

Village Improvement Association of Doylestown

2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT



ENHANCING THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF CENTRAL BUCKS COUNTY AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES

The Village Improvement Association of Doylestown is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION OF DOYLESTOWN

Founded in 1895 by a small, but inspired, group of 14 Doylestown ladies, the Village Improvement Association (VIA) was the first women's club in Bucks County. Its first meeting was held on April 26, 1895. Since that time the VIA has grown in size to its current membership of approximately 300, many of whom are a vital presence at Doylestown Hospital.

Concern for the community is the VIA's primary focus. Its roots are in providing health services but it goes beyond that to offer one-time grants to community efforts and educational scholarships for outstanding high school seniors pursuing health-related careers, as well as women seeking professional careers. Through its Welfare Fund, the VIA provides a variety of support for those in our community with emergency needs.

The VIA founded Doylestown Hospital in 1923 and today VIA members continue to oversee the governance of this award-winning hospital and healthcare system. It has expanded in size and services to encompass 232 beds in a state-of-the-art acute care facility with a Medical Staff of more than 425 physicians in over 50 medical specialties.

Recent program additions include the introduction of advanced stroke treatment (intra-arterial thrombectomy), minimally-invasive valve replacement and expansion of vascular services at The Richard A. Reif Heart Institute. The hospital allied with the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Network early in 2017 to offer access to advanced oncologic clinical trials. Becker's Hospital Review named both the Orthopedic Institute and The Heart Institute among the top 100 hospital programs in the U.S. in 2016. In addition, Doylestown Hospital is among the top 56 acute care hospitals in the U.S. to earn the 2016 Leapfrog Group Top Hospital Award.

As a means to support the hospital, the Village Improvement Association held its first Bucks County Designer House & Gardens fundraiser in 1971. The tradition has continued for more than 40 years due to the dedication of its volunteers and the tremendous support of the community. This event has evolved into what is now the VIA's largest annual fundraiser.

Through the years, Designer House proceeds have provided Doylestown Hospital with nearly \$4 million to help benefit major programs and improvements. In addition to supporting the hospital, a decision was made by the Designer House Committee in the mid-1990s to diversify the profits of the house to also help fulfill the mission of the VIA. Since that time, a percentage of the proceeds has been distributed to various committees of the VIA such as the Welfare Fund, Community Response, Women's Scholarship, and the James-Lorah Memorial Home.

Throughout its history, the VIA has continued to look forward while maintaining the original goals of the Association which are to promote "every proper means of improving and beautifying Bucks County...improving the health and welfare of the residents," and "supporting a community hospital and other health care facilities for the benefit of all persons." Each year the VIA members rededicate themselves to these commitments made in 1895.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Board

Cory H. Schroeder, President
Joyce A. Hanson, First Vice President
Mary Jane Mims, Second Vice President
Marilyn Mele, Recording Secretary
Joy Levy, Corresponding Secretary
Ruth Carlson, Treasurer
Beverly Harvey, Assistant Treasurer

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Maureen Casey, Appointed Member
Marianne Chabot, Welfare
Helen Hammes, James-Lorah Memorial Home
Barbara Kieffer, Finance
Allyson Malack, Marketing
Linda McIlhinney, Immediate Past President
Lillian O'Connor, Bylaws
Joan Parlee, Vice President Health Services
Barbara Ann Price, Designer House Chair
LaFaun Reed-Kahn, Membership
Cory H. Schroeder, Fundraising
Chris Thompson, Appointed Member

