IMPACT

Centre FOUNDATION
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

Celebrating 40 years of ensuring lasting impact in our community



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CELEBRATING
Forty Years

Commemorating four decades of philanthropy, community support, and positive change.

Forty years ago, Centre Foundation began with a simple vision: to galvanize support for Centre County's nonprofit organizations and the invaluable services they provide in our community. This vision, which began with R. Paul Campbell in 1981, continues today under the direction of Molly Kunkel, the foundation's current Executive Director, and an active and engaged staff and Board of Directors.

In this magazine, you'll follow Centre Foundation's journey from its earliest days as a volunteer-led effort to where it stands now, a trusted community partner and robust grantmaker. Many remarkable people have been involved in shaping the foundation in its first four decades. In these pages, you'll find stories of just some of these individuals and the positive change they helped create.

Some are former board members, others established funds with Centre Foundation, and several have seen the benefits of the foundation first-hand within their own organizations. What they all have in common, however, is their enduring dedication to Centre County and the people that live here.

The foundation's goal, since its inception, has been to raise money that could be distributed to local nonprofits for the benefit of our community. While the original focus was to create the organization's structure and engage community members and donors, it was in the 1990s that the more serious work of growing endowments began. Endowments give nonprofits a stable base of income for them to provide their services. By having this consistent source of funding, nonprofit leaders can focus on serving the community in the best way possible.





Above: Judge R. Paul Campbell, founder of Centre Foundation, and his wife, Ora M. Campbell were involved in numerous organizations in Centre County. Right: Oscar Johnston (OJ) served as the foundation's board chair during 2020 and 2021.

The foundation's goal, since its inception, has been to raise money that could be distributed to local nonprofits for the benefit of our community.

This was the beginning of the foundation's continuing efforts to explore and implement new ways for donors to experience philanthropy in Centre County.

One of these ways included the introduction of donor-advised funds. This unique type of fund provides donors with the opportunity to be more engaged with their philanthropy by selecting which nonprofits they want to support with their fund each year. Another way that donors became more involved is through the formation of the Giving Circle. This program brings community members together to pool their donations to provide a $10,000 grant to the nonprofit of their choice.

Over the years, these new fund types and programs were developed to revolutionize philanthropy so it could have the biggest impact on the Centre County community. As the 2010s arrived, many nonprofits struggled to shift to online fundraising and adapt to the digital age. In response, Centre Foundation developed Centre Gives, a new online fundraiser for Centre County nonprofits, which quickly became their signature event. By leveraging the power of digital platforms, the foundation gave people a place to give online and further their philanthropic reach.

For 40 years, Centre Foundation has transformed how people support their favorite nonprofits and express their generosity to create positive change in Centre County. And this work is far from over. The foundation continues to develop innovative ways to champion local nonprofits and help donors reach their full philanthropic potential.

We hope you enjoy our story and learn about the difference just one person can make. This community's continued generosity inspires us every day, and we hope these stories inspire you too.

$31M

Since 1981, generous donors have invested in Centre Foundation. Today, thanks to those generous donors, Centre Foundation has invested over $31 million back into our community.

The 1980s

The 1980s marked the creation of Centre Foundation and the beginning of a long legacy filled with generous members dedicated to our community.



R. Paul Campbell was the driving force behind the establishment of Centre Foundation.



Mimi Barash Coppersmith, the first woman to chair the foundation's board of directors.



Harold O'Connor, supporter and board chair at the end of the first decade of the foundation, and his wife, Nancy.



Henry Sahakian, an early supporter and board member of Centre Foundation.

1981

Centre County Community Foundation was established by Judge R. Paul Campbell.

1982

The first fund was established by the Centre Communities chapter of the American Red Cross through an estate gift and benefits the local chapter of the American Red Cross.

ESTABLISHING A LEGACY OF COMMUNITY GIVING

How a local judge and a small group of community-minded leaders paved the way.



Dick Campbell, one of Paul and Ora Campbell's sons, still works with the foundation to continue his father's legacy.

R. Paul Campbell served Centre County as a judge for 20 years but always knew what he wanted to do when he retired.

Though he was ethically bound from fundraising or advocating for community organizations while serving on the bench, he laid out detailed plans for what would become Centre County's community foundation and worked to make sure the county's power players were on board with the idea when it was time to spring into action.

That effort launched in earnest after Campbell retired in 1977 and the Centre County Community Foundation, now Centre Foundation, officially opened its doors in 1981. Campbell's son Richard "Dick" Campbell said his father's experience as an attorney proved useful in more ways than one during the organization's formative years.

