



2021-2022  
Annual Report



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

## VIA Vision –

A Healthy and Vibrant Community



## VIA Mission –

Enhance the Health & Welfare of Central Bucks County and Surrounding Communities

## VIA Core Values –

Community Service, Compassion, and Commitment

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barbara Ann Price, *President*

Helen Hammes, *First Vice President*

Joan Parlee, *Vice President Health Services*

Janice Cope, *Recording Secretary*

Nancy Gimbol, *Corresponding Secretary*

Kathleen Krick, *Vice President, Finance*

Beverly Collier Campbell, *Assistant Vice President, Finance*

## Board Members

Advisory Committee, *Bucks County*

*Designer House & Gardens*

Sara Moyer

Whitney Chandor

Joyce A. Hanson

Kathleen Krick

Donna Schuman

Sandy Homel, *Fundraising*

Lillian O'Connor, *Governance*

Jeanne Sandusky, *James-Lorah Memorial Home*

Pat Urban, *Marketing*

Polly O'Brien, *Membership*

Marianne Chabot, *Welfare*

Joyce A. Hanson, *Immediate Past President*

Joanne Murray, *Member at Large*

Carol Counihan, *Member at Large*

Donna Schuman, *Member at Large*

Whitney Chandor,

*Member at Large/Asst. VP*

Carol Shugars,

*Member at Large/Asst. VP*

## Parliamentarian

Beverly Harvey

## President and CEO Doylestown Health

James L. Brexler

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Motivated by unhealthy living conditions in the Doylestown area, fourteen inspired and determined women met on April 26, 1895 and officially founded the Village Improvement Association of Doylestown (VIA) to use "every proper means of improving and beautifying Bucks County and improving the health and welfare of the residents." It was a time before women were considered equals or had the right to vote. In fact, this was the first women's organization in Bucks County.

Since its inception, the VIA can be credited with many notable achievements. The Association's dedication to improving community health began with initiatives for garbage collection, public spitting reduction, and street dust minimization. In 1916, members Sarah M. James and Martha Lorah donated the first community ambulance in memory of their father, Dr. O. P. James. In 1917, the VIA began the first visiting nurse service and provided dental exams and treatment in public schools in the following year. In 1919, they rented two rooms in which Dr. Swartzlander and visiting nurse Miss Munsey could house the Visiting Nurse Service and a health clinic. In 1921, they opened a Well Baby Clinic. The Association's greatest accomplishment was the establishment of Doylestown Hospital in 1923.

Over the 125 years since its beginning, the VIA has initiated many other projects to improve community well-being. One of the group's earliest initiatives was caring for those in need, and the Welfare Committee continues that effort today, with the VIA providing financial support for food, clothing, housing, and medications.

The Association awards scholarships for teen academic excellence and to women in-need to pursue career training. In 2000, the VIA began awarding community-benefiting grants; the VIA also supports veterans.

In 1954, VIA member Sarah M. James donated her home to the VIA to serve as its meeting place; in 1964, an auditorium was added to accommodate its growing membership. In 1972, the James-Lorah Memorial Home was recognized on the National Register of Historic Places by the Dept. of the Interior.

Today, the organization is about 280 strong and envisions "a healthy and vibrant community." Continuing the legacy of our founding members and valuing "Community Service, Compassion, and Commitment," the VIA has an even broader focus: "to enhance the health and welfare of Central Bucks County and surrounding communities."

## From the VIA President — 2020-2022



What is the Secret Sauce of the Village Improvement Association of Doylestown? Is it in the water of Doylestown? The air? The DNA of the women or just simply, like-minded women who want to make the world and, more specifically, their town a better place in which to live?

What started in 1895 with fourteen women who developed the Village Improvement Association of Doylestown has lasted over 127 years. There are now approximately 280 like-minded women who have come together to carry on the legacy of their founding leaders and endeavor to improve their community. Over the years many women have volunteered their time and efforts tirelessly to improve Doylestown and the surrounding communities.