Parliamentary Advisor

Patricia Yaroschuk

Doylestown Health President and CEO

Jim Brexler

Legal Counsel

Elizabeth Sigety

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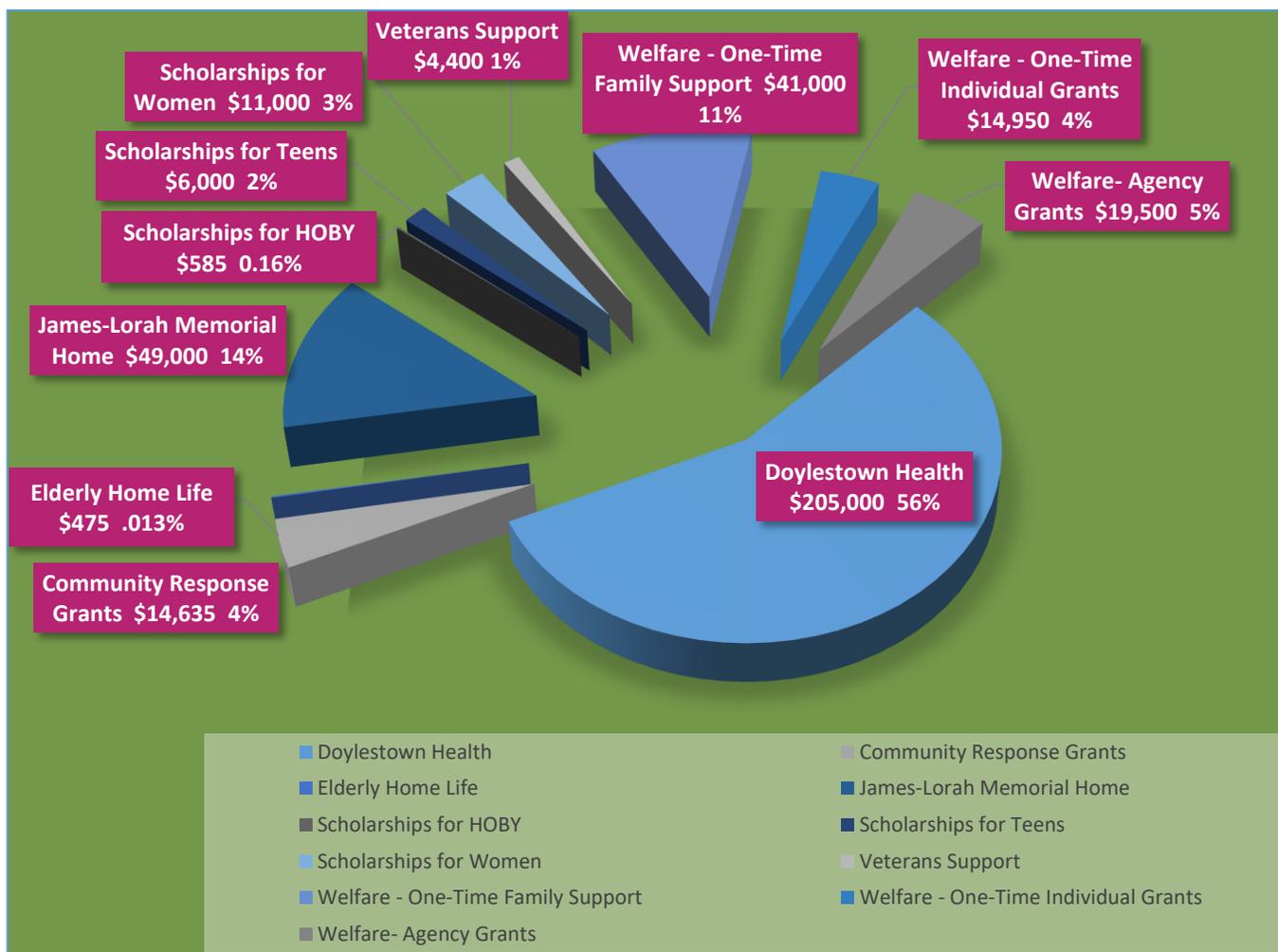


Financial Overview

Financial Results as reported on the 2015-2016 IRS 990 Return

REVENUE		EXPENSES	
Contributions and Grants	419,687	Grants And Similar Amounts Paid	349,159
Program Service Revenue	0	Benefits Paid To Or For Members	0
Investment Income	93,108	Salaries, Other Compensation, Employee Benefits	0
Other Revenue	10,256	Professional Fundraising Fees	0
		Other Expenses	156,385
Total Revenue	523,051	Total Expenses	505,544
		Revenue Less Expenses	17,507

The Village Improvement Association of Doylestown donated more than \$367,000 during fiscal year 2016-2017 to enhance the health and welfare of central Bucks County and its surrounding communities.



A Message from the VIA President



It has been my privilege to represent the Village Improvement Association of Doylestown, presiding at VIA Board and Member meetings and upholding our mission to enhance the health and welfare of Central Bucks County and surrounding communities. My experiences have been exceptional, both within the organization and in the community.

VIA officers and members continued to exercise the VIA's responsibility for governance of Doylestown Health, serving on key Boards (Doylestown Health Foundation, Doylestown Hospital, Pine Run Advisory, and Doylestown Health Physicians) and committees including Bylaws, Development, Finance, Medical Staff Credentials, Pastoral Care, Patient Safety, Pensions/Personnel, and Volunteer Advisory.