"He filed the articles of incorporation and got everything organized," Dick Campbell said. "While he was doing that, he would meet with people and do financial and estate planning. One of his clients donated her entire estate of around $700,000."

Paul Campbell was very intentional about the composition of the foundation's board. He wanted to ensure that professionals from throughout the county were represented and gave groups like the bar association and the medical association the ability to appoint members.

"It was pretty fascinating how he came up with it," Dick Campbell said. "His goal was to get the money into the foundation and then parcel it out to charitable organizations."

Dick Campbell said his father also used the connections he'd made with community groups from years of serving as a speaker at dinners and other functions. Paul Campbell was known for his inspiring speeches that always included at least a few jokes pulled from a file he kept in his office.

$150k

An initial total investment of $150k in 1981 set Centre Foundation on the path to having over $70 million in assets today.

The same inspiring spirit that was evident in his speeches would prove helpful in getting the community on board with his vision for the foundation.

"He was an amazing speaker," Dick Campbell said. "He picked you up and made you feel like you could conquer the world."

Building Trust for a Bold Vision

Mimi Barash Coppersmith was one of the foundation's initial board members and continues to be one of its most ardent supporters. A self-described "person who loves to raise money," she utilized her connections with the county's nonprofit community to make the case that the new foundation was a worthwhile investment.



Mimi Barash Coppersmith was an essential part of the foundation's early history and continues to remain active today.

"Individuals could be inspired to establish a fund and not wait for their wills to do something for the benefit of the community."

Judge R. Paul Campbell dies. His bequest establishes the Paul and Ora Campbell Fund for use by the foundation to "enhance the quality of life for residents of Centre County through grants that support our nonprofit agencies and programs."

1988





Seda Sahakian, and two of her children, Fred Sahakian and Heddy Kervandjian.

"Paul Campbell and the entire board did a good job of getting leadership in the community to come with us on the journey to make this happen," Coppersmith said. "It seems like old hat today, but it was a big deal in little State College 40 years ago."

Coppersmith said the community's larger nonprofits like the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts and the Centre County United Way quickly came on board with the idea. The board also worked to cultivate gifts of $25,000 or more to establish funds that could have an immediate impact.

"Individuals could be inspired to establish a fund and not wait for their wills to do something for the benefit of the community," Coppersmith said. "A number of community members took us up on that."

Henry and Seda Sahakian took the original board up on its offer by establishing the Henry D. Sahakian Family Fund. They proceeded to grow the fund with annual contributions. Today, the fund continues to support the family's passion for organizations that care for children and people with disabilities and work to meet basic needs like food, housing, and clothing.

Henry Sahakian went on to serve as chair of Centre Foundation's board. He and Seda received the foundation's Oak Tree Award in 2010 for their leadership through a period of significant growth in the foundation's history and for the many years of generosity that they shared with the community.

Henry passed away in February 2021, but his son Fred said his philanthropic legacy would live on for years to come.

"My father was a humble man. He never wanted any accolades or recognitions. Those things were not so special to him," Fred told StateCollege.com. "I guess his legacy will remain in the hearts and minds of the people he touched. Nothing made my father more proud than helping others that were in pursuit of their American dream."

So what would Paul Campbell think about the foundation's success today?

"He would be elated," Dick Campbell said. "This is probably beyond his wildest expectations. The foundation's staff has done a good job of reaching out to people and making people feel really good about making contributions."

Looking Forward: 40 Years of Community Impact

It's clear that Paul Campbell, Mimi Barash Coppersmith, Henry Sahakian, and the foundation's many other early supporters had a vision for long-term success and the foresight to lay the groundwork to make that vision a reality over the next four decades. The rest of this magazine will share the stories of those who picked up the baton and continue to carry it today.

$500k

Centre County Community Foundation assets reach over $500,000.

1989

The 1990s

The 1990s saw the expansion of endowments, which provide vital support to nonprofits in perpetuity.

Fred Farber was an active board member and board chair in the 1990s.





In 1999, Centre Foundation provided funding for the purchase of a new Bookmobile for the Centre County Library.

