱


Madhuri Desai, a new addition to the Centre Foundation board, is ready to inspire and drive impact.

Leaving More Than a Gift

Ed and Charlene Friedman Provide Hope



The future of philanthropy is bright with visionaries like Charlene Friedman leading the way.



Charlene Friedman, and her late husband, Ed, are second-generation philanthropists with a strong history of giving back. Like Ed’s parents, Sid and Helen, Charlene and Ed had strong ties to the Centre County community and to supporting those who live here.

Their commitment to helping others inspired them to leave a gift with Centre Foundation that will help people survive and rise above poverty.

“We thought, what could we do to address crisis in families and the cycle of poverty and give people the tools and skills to allow someone to recover, have hope, and eventually a level of success for themselves,” said Charlene.

When Ed died in 2020, a bequest from his estate created the Ed and Charlene Friedman Family Fund. The fund supports Centre County health and human service programs through Centre Foundation’s annual Field-of-Interest grant program.

By establishing this endowment through a bequest, Ed and Charlene knew they were leaving their gift in trustworthy hands.

“That decision was because of great respect for the Foundation,” said Charlene. “They are respectful of the goals of individual donors. A decision was made to put these funds in the hands of an organization that has a proven track record that we could trust.”

This endowment means that Ed and Charlene will have an impact on the community for generations to come.

“It’s about what small part we can play in assisting families in the community to prosper and to meet their basic needs. For us, meeting those needs in a time of trouble is a way to help lift the community as a whole,” notes Charlene. 🌱

“It’s about what small part we can play in assisting families in the community to prosper.”

A Pledge of Preservation

New Endowment Benefits Local Agriculture

Centre County, a place where acres of prime farmland are frequently lost to new development projects. One Centre County nonprofit is working to change that, one farm at a time.

The Centre County Farmland Trust was formed to preserve farmland as a simpler and more effective alternative to government programs. Their goal is to bolster sustainable, local food sources and help the farming community by keeping land prices within reach.

Since its creation in 1994, the Farmland Trust has preserved 17 farms, totaling 1,483 acres. Part of what helps the organization sustain their impact is endowment funds. Through Centre Foundation's 40 for 40 Campaign, the Farmland Trust opened a new matched endowment to help them continue their preservation of local land.

Preservation provides benefits such as increased water protection, sustainment of scenery, local food security, and helping people earnestly steward their land to ensure that it will remain open to agriculture forever.

“There are a lot of people who love their land and don't want to see it destroyed or become an unsustainable development.”





Jack Ray and Sarah Decker practice sustainability and biodiversity on their farm, which allows them to produce a diverse bounty of goods, from eggs to honey.

1,215

There are 1,215 farms in Centre County.



*Purchasing the land in 2014 wasn't just a real estate transaction.
It was a promise to care for Treaster Kettle Farm intentionally.*

Since 1994

1,483

acres have been preserved across 17 farms.



“There are a lot of people who love their land and don’t want to see it destroyed or become an unsustainable development,” said Dan Guss, president of the Farmland Trust.

Jack Ray and Sarah Decker agree. They purchased the Treaster Kettle Farm from Joseph Griffin in 2014 and are putting the same passion behind caring for the land as Joseph did.

“Having our land added to the trust furthered our intentions to have a vibrant and sustainable homestead. We have recently been able to expand our production so that we can offer our farm goods to the families of Centre County,” said Sarah.

Just like Jack and Sarah, the Farmland Trust believes that every piece of land has a story. Stories they can continue to tell because of the support of their Centre Foundation endowment.

Dan points out, “The endowment is game changing. It’s keeping with our philosophy that we aren’t going to save the world, but we are going to save a couple acres at a time.”🌱

Breaking the Sound Barrier

How Centre Volunteers in Medicine is Addressing Accessibility

Individuals with hearing loss face a steep financial barrier when it comes to acquiring hearing aids. Since 2007, Centre Volunteers in Medicine has been breaking down that barrier through their Hearing Aid Program, which provides hearing aids to low-income or uninsured individuals in our community.

Sarah Ramos, Case Manager and Licensed Social Worker at CVIM, meets with patients and recognizes just how difficult it can be for those with hearing loss to access these important medical devices.

Since 2021

23

individuals have been helped
through the Hearing Aid Program.





Dedicated staff like Sarah Ramos help Centre County residents access hearing aids and other vital health services at CVIM.

“Most individuals I’ve talked to are on a fixed income, and hearing aids are very cost prohibitive.”

“It’s fulfilling a need mainly because hearing loss is a fairly common problem with the aging population. Most individuals I’ve talked to are on a fixed income, and hearing aids are very cost prohibitive,” said Sarah.

Over the years, CVIM has received grants from the William W. and Helen S. Litke Memorial Fund through the Field-of-Interest program, one of Centre Foundation’s competitive granting opportunities.

Because of these grants, CVIM provided 15 individuals with hearing aids in 2021, and so far in 2022, has served 8 individuals through their Hearing Aid Program.

“Standard Medicare doesn’t cover hearing aids. For the individuals I’ve spoken to, they wouldn’t have another way to get them, since they wouldn’t be able to afford them,” said Sarah.

Centre Foundation is proud to support organizations like CVIM who are helping to create a stronger, healthier Centre County for everyone.🌱

\$1,700+

The cost of a pair of hearing aids can start at \$1,700, putting them out of reach for many seniors.



Growing Centre Gives

Expanding the Impact

Centre Gives has given community members a fun and exciting way to give back since 2012. With over \$14.6 million invested into Centre County, this online giving event has become a special opportunity for everyone to make a difference. This year, \$2,180,591 was raised for 200 nonprofits during the 36 hours of Centre Gives. As the program continues to grow and support more nonprofits, Centre Foundation saw an opportunity to widen the impact by bringing these two online giving days to life with Centre Gives Fest.

Centre Gives Fest is an in-person celebration of the community's generosity and gives participating nonprofits another way to interact and connect with the community.



\$2.1M

Centre Gives raised over \$2.1 million for 200 nonprofits in 2022.



The Centre Foundation team celebrated the final four hours of Centre Gives with the community during Centre Gives Fest.

“We’re so thankful for Centre Foundation for giving us this opportunity to be a part of Centre Gives Fest. Centre Gives is our third biggest fundraiser of the year, and this is a great opportunity to put a face to Good Day Café,” said LaRae Fultz, Assistant to Strawberry Fields’ CEO, Cynthia Pasquinelli.

Strawberry Fields’ Good Day Café was one of the 13 nonprofits that participated in Centre Gives Fest with a booth and tasty treats. Other nonprofits such as Discovery Space and Jana Marie Foundation brought activities for attendees to enjoy.

“We’re thrilled to be at [Centre Gives Fest] with other local nonprofits spreading mental health awareness. We are grateful to our supporters who spread our message and are comfortable knowing they aren’t alone in their struggles,” said Hannah Brewster, Office Coordinator at Jana Marie Foundation. 🌱

\$14.6M

Since 2012, Centre Gives has invested over \$14.6 million in the community.

Your community
needs you.

Now it's your turn
to engage.



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*On the front and
back cover: Charlene
Friedman, whose fund
supports community
members to survive
and rise above poverty.*