Awareness of our organization's efforts to fulfill our mission was expanded through our presence and participation in numerous community events and meetings: Doylestown Arts Festival/Thompson Bike Classic, where it was an honor as VIA President to start the Doylestown Health-sponsored Pro Women's Race; Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce (CBCC) Women in Business Committee (VIA member State Representative Marguerite Quinn was nominated and chosen as the 2017 recipient); Discover Doylestown (aka Doylestown Business and Community Alliance); 37th Annual Bucks County Women's History Month Award, and the annual CBCC Bucks Business Expo at Delaware Valley University. We also supported United Way of Bucks County's Bucks Knocks Out Hunger program. The VIA's historical documentary *Then, Now & Forever* was also presented to area women's groups.

We made great strides for our future. The Strategic Planning Task Group redefined our mission and the Interim Governance Committee began a mentorship program for members and to develop future leaders. We are creating short-and-long-term strategies and goals to aid the organization to meet community needs. Semi-annual Committee Chair meetings were held, facilitating an exchange of the organization's progress, concerns and committee goals; these sessions also offer a tremendous opportunity for support and counsel from fellow chairs.

We are proud of our notable accomplishments: On April 30 we saw the successful opening of our 42nd Bucks County Designer House & Gardens, our largest fundraiser, which was preceded by an exceptional Preview Gala featuring fine food and music; continued sponsorship of the CBCC's VIA/WIB Leadership Award; granting three teen scholarships to outstanding high school seniors pursuing medical careers; funding for sophomores to attend the annual Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership seminar; funding for adult women, mostly single mothers, to return to school to improve their education for better jobs and better income; grants to community organizations to provide new or additional programming to meet specific community needs; and one that I am most proud of – our ability to fund more than \$75,000 to over 500 individuals, families and agencies, enabling them to afford needed medication, housing, fuel, utilities and much more.

The ability to support our community through the work we do and the funds we provide is vital to the well-being of us all. When we can share our time, talents and treasure, we make everyone stronger. I am so very proud to be a member of the VIA and to represent us in the community this year. I look forward to the coming year with even more anticipation. I believe we would make our founders proud!

Cory H. Schroeder

VIA Community Impact

The Village Improvement Association of Doylestown’s mission is to enhance the health and welfare of Central Bucks County and surrounding communities. It accomplishes these goals through its governance of Doylestown Health, a comprehensive system of care comprised of Doylestown Hospital, Health and Wellness Center, and the Pine Run Retirement Community. Through several committees, the VIA helps individuals and families in need, supports educational scholarships to teens and struggling women, cares for the elderly, and provides grants to support the greater community-at-large.

Doylestown Health System



Much of the focus this year has been on the new projects and programs the Health System will undertake 2017-2023. These include a new Center for Heart and Vascular Care which will include a new Hybrid Operating Room (OR

Awards & Recognition



and Cath Lab combined), the Surgery Suite expansion, the Community Center known as “the Hub” replacement at Pine Run, the Pavilion III Orthopedic Institute, a Doylestown Health Urgent Care Center, a new hospital main entrance and improved parking, logistics and pathways. Funding for these will come from the October 2016 bond issue, operations and a major fundraising campaign running through 2023, the 100th Anniversary of Doylestown Hospital.

Our doctors are moving forward and joining with others to keep Doylestown Health always on top. In December the Community Care Collaborative was launched with Holy Redeemer in a new Medicare Shared Savings Program. A wonderful new vascular and endovascular service has led to fantastic results. Five Holy Redeemer cardiologists are now part of Doylestown Health. In February, Doylestown Health and the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center at Jefferson University announced a new partnership providing Doylestown Health patients access to clinical trial programs right here near home. The new Intensivist program has resulted in improved outcomes and faster discharge for patients in the Intensive Care Unit. This summer eClinical Works, a community-based outpatient electronic medical record system, will be implemented.

Awards have been achieved all year long including another LeapFrog “A” and a 4-Star rating from CMS, putting Doylestown Health in the top 24% of U.S. hospitals. Doylestown Health also ranks in the Top 100 Hospitals for Heart and Orthopedic care per Becker’s Hospital Review. Friends of the Heart Institute received a National Hospital Award for Volunteer Excellence in fundraising and philanthropy. These awards represent the fantastic work of all doctors, associates, staff, and volunteers.

Pine Run Retirement Community

Pine Run Retirement Community is home to more than 300 seniors who enjoy active, independent living in cottages and apartments. It is also home to a 90-bed skilled nursing center providing transitional and long-term care. The full continuum of care also includes Pine Run Lakeview, a 107-bed personal care community, and The Garden, a 40-bed personal care and secure Alzheimer's and dementia care neighborhood.

Pine Run experienced another year of positive financial results and fiscal year 2017 ended with a positive operating income of \$768,000.