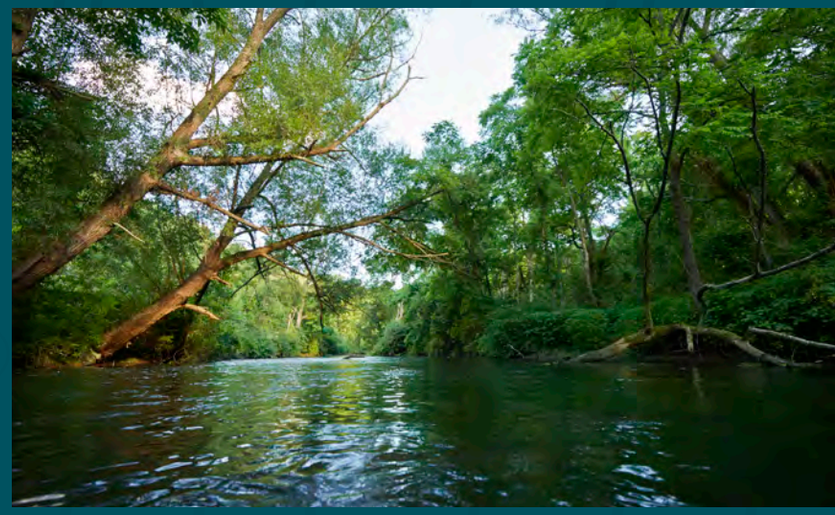


Dayton and Sheri Coles established the Golden Rule Fund to benefit the community they loved.

In 1997, Centre Foundation provided funding to Clearwater Conservancy for the Nittany and Bald Eagle Green Way project.



Jim and Ellen Campbell established one of the earliest organizational endowments to support Strawberry Fields.



Centre County Community Foundation receives its first allocation of Benjamin Franklin funds equaling $29,000 to grant to qualified nonprofit organizations in Centre and surrounding counties.

1990

Building a *Brighter Future* Through Endowments

Why donors and their families choose to make a lasting impact.



Brian Kissinger shares his family's legacy of supporting community organizations through endowments.



As the foundation entered its second decade, the conversation about its future shifted from its initial gifts to planning for long-term success. Endowments provided the perfect opportunity for donors to create a lasting legacy and stay connected to the community.

Dayton and Sheri Coles saw that opportunity for connection firsthand when they created the Golden Rule Fund, a fund that supports organizations that embody the mission of "do unto others." The fund was created in recognition of Centre Foundation founder, R. Paul Campbell, with whom Dayton worked as an attorney in State College.

Since it was established, the fund has supported organizations including Discovery Space, Global Connections, and the State College Friends School. Dayton and Sheri now live in California, but the fund creates a lasting connection for them to the place they lived in and loved for many years.

"Our time in State College was a golden time when we raised our kids, began our careers, and then retired from our careers," Sheri Coles said. "Our time there was really fruitful in many ways and the fund allows us to feel like we left a little footprint in the area. Centre Foundation has always felt very wonderful to both of us."

Employing the Impact of Investing

Gordon and Alice Kissinger wanted to create long-lasting impact for individuals with intellectual disabilities in honor of their son, Jack, who was stricken with encephalitis at age four and suffered intellectual disabilities for the rest of his life. They chose to establish an endowment fund at Centre Foundation that would benefit The Arc of Centre County.

The Gordon D. and Alice R. Kissinger Fund in Memory of Jack Kissinger clearly demonstrates the power of Centre Foundation endowments: sustainably creating growth while also supporting the community.

The fund was established in 1993 with a gift of $100,000. Since then, it has grown in value to over $134,000 and as it grew, it continued to provide grants totaling over $129,000 to The Arc. That growth, plus granting, has resulted in the initial $100,000 gift providing over $163,000 of value to the community. And it will continue to grant and grow for years to come.

The Kissingers' legacy of working to support the community was carried on by another son, Fred Kissinger, who continued their work in their tradition by opening two funds: one that supports individuals with disabilities and one that supports students in the State College Area School District.

Fred's son, Brian Kissinger, recalls his family's generosity and humility. "My grandparents did all this to help people with disabilities and my

475+

Donors can give to causes that are close to their hearts through endowment funds. Today, Centre Foundation has over 475.

$1,000,000

Centre County Community Foundation assets reach $1 million.

1994

The Campbell Society is established in honor of the foundation's founder, Judge R. Paul Campbell.

1994



Molly Hetrick, Manager of Philanthropy at Schlow, values the benefits of endowments which support Schlow Centre Region Library.

parents did the same," he said. "They didn't want anyone to do anything special for them; the intent was always about helping the endowment." Brian continues their legacy by pitching in behind the scenes for the organizations his family has long supported.

Enhancing Resources for Organizations

Endowments provide a consistent source of funding for nonprofits, establishing a baseline from which to plan the rest of their fundraising activities.

Schlow Centre Region Library has seen the power of endowments firsthand. Molly Hetrick, the library's manager of philanthropy, said that endowments at Centre Foundation are vitally important to the library's operations and growth.

"When a donor places their money with Centre Foundation and designates it to benefit Schlow Library, it provides a stable base of expected income for budgetary and operational planning," Hetrick said. "Future programs, event ideas, collection development, and more are impacted by the generosity of these funds."