On April 11, 2017, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new community center at Pine Run. Affectionately known as "The Hub," the 36,000 square foot space will include versatile galleries for fitness, food, and fun. The two-story building will be built in two phases and fully open in fall 2018.



Children's Village

Owned and operated by Doylestown Health, Children's Village is a private, academic child care and preschool program situated on the grounds of Doylestown Hospital. It maintains a rich tradition of offering the best in early education programming to community members and Doylestown Health associates. The center serves infants as young as six weeks old, children in full-day kindergarten programs, and every age in between.

Licensed for 211 children, Children's Village employs a staff of 60 highly-trained and dedicated teachers.

Children's Village is fully accredited by the prestigious National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The center maintains a STAR-4 rating (the highest) in the Pennsylvania Keystone STARS Quality Initiative. Children's Village is licensed by both the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

In October 2016, the Bucks County Association for the Education of Young Children recognized Christine Lopez with its annual Outstanding Educator Award which recognizes exemplary service in the field of early childhood education. She is the 21st Children's Village teacher to receive this award since 1995.

NAEYC renews accreditation every five years and, this year, launched a new accreditation process focusing on those practices which truly differentiate great programs from good programs. Children's Village was one of 21 programs across the country invited to participate in Pilot 1 of this Streamlined Accreditation Model. Not only did Children's Village successfully renew its accreditation, its assessment scores were one of the two highest in the Pilot. Accreditation has been renewed through 2022.



Awards & Recognition



Received Best of Bucks-Mont 2017 Reader's Choice Awards in all levels of living at Pine Run and Lakeview.



Pine Run's Health Center received the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Four-Star Rating.

The teams at Lakeview, The Garden, and Pine Run Home Care earned zero-deficiencies for annual surveys conducted by the PA Department of Human Services.

Community Response

\$14,635 Donated to Six Bucks County Organizations

The Community Response Fund Committee has awarded six grants in 2017 to Bucks County organizations that enhance the quality of life in our community, including:

- Rolling Harvest which collects produce from farmers and delivers it to food banks and shelters. The \$3,500 grant will support the purchase of a refrigerated truck.
- Special Equestrians received \$1,140 for their Neighborly Visits program which will bring horses to visit Pine Run Health Center residents.
- Boy Scout Post 125 was awarded \$1,995 to purchase CPR equipment for training future EMT volunteers.
- Child, Home and Community (now Maternity Care Coalition), an organization that deals with young mothers and families to help them meet the challenges of parenthood, received \$4,000 to buy laptops for use in home visits.
- “I Can Shine Bike Camp” holds a camp at Delaware Valley University in August that teaches disabled children how to ride a bike along with other camp activities. The \$2,000 award will be used for scholarships.
- The Parade Committee of Doylestown Boro was awarded \$2,000 to have commemorative tiles made by the Moravian Tile Works. The tiles will commemorate the Sesquicentennial of Doylestown and will be sold throughout the year to raise money for veteran’s organizations in Doylestown.



This year’s awards benefit a wide range of organizations with varying projects that the VIA was happy and proud to provide with financial aid.

Educational Scholarships

HOBY Scholarships

\$585 Donated to Three High School Sophomores

The Hugh O’Brian Youth Foundation (HOBY) committee was established to seek out and reward leadership potential for one student each at participating Central Bucks High Schools. These students become part of a group of more than 11,000 from the U.S.

and many other countries who take part in the HOBY yearly seminar. Hopefully they will be inspired to a life dedicated to leadership and service and become actively involved in designing a better world for tomorrow. Scholarships were awarded to three Central Bucks County high school sophomores to attend a Hugh O’Brian Leadership Seminar. Attendance at these events is “to recognize their leadership talents and apply them to become effective, ethical leaders in their home, school, workplace and community.” The 2017 recipients were Chloe Kim (Central Bucks High School South), Kristin Rice (Central Bucks High School West), and Sophia Rubin (Central Bucks High School East).

Teen Scholarships

\$6,000 Donated to Three High School Seniors

Nine candidates were evaluated by the Education Committee and three students were selected to receive the 2017 Hannah Pollock-Laura Haddock Scholarships. The \$2,000 awards were presented by Committee Chair Dr. Arlene O’Hara to each of the following

students during the annual VIA June Luncheon:

- Alekhya Gunturi - Central Bucks High School East
Alekhya will attend Boston University to pursue an accelerated medical degree program. She plans on receiving a B A in Public Policy and a medical degree with the goal of becoming an oncology physician.
- Samuel Omesi - Central Bucks High School West
Sam will attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Honors Program majoring in biology with plans of entering medical school. Nephrology and oncology are possible specialties after graduation.
- Jack Traina - Central Bucks High School West
Jack will attend Harvard University with undergraduate plans of combining the study of neuroscience and economics. Upon completing graduate school his goal is to work within the medical profession.



Figure 1(L to R) Dr. Arlene O'Hara, Alekhya Gunturi, Samuel Omesi, and Jack Traina.

Women's Scholarships



The Women's Scholarship Committee awarded four scholarships in the fall of 2016 for a total of \$11,000. Recipients are attending programs at Delaware Valley University, Holy Family, Gwynedd Mercy University and Pennsylvania State University. They are pursuing degrees in nursing and counseling.

\$11,000 Donated to Four Women In Need

Home Life



Through events, the committee provides companionship, support and activities for Pine Run and Pine Run Lakeview residents. The committee provided a poetry reading, Halloween celebration, Santa Claus visit, decorated a Christmas tree, and gave out Valentine cards and gifts to residents. In June a combined Tea for Pine Run and Pine Run Lakeview, an annual affair, was hosted. The committee raised over \$475 through a yearly bake sale to purchase holiday gifts for residents.

Veterans

The committee's focus is to support the mission of the VIA by providing information on military issues to the VIA membership and by collecting and coordinating VIA donations to selected military charities. Committee members collect donations from the general membership by mail and during the October and November general membership meetings and then allocate and distribute the funds.

In addition, we strengthen relationships during social activities such as this year's visit to the Washington Crossing National Cemetery or our annual volunteer day at the Bucks County Designer House & Gardens. The committee collected over \$4,300 in donations, including a repeat \$500 donation from The Goodtime Motorvators, a local car

\$4,400 Donated to Seven Veteran Programs

club that learned about the VIA from presentations given by committee member Joan Logrando and her husband (a Motorvator member). Allocations to military charities follows:

\$2,000	Horsham AGS FRG Programs	\$1,100 for grocery cards, \$600 for gas cards, and \$300 for pantry items
\$500	Doylestown American Legion Post 210	Funds will be used to support reconstruction efforts.
\$500	Shamrock Reins	The organization provides equine assisted activities and therapies for veterans, active duty & reserve service members, first responders, their families, and the families of fallen heroes.
\$500	Washington Crossing National Cemetery	The donation was earmarked for landscaping. The cemetery's director plans to use the money for mature trees at the main entrance.
\$450	Operation Paperback	\$450 to support on-going programs such as free get well cards for veterans at Doylestown Hospital, book mailings to deployed military and veterans hospitals, and support for the YMCA's Veterans Day luncheon.
\$350	US War Dog Association	Money was earmarked for medications for active and retired military dogs.
\$100	Central Bucks Family YMCA Luncheon	The committee provides decorations and assists with organization and operation of the Central Bucks Family YMCA's annual luncheon.

Welfare

\$75,450 Donated to Those in Need

410 Families

147 Individuals

7 Area Agencies

The Welfare Fund Committee is charged to support the mission of the VIA through activities that enhance the lives of members of our community through service to those in need.

Members of the committee are available seven days a week to receive referrals from area agencies on behalf of the financially challenged. Assistance was provided for rent, utilities, food, clothing, temporary housing, moving expenses, car repairs, baby supplies and medications.

Together with grants to area social service agencies, annual assistance to those in need amounted to \$75,450.

- \$41,000 Given in gift cards for 410 financially-challenged families.
- \$19,500 Given in annual grants to seven area social service agencies: Ann Silverman Free Clinic - \$2,500, A Woman's Place - \$2,500, Bucks County Intermediate Unit Homeless Education Program - \$2,000, Doylestown Food Pantry - \$3,000, FISH - \$4,000, Lenape Valley Foundation - \$3,000, and Meals on Wheels - \$2,500.
- \$14,950 Given to assist 147 individuals who were referred by contacts at FISH, St. Vincent de Paul Society, and Doylestown Hospital Case Workers for rent, utilities, food, clothing, temporary housing, moving expenses, car repairs, baby supplies, and medications.