Hetrick said the library also appreciates the stewardship the foundation provides and the peace of mind that comes with knowing that the money is secure so the library's staff can focus more time and energy on serving its patrons and the community.

Endowment funding has also helped Strawberry Fields meet special and emerging needs that other

$5,000,000

Centre County Community Foundation assets reach $5 million.

1999

125

125 nonprofit organizations benefit from designated endowment funds.

funding sources do not allow for. Chief Executive Officer, Cindy Pasquinelli, said the organization's endowments have diversified its income in positive ways and help donors create a lasting commitment to its work.

"Strawberry Fields is extremely grateful to have two endowment funds that benefit our programs through Centre Foundation," Pasquinelli said. "An endowment gives an organization an opportunity to start a new initiative with funding that has very few limitations. We've been the recipient of contributions from many first-time donors who were influenced by the endowments we currently have in place."

Looking Forward: Fulfilling Donors' Goals

The 1990s were a decade of shoring up the financial framework of Centre Foundation. From there, the foundation was poised for a period of rapid growth that started in the new millennium and continues today.



Cindy Pasquinelli, CEO of Strawberry Fields, worked with a number of donors to create the endowments which provide reliable funding for the organization.

"An endowment fund gives an organization an opportunity to start a new initiative with funding that has very few limitations."

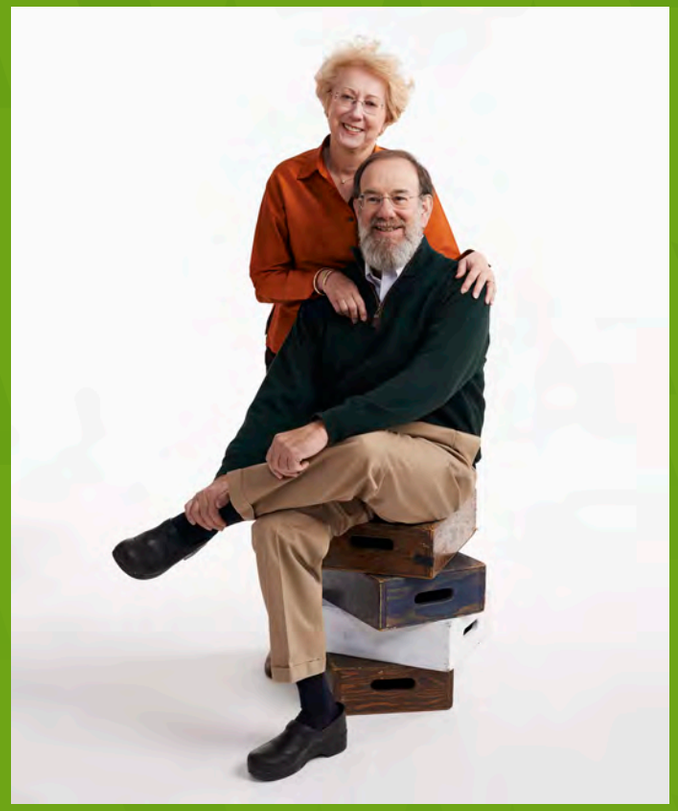
The 80s

The 2000s provided new ways for donors to play a more active role in philanthropy.

Richard Kalin was board chair in the middle of the decade, and he and his wife Sally were among the first to open a donor-advised fund.



Jeff Bower, a board chair in the 80s, helped the foundation accept gifts of property through the subsidiary organization Foundation Properties, Inc.





In 2005, a grant provided new benches in Bellefonte's Tallyrand Park.



Early in the decade, the foundation provided a significant grant to support the restoration and reopening of The State Theatre.

Foundation Properties, Inc. is founded and the community foundation begins receiving real assets, such as real estate, jewelry, art, etc. in addition to cash and securities.

2000

Bob Potter becomes the first full time executive director of the foundation and the first office location is opened.

2001

Transforming *Donors* into *Advisors* in the New Millennium

By supporting the causes they care most about, donors create deeper connections to their community.

Riggs Griffith, a board member and Investment Committee member, invested in a donor-advised fund to support the community.

As the 21st century began, donors were looking for ways to be more involved in their philanthropy.



Dolores Taricani, a past board chair and long-term supporter, was instrumental in establishing the Giving Circle.

$175k

Since 2006, Giving Circle members have granted over $175k to organizations throughout Centre County.

In response, Centre Foundation began to explore and implement new initiatives that allowed donors to be active participants in the foundation's granting.