About the VIA

Our Organization

125th Anniversary Committee

Chair - Joyce A. Hanson

1895 Society

Chair - Jean Upton

Bylaws and Policies

Chair - Lillian O'Connor

Vice Chair - Beverly Collier Campbell

CB Cares

VIA Representative - Joan Parlee

Community Recognition and Community

Response Fund

Chair - Marilyn Mele

Conservation

Co-Chairs - Pamela Good & Ann Rainey

42nd Bucks County Designer House & Gardens

Chair - Barbara Ann Price

Vice Chair - Clea Szoke

Education

Chair - Dr. Arlene O'Hara

Vice Chair - Mary Ellen Stanton

Finance

Chair - Barbara Kieffer

Floral Arts

Co-Chairs - Jackie Newman & Sylvia Roman

Fundraising

Chair - Cory H. Schroeder

HOBY Scholarship

Chair - Kathryn McKenna

Home Life

Co-Chairs - Kathryn Lambert & Mary Ellen Stanton

Hospitality

Chair - Ann Rainey

Vice Chair - Deb Renner

Interim Governance

Chair - Lillian O'Connor

James-Lorah Memorial Home

Chair - Helen Hammes

Treasurer - Beverly Harvey

Assistant Treasurer - Beverly Collier Campbell

Literature Group

Co-Chairs - Anne Sweeney & Marilyn Mele

Marketing

Chair - Allyson Malack

Membership

Chair - LaFaun Reed Kahn

Vice Chair - Clara Smith

Sunshine Coordinator - Bette Schmidt

Memorial Coordinator - Pamela Good

Nominating

Chair - Marilyn Mele

Preservation of Records

Chair - Carolyn Kozakowski

Program

Chair - Joyce A. Hanson

Social

Chair - Mary Bachman

Strategic Planning Task Group

Chair - Joyce A. Hanson

Veterans

Chair - Janice Cope

Vice Chair - Maureen Marron

Welfare

Chair - Marianne Chabot

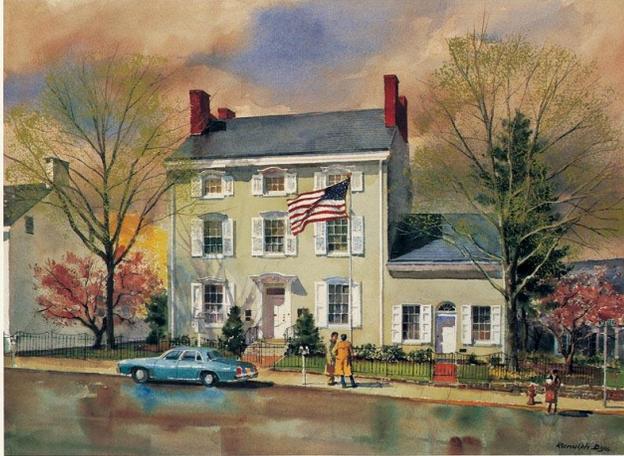
Vice Chair - Louise Woodruff

Treasurer - Susan Pajer

Women's Scholarship

Chair - Terrie Mooradd

Our Headquarters



The mission of the James-Lorah Memorial Home (JLMH) Committee is to preserve and maintain this historic home and its contents. Operations are conducted or overseen by sub-committees: Curb Appeal: Urns/Wreath, Docents, Fundraising, Gravesite, History & Antiques/Records Preservation, Marketing, and Property Management, The on-site Caretaker is responsible for the auditorium rental process as well as cleaning and smaller maintenance issues.

Budgets and House Restoration Projects

Total operating expenses for this fiscal year 2017 were projected to be \$84,000.

The projected deficit of \$16,000 was funded by part of the allocation of the 2016 Bucks County Designer House & Gardens proceeds.

Auditorium rental income was reduced due to the loss of the monthly Sheriff's sale, which moved to the Justice Center, and the Photography Club.

The projected capital expenses for fiscal year 2017 addressed several of the following projects and safety upgrades, totaling \$60,150, made possible with major funding from the 2016 Bucks County Designer House & Gardens allocation. The completed projects were:

- \$300 - Security system interim upgrade
- \$7,580 - Final security system upgrade and exterior video surveillance
- \$4,442 - Exterior safety and security electrical work
- \$20,550 - Repairs to the second and third floor rear elevations and installation of gutter guards and painting

Due to lack of funds, deferred projects were:

- \$24,000 - Mid-high chimney area and roof repair, and gable end painting
- \$3,000 - Auditorium floor refinishing
- \$1,000 – Install backyard stone step railings

Solutions to limit such major expenditures in the future include:

- Create a forward-looking maintenance schedule with associated costs to ensure timely maintenance
- Allocate monies, as available, into a reserve fund for such future projects

Property Survey and Deed

The 1869 deed to Oliver P. James from Henry Chapman (6 acres) is the current deed on record. To correct this in order to reflect Eminent Domain taking much of the property in 1959, a property survey was conducted and the new boundaries established. The updated deed will be filed in FY 2018.

Records

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania completed its cataloging in fiscal year 2016. In fiscal year 2017-18, its website will link to the VIA archive catalog they created regarding 20th century women's groups. A protocol is in place for on-site research.

Fundraising

The theater fundraiser normally held in April was deferred to September 13 (FY2018). This decision was made to avoid conflicts with Designer House activity. Kathryn McKenna's book, *A Treasured Legacy, Stories of the James-Lorah Memorial Home*, is on consignment at the Doylestown Bookshop. Community connections with Fonthill and the Mercer Museum were made and the book will also be available for sale in their gift shops. JLMH receives \$20 per book.

VIA Memorial Garden

The VIA Board approved the creation of a garden in memory of deceased members. This replaces the tradition of donating a book to the Bucks County Library which discontinued this practice. Funding will come from the VIA and other donors.

Monthly and Special Events

SEPTEMBER

- Ice Cream Social for Doylestown Health and Pine Run Associates

OCTOBER

- Membership Meeting - New Member Welcome, *Then, Now & Forever* Documentary, and VIA Expo
- Networking event at the Aldie Mansion
- Conservation Card and Game Party
- Home Life Halloween Parade at Pine Run
- Welfare Fund Roundtable

NOVEMBER

- Membership Meeting - Petite Luncheon & Presentation - Pine Run and Pine Run Lakeview: Past, Present and Future
- Veteran's Committee Luncheon

DECEMBER

- Membership Meeting - Music for the Holiday Season

JANUARY

- Membership Meeting - How the VIA Welfare Fund Serves the Community

FEBRUARY

- Membership Meeting - Women at the Turn of the Century
- Empty House Party

MARCH

- Membership Meeting - The Life of Doylestown's International Explorer William Geil

APRIL

- Membership Meeting - Spring into Fashion
- Preview Gala
- *Then, Now & Forever* Documentary at Delaware Valley University (also shown in June)

MAY

- Bucks County Designer House & Gardens
- Membership Meeting - Hospital Luncheon
- An Evening in the Garden at the Bucks County Designer House & Gardens

JUNE

- Membership Meeting - Annual VIA Luncheon
- Educational and HOBY Scholarship Awards
- Home Life Tea at Pine Run

Social Activities

The VIA Social Committee plans events where VIA members and friends may socialize and develop friendships. They provided several diverse events in 2016-2017 including:

- Astaire and Rogers style dancing production at Princeton's McCarter Theatre
- Dinner at Caleb's American Grill
- Luncheon at the Talking Teacup
- Trip to the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
- A show at the Montgomery Theatre in Souderton, PA. followed by dinner
- Lunch at P F Chang's in Warrington
- Evita musical at DeSales University

Community Involvement



Bucks Knocks Out Hunger The VIA had a presence at the recent United Way's 'Bucks Knocks Out Hunger' event, packaging food for those in need. The two hour volunteer segment always goes by quickly, with a high-energy environment punctuated by music and fun. This is at least the third time we have participated.



Doylestown's Central Park Sensory Trail This new addition was opened in October. Funding for the Trail was supported with a grant from the VIA Community Response Fund. The trail provides "a peaceful environment where families and their children can enjoy nature and interact with the nine sensory stations, or "pods," found along the trail." Located in the Hearts Woods children can move beyond four walls and take an active role in nature.

VIA Fundraisers

The 2016-17 Fundraising Committee is proud to report a significant increase in income over each of the past three years. The committee added several new activities and also realized a bigger financial gain on repeated events. Committee members stepped up to chair certain events or activities, sharing the responsibility to make it easier for all. We learned a few things operationally and will make future changes accordingly.

Throughout the year, the VIA held several fundraisers including Home Life Bake Sale, Poinsettia Sale, Cookie Sale, Pizzeria Uno event. Two 50/50 cash raffles were held May-June.

The 1895 Society also encourages donations and bequests to the Village Improvement Association of Doylestown and is responsible for the accurate recognition of contributions as outlined by the organization.

Bucks County Designer House & Gardens

BUCKS COUNTY

Designer House & Gardens

The 41st Bucks County Designer House & Gardens, chaired by Joy Levy, was held at Foxwood Manor located at 1596 Turkey Trot Road in



Jamison. More than 6,000 attendees toured this house, its many outbuildings and extensive grounds. With the generosity of the Honorary Chair – Joe Cowhey, owner of the Cowhey Family ShopRite of Warminster and ShopRite Pharmacy at Doylestown Hospital, sponsors, donors, and attendees, over \$295,000 was raised to support the mission of the VIA. In October 2016, \$205,000 was donated to support construction of pre-and-post cardiac catheterization treatment areas in the Heart Institute at Doylestown Health. The James-Lorah Memorial Home was given \$49,000 to support much needed repair and restoration work that has been on hold for some time given financial constraints. In addition, \$25,000 was given to the Welfare Fund, \$8,900 to Women’s Scholarships and \$7,000 to the VIA for Teen Scholarships. This sum brings the total raised by Designer House committees to over \$4.1 million since 1971.