This led to the formation of the Giving Circle, which was established in 2006 as the Anniversary Circle in honor of the foundation's 25th anniversary. Dolores Taricani was board chair at the time and credits former executive director Bob Potter with the idea of bringing community members together by pooling small donations that would add up to a $10,000 grant for an organization chosen by those donors.

"It was small when we started, but there were many families who decided to be part of it," Taricani said. "Bob was very creative and brought a lot of great ideas to the foundation, including this one."

Previous Giving Circle grant recipients include Centre Safe, which used the funds to build an outdoor play area, as well as ACRES Project, Interfaith Human Services, and numerous other organizations. As the program's membership has grown, it is now able to offer nearly $20,000 in grants to multiple organizations each year.

Ellis and Lynn Abramson are long-time Giving Circle members. Lynn said she appreciates the opportunity to learn about new organizations that are making an impact in the community and connect with those organizations at Giving Circle events.

"The events are a really rewarding experience because it lets us connect with the organizations and with other members of the community who are involved in judging the Giving Circle proposals," she said.





Ellis and Lynn Abramson have been long-time members of the Giving Circle.

Creating Engaging Endowments

At the onset of the 21st century, a unique type of fund, the donor-advised fund, emerged as a popular way for community members to have a more direct say in how their endowment resources were being allocated.

Simply put, a donor-advised fund is like a charitable investment account created to support nonprofit organizations that are important to the donor. According to the Council on Foundations, donor-advised funds increased in number and importance in the U.S. in the early 2000s. They grew in popularity because they provide strong tax incentives, as well as the opportunity to make an immediate impact in a focused way.

When John and Joan Chernega decided to retire and sell their business, EMF Systems, they saw it as a great opportunity to give back. By creating a donor-advised fund, they shared the value from the business with the community they loved. The Chernegas were able to take advantage of an immediate tax benefit and years later, they continue to be engaged with Centre Foundation and their fund.

The Chernega Family Fund supports programs that they value, primarily health and human services organizations, such as Housing Transitions and State College Area Meals on Wheels. As with all donor advisors, the Chernegas annually recommend which nonprofits should benefit from the fund's distributions.

"Health was always close to our hearts," Joan Chernega said. "There are always people contributing to fun stuff like the arts. We were interested in those things but wanted to make this specifically for human services."

Significant grants awarded to help the building of: EMS Lifelink, Schlow Library, and State College YMCA.

2002

National Standards compliance confirmed: shows transparency and financial responsibility.

2006







$3.2M

By 2005, cumulative grants of $3.2 million were awarded to nonprofit organizations.

Honoring Community Ties

In 2007, Anne and Paul Bender created a fund in honor of their parents, Fred and Elizabeth Bender, William Lytle, and Edna Jeffrey Treager. They felt that the fund was an appropriate way to recognize the tenacity and dedication of their parents who, despite adversity, worked hard to provide for their families.

Their daughter, Meg Bender, serves as the fund's donor advisor today. Though she now lives in the Washington, D.C. area, Meg said she enjoys the opportunity to stay connected to her hometown through her involvement with the fund and Centre Foundation.

"My parents really wanted the money to stay in the Centre Region and stay in the community to provide support to those in need," Bender said. "They enjoyed the discretion and ability to select individual recipients on a year-by-year basis, and that's something I'm able to carry on in their honor."

Riggs and Gloria Griffith established a donor-advised fund the year after the Benders in 2008. Riggs is a former member of the foundation's board and continues to serve as a member of the Investment Committee. He saw the fund as a way to make a gift that he could follow through the years and hopefully inspire others to do the same.

"We had planned to establish a fund at Centre Foundation at our deaths, but when the minimum to establish a fund was decreased from $25,000 to $10,000, we thought, 'Why wait?' Griffith said. "As a member of the foundation's board of directors, I thought it important to set an example of how folks of comfortable but modest means could give something back to the community in which we live by being able to take up to five years to complete this initial phase of our gift."

Looking Forward: Thriving in the Digital Age

The emergence of donor-advised funds and the creation of the Giving Circle allowed the foundation to reach more donors and to create greater impact across Centre County. That theme of expanding the foundation's reach would only continue to grow as the organization entered the 2010s.

"I thought it important to set an example of how folks of comfortable but modest means could give something back to the community."

Mary Kay Williams becomes Executive Director.

2007

Al Jones becomes Executive Director.

2009

The 2010s

The 2010s allowed Centre Foundation to increase community impact by harnessing new technology and including new perspectives.



3 Dots Downtown was established in 2017 with a grant from the foundation.



Centre Foundation sponsors "Light Up State College" to win the Guinness World Record for largest ice lantern display.



The foundation's first Centre Inspires grant funded the installation of 25 art benches throughout Centre County.



Don Strickler generously donated the building which currently houses the foundation offices.



In 2012, the foundation creates Centre Gives, the first county-wide online fundraiser in Centre County.

Centre County Community Foundation re-brands as Centre Foundation.

2011

The library technology project is funded to provide internet to all public Centre County libraries.

2011

EXPANDING THE FOUNDATION'S REACH

Making philanthropy
more accessible for all.



Hope Bodenschatz was a member of the first high school class of Centre PACT and continued to participate through college, becoming the first Centre PACT Coordinator in 2018.

By 2010, ecommerce and social media were quickly becoming a way of life for many of us.

However, a number of nonprofits lagged behind in their ability to pivot to online fundraising and thereby faced the threat of losing donors. Younger donors were especially primed for the shift to online fundraising. Once again, Centre Foundation proved to be an innovative organization, adapting to thrive in the digital age while bringing the power of giving to more community members.

The most significant innovation came in the form of Centre Gives, which has come to be known as the foundation's signature event. Centre Gives raises millions of dollars each year from donors throughout Centre County and beyond for local nonprofits through the power of online giving.

Jodi Pringle was board chair when Centre Gives began in 2012. The idea came about quickly and there was a split about whether to start it that year or wait another year to do more planning. Pringle was the tie-breaking vote on the board and said she's glad the organization was able to seize the moment and launch the event.

"It had the potential to be very successful, but we didn't have as much time to plan that first year," Pringle said. "We kept learning and it kept growing, and now it's gone beyond everyone's expectations and far exceeded our initial goals."

Centre Gives fully brought the foundation into the digital era. It leverages the power of social media to help organizations spread the word and engage in friendly competition for prizes that add to their fundraising totals. The event also serves as an introduction to the foundation for nonprofits and community members who might not otherwise be engaged with Centre Foundation.

Opening New Doors to Philanthropy

It was during this decade that the foundation expanded to engage with a new generation through Centre PACT, a program that brings together high school students from across the county to assess youth needs and award grants to help address those needs.

McQuillin "Quill" Murphy, who had served on a youth advisory council while in high school in his

$12.5M

Since 2012, Centre Gives has invested a combined total of over $12.5 million back into our community.





Quill Murphy participated in a similar high school philanthropy program in Berks County, and was one of the first college advisors to Centre PACT.

Molly Kunkel becomes Executive Director.

2013

Current office building donated by Don Strickler is officially opened.

2014



"Centre PACT has meant so much to me. I'm excited to see how the program will continue to grow."

native Berks County, was at the forefront of the foundation's youth expansion. When he and his brother Carver moved to State College to attend Penn State, they worked with the foundation to bring a similar program to Centre County.

Murphy said young people are often surprised to learn that they can have a role in philanthropy even if they don't have a lot of money to donate. In fact, he says, young people should have a seat at the table because they represent a large part of the community and have a deeper understanding of the needs of their peers.

"It's important to have a diversity of experience and perspectives, and fundraising leaders have a responsibility to include young people and their opinions," Murphy said. "You wouldn't make decisions about other groups without bringing them to the table, so let's treat young people the same way."

Over the years, Centre PACT grants have supported a number of organizations that serve youth in the community including the Centre County Youth Service Bureau, Park Forest Preschool, and the Penns Valley Youth Center.

Hope Bodenschatz joined Centre PACT as a senior in high school and spent six years with the program before graduating from Penn State last spring and accepting a position as a research assistant at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

"Centre PACT has meant so much to me," Bodenschatz said earlier this year. "I'm excited to see how the program will continue to grow and to see the impact that all of the students work so hard to make."

$35k

Centre PACT students have granted over $35,000 to 24 local organizations since 2016.

Looking Forward: The Foundation's Future

While the foundation has achieved a lot over the past 40 years, the organization and its leadership are always focused on how to grow and adapt along with the changing community and its needs. That focus on innovation continued during the COVID-19 pandemic and will help drive growth throughout the 2020s.

Clearwater Conservancy is awarded a Centre Inspires grant to fund Centered Outdoors, a program that invites Centre County residents of every age to get outdoors and explore over 30 outdoor destinations across the county.

2015

Centre Foundation sponsors "Light Up State College" community project to set the Guinness World Record for the largest ice lantern display and lights up Allen Street with the most ice luminaries in the world.

2017

The 20s

The 2020s brought unforeseen challenges, as well as new opportunities to bring the community closer together.



Kate Bennett Truitt is part of Centre Foundation's future as incoming board chair for 2022.



Timeka Tounsel, Assistant Professor of African American Studies and Media Studies at Penn State, is one of the newest members of the foundation board. She is actively involved in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and is also a member of the Grants Committee.