The 42nd Bucks County Designer House & Gardens, chaired by Barbara Ann Price, was held at Hill Crest Manor, an elegant estate property commanding a quiet corner of Buckingham Township. The mid-nineteenth century house and outbuildings are clustered close to the intersection of Burnt House Hill and Fell Roads in an area that was a part of William Penn’s designed vision for Bucks County. The property was owned by the Fell family, English Quakers who settled in this area as early as the 1720s with the purchase of 250 acres. By the nineteenth century, the Fells owned much of the land flanking Fell Road.

Joan B. and Donald E. Parlee were Honorary Chairs of the 2017 event and over thirty companies were corporate sponsors, print sponsors, media sponsors, and media supporters. Almost 6,000 people toured the home during the Empty House Party (420 guests) in February, Preview Gala (540 guests) in April, House Tours April 30 – May 28 (5,386 visitors) as well as the Realtor Open House and VIA Evening in the Garden in May. About 350 volunteers worked as guides in the house as well as in the café, ticket desk, designer sales office and many other functions. Seventeen areas in Hill Crest Manor were decorated by sixteen designers and nine gardens were landscaped. Outbuildings also housed five boutiques.

Through ticket sales, event tickets, designer sales, sponsorships, program guide advertisements and donations, the event raised \$286,600. In October 2017, these funds will be donated as follows: \$188,600 - Doylestown Health, \$43,500 - James-Lorah Memorial Home, \$25,000 - Welfare Committee, \$7,000 - VIA Teen Educational Scholarships, \$2,500 - 125th Anniversary Committee, and \$2,000 - Women’s Scholarships.

VIA Special Recognition and Awards

Community Recognition Award



The Community Recognition Award is presented every other year to an individual or organization in alignment with the VIA’s mission. The 2017 award was given to Hannah Sexton who founded Hannah’s Boutique. Twice yearly, this boutique accepts clothing donations to enable young women to start school with some new clothing and to boost their self-esteem. Hannah works with several area agencies to hold the boutique in August and December. To date, more than 200 young women have benefitted from Hannah’s labors.

Hannah Sexton and Marilyn Mele, chair

Teen Volunteer Scholarships

Sanjana Shah was awarded the Richard A. Reif Culture of Caring Award. Sanjana contributed 378 hours in the Snack Bar, Pharmacy, and Physical Therapy Unit at Doylestown Hospital.

Caroline Wend, a senior at CB East, was the first recipient of the Carolyn Della-Rodolfa Teen Volunteer Scholarship which recognizes a teen volunteer who exemplifies compassion, patience, mentorship, integrity, and dedication. Caroline contributed 403 hours as a volunteer in Patient Transport. In her essay, she paid homage to the group of pioneering women who founded Doylestown Hospital to “improve the health and welfare” of Bucks County residents.

VIA Ruth Boland Memorial Nursing Scholarship

For the sixth year, the family of the late Ruth Boland (former VIA President and nurse) funded the VIA Ruth Boland Memorial Nursing Scholarship. A second scholarship was funded by the Grasmeder family. Kathleen Boland, Jeanne Boland, Kathy Grasmeder and Beth Grasmeder-Smith presented \$2,000 awards to Anthony Scarpone-Lambert (Central Bucks High School South) who will attend the University of Pennsylvania and Aaron Wasser (Central Bucks High School East) who will begin pursuit of a BSN at Temple University’s College of Public Health.



(L to R): Beth Grasmeder-Smith, Aaron Wasser, Kathleen Boland, Anthony Scarpone-Lambert, Kathy Grasmeder, and Jeanne Boland.



VIA Women in Business Award

State Representative Marguerite Quinn received the Village Improvement Association’s annual Chamber of Commerce - Women in Business Leadership Award at the annual dinner on June 1 at Spring Mill Manor.

(L to R): Maggie, Marguerite and John Quinn, Marguerite’s mother, Mary Lee Corr and Carolyn Quinn.

Village Improvement Association of Doylestown

BUCKS COUNTY

Designer House & Gardens



Doylestown Health

Doylestown Hospital