Foundation efforts to expand Centre Gives in response to the needs of local organizations led to record-breaking years in 2020 and 2021.

$500,000

Centre Foundation creates the Centre Foundation COVID-19 ACTION Fund in response to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, committing $500,000 in assistance to nonprofit organizations.

2020

$19,000

Giving Circle goes virtual and grants $19,000 in total and the most ever, to CentrePeace, Centre County Youth Service Bureau, and Centre Volunteers in Medicine.

2020

Meeting

New

Challenges

How Centre Foundation plans to address our community's changing needs in its fifth decade and beyond.



Lydia Abdullah has been a dedicated supporter of the foundation, and recently began her second term as a member of the board of directors.

$2.2M

In the midst of a pandemic, Centre Gives 2021 was able to raise over $2.2M in 36 hours thanks to the generosity of the community.

Hugh and Janyce Mose are long-time supporters of Centre Foundation and are engaged with many other local organizations.



The newest decade has brought with it unforeseen challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, civil unrest, environmental crises, and more.

But just because something is a challenge doesn't mean that it's insurmountable. Centre Foundation is facing the decade's new challenges head-on to reach solutions with inspirational board members like Kate Bennett Truitt and Lydia Abdullah, forward-thinking donors like Hugh and Janyce Mose, and a staff who is passionate for bringing the best to the Centre County community.

When the pandemic prompted stay-at-home orders that limited connection and face-to-face interaction, Centre County came together to support their neighbors and help keep their local nonprofits' doors open. The community's generosity was most evident in the resounding success of the 10th annual Centre Gives in 2021.

The 2021 event raised a record-breaking $2,237,406 in 36 hours. Centre Foundation witnessed, first-hand, a groundswell of support for organizations that care for vulnerable populations, provide essential health and human services, create a vibrant community through the arts, and more. Over 190 local organizations benefited from this outpouring of support.

The momentum created by the success of Centre Gives amidst the pandemic set a new baseline for giving in the region. This, in turn, has motivated the foundation to continue searching for new and innovative philanthropic options for donors to support the causes they are passionate about.

$2,179,143

Centre Inspires grant money is redirected to Centre Gives and Centre Gives breaks record by raising $2,179,143 in community impact dollars in 36 hours.



Donors Committing to Today and Tomorrow

The foundation presented one such option to Hugh and Janyce Mose. Hugh, CATA'S former executive director, and Janyce, a retired audiologist, accumulated modest retirement savings and do not have children or family members to pass it onto. They have always been generous supporters of a number of local organizations, but after a few conversations with the foundation about estate planning, they realized they had a great opportunity to continue giving while they were alive that would also take care of their estate planning. They decided to leave the balances of their retirement accounts to Centre Foundation and created the Hugh and Janyce Mose Fund.

"We crafted a program that would take the proceeds of our IRAs and direct them to the foundation," Hugh Mose said. "A big chunk of the money would go to the Hugh and Janyce Mose Fund to support the organizations we're most passionate about."

Hugh and Janyce have gotten to know the foundation's staff over the years and appreciate the care and thoughtfulness they show in directing the funds to organizations that are in line with their priorities. Both are in their early 70s and can rest assured knowing that their money will be well-managed for the rest of their lives and beyond.

"The staff put time and thought into what will be the best way to use the money in the way we want and get it to the organizations we are most concerned about," Janyce Mose said. "We don't have to worry about what happens to our money when we pass away."

"We want to pay it forward to the community that's been so good to us," Hugh Mose said. "We've been lucky and made good decisions, but it doesn't take zillions of dollars to be helpful to others."

Donors have also paid it forward by supporting Centre Foundation's COVID-19 ACTION Fund, which was established in response to the pandemic. The first round of grants supported local programs that provide food, shelter, telemedicine, and other essential services across the county. The second round of funding supported operational or programmatic needs for local nonprofits so they could keep providing their services.

"Providing immediate support to impacted organizations during the COVID-19 pandemic was a service Centre Foundation and the Knight Foundation were grateful to provide," said Centre Foundation board member Kate Bennett Truitt after serving on the foundation's Grants Committee. "The additional donations from generous community members allowed us to do even more than we thought possible."

Over $250,000 has been granted to 55 local nonprofit organizations so far, and looking forward, the foundation has committed to an additional round of funding that will support strategic planning, capacity building, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) training for local nonprofits.



Leading the Way Forward

With the unknown that awaits the future, one thing is certain: Centre Foundation has been working diligently throughout these concerns and finding ways to support and strengthen the community. The emergence of remote working and the commitment to being a part of promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) for their own organization and others are some ways that the foundation is dedicated to moving forward.

We have seen a new acknowledgement of racial and social injustice not only in our community, but in many more with the emergence of this new decade. Due to the struggles that many members of our community face every day, Centre Foundation is committed to owning this inequity and addressing these issues. The organization is dedicated to using its resources to do so, along with the guidance of its donors and the organizations the foundation partners with.

One of Centre Foundation's core values of integrity guides the organization to bring about positive change in everything it does. In order to live by this mantra, the staff works diligently to ensure that their own organization reflects the diversity they strive to see. In addition to the staff, the board plays a key role in prioritizing diversity and inclusion.

"I don't want the foundation to settle for simple words—we must 'walk the walk.'"

$250k

Over $250,000 has been granted to 55 local organizations through the COVID-19 ACTION fund.



Lydia Abdullah, a previous board member, re-joined in 2021 to bring valuable knowledge about her understanding of local issues in the community. Starting out as a Penn State student who moved to Happy Valley in 1972 to working at the university for 42 years, 10 of them as the Director of Diversity and Inclusion in the Finance & Business office, Abdullah proved to be a dedicated member of Centre County.

Now she provides wisdom from her community work and at Penn State to collaborate with Centre Foundation and the team's commitment to prioritizing diversity, equity, and inclusion in its policies and procedures, and solidifying it within its strategic plan.

"My vision for DEI in Centre Foundation is that we quickly (within 1-2 years) establish DEI action items that will meet the goals set forth in the strategic plan. Too often an organization will try to rely on broad statements as their intent around DEI, with no definitive plan to get there. I don't want the foundation to settle for simple words – we must 'walk the walk,'" said Adbullah.

As the foundation looks ahead and works on how they can improve as an organization, they also want to help other nonprofits with their DEI efforts. Centre Foundation is in the process of organizing a list of best DEI practices for other organizations to use, as well as a range of educational resources for grantees. With these new resources, grantees will be able to create their own DEI policies and the foundation will set goals to ensure that these attributes become a priority for itself and its grantees.

As we look back, there is no doubt that Centre Foundation has come a long way over the past 40 years and grown far beyond R. Paul Campbell's original vision for a community foundation. By working together with passionate community members, the foundation has led Centre County into a new generation of giving and support for those who make the community into the special place it is today.

40

Centre Foundation celebrates 40 years.

2021

$2,237,406

10th annual Centre Gives breaks prior year's record and raises $2,237,406 in impact dollars from over 16,400 gifts in 36 hours!

2021

OUR MISSION

To inspire and facilitate a culture of giving to create a vibrant community

Awards & Recognition

We are proud to share the accolades we have recently received, none of which would have been possible without the support of community members like you.

Centre Gives—Voted "Best Fundraising Event in State College" for seven years in a row by ***State College Magazine***

Voted one of Central Pennsylvania's "Top 100 Organizations" for six years in a row by ***Pennsylvania Business Central***

Centre Foundation has been accredited for having organizational and financial practices that are in compliance with the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations.

Executive Director's Message

The start of this decade has certainly brought a range of challenges to Centre County as we've seen the effects of a pandemic and the economic and social instability which came as a result.

To some, this may seem like a difficult time to celebrate an anniversary. But for me, it has created the opportunity to employ the amazing capacity of Centre Foundation's unique role in the community. By using the connections and capacity forged during our 40-year history, we have been able to provide the support and assistance that so much of our county needed. We are thankful we have been able to assist in combatting the pandemic's effects on our community by helping local nonprofits continue to offer or expand their services.

It's been a true inspiration to lead the foundation through these first challenging years of this new decade, and it gives me so much hope as I look towards the foundation's future. I am honored to be able to share stories of our past in the pages of this magazine, to acknowledge the work and dedication of all the people who have worked through the years to make this the successful organization we are today, and to look forward to an exciting future. I know we stand on the shoulders of many amazing community members, and I hope you enjoyed reading just a few of their stories.

We would love to help you create your own story and continue to build a more vibrant Centre County community.

Molly Kunkel
Executive Director, Centre Foundation



Left to right: Centre Foundation staff members Carrie Ryan, Rachael Hartman, Lauren Petrone, Allison Wulfhorst, Kerry Tolton, and Molly Kunkel

Want to Get Involved?

Let's collaborate; join us to make a greater impact in our community

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Centre FOUNDATION
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

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On the cover: Siblings Bob Campbell, Dick Campbell, and Nancy Slagle carry on their father's legacy.
On the back cover: Timeka Tounsel, one of Centre Foundation's newest board members.