Supply chain issues made it necessary to reschedule the 2022 Bucks County Designer House & Gardens from a spring event to the fall. This meant that several of our committees that depend on proceeds from the Designer House would not receive the funds needed to carry on their work until January 2023. Therefore, being the resourceful women of the VIA, we implemented the Neighbors in Need NOW campaign to raise funds so that the needs of our community would not go unmet.

At the launch of the Neighbors in Need NOW campaign, a gallon of heating oil (150 gallon minimum) was \$3.15/gallon and rose to \$4.99/gallon! Gasoline, essential for transportation to and from work, shopping, etc., topped out at almost \$5/gallon. Continued inflation, labor shortages, supply chain issues, elimination of the eviction moratorium and reduced federal monetary support, make it clear why some of our neighbors so desperately need help.

In keeping with our mission, for the past 127 years the VIA has worked to improve the health and welfare of Bucks County residents. When the VIA began, members of its Charity/Welfare Committee personally visited needy local families providing food and supplies, shoes and clothing, coal for heating and often much more. We no longer directly accept requests for aid but, instead, work with local non-profit organizations by providing added funding. By contributing to our Neighbors in Need NOW campaign, the community is playing an important role in giving our most vulnerable residents a much needed safety net.

Despite the relative affluence of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, there are many residents who are homeless and many more are suffering from food insecurity. We are pleased to announce that we raised close to \$45,000.00 for the Neighbors in Need NOW campaign and the funds are currently being distributed to agencies and people in need.

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The Village Improvement Association of Doylestown donated more than \$232,697.57 during fiscal year 2021-2022. Below is the list of projects funded by the VIA.

- Doylestown Health: \$135,600.00 from the VIA Designer House to the One Vision Campaign designating the Clark Center for Breast Imaging
- Community Response Grants: \$1,000.00
- Senior Holiday Lunches: \$3,625.00
- Other Community Donations: \$2,988.39 includes support of Doylestown Health Staff
- Women's Scholarships: \$7,962.00
- Home Life Elder Support: \$442.51
- Youth Scholarships and Grants: \$7,750.00 (Combination of Education Committee and VIA)
- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) Support: \$94.68
- Veterans Support: \$5,430.00
- Welfare: \$67,804.99

Next year will mark the 100th Anniversary of Doylestown Hospital, one of the greatest achievements of the Village Improvement Association of Doylestown. We, the members of the VIA, wish all of the Hospital Associates a joyous and well deserved celebration. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as President of the VIA over the past two years; two years of the COVID pandemic along with all of the trials and tribulations that we endured during that time. I wish the VIA and Doylestown Hospital all of the best as they begin a year of celebration.

***So what makes the women of the VIA of Doylestown so special?***

- 280 women who care about their community
- Women who see a need in the community and find a way to solve the need
- Women willing to donate their time, effort and money to improve their community
- Women who are committed to the proud history and legacy of the VIA
- Women who are committed to a better tomorrow for their community

If you have a friend or a relative who you think would enjoy what the VIA has to offer, ask her to join us and help to make the VIA and our community even better.



*Barbara Ann Price*, VIA President

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From the Chair of the Boards of Doylestown Hospital and Doylestown Health Foundation,  
and Vice President Health Services of the VIA — 2021-2022



This has been a year of significant challenges and wonderful achievements for Doylestown Health. The ongoing COVID pandemic and its fallout made all forward progress much more difficult, but every goal met was more rewarding and exciting.

In July 2021, one of the first steps taken was the development of a centralized, coordinated vascular lab with fellowship-trained vascular surgeons who perform endovascular, open vascular and hybrid procedures in our Advanced Hybrid Operating Rooms. The vascular Lab includes four dedicated rooms in the Radiology Department with studies performed by a team of six registered vascular technologists. Also critical to cardiovascular care, approval was granted for the purchase of a Philips-Azurion Image-Guided Therapy Unit. This unit emits less radiation and can be moved easily to adjust as conditions demand. Doylestown Hospital has successfully per-

formed over six hundred TAVR cardiac procedures. A crowning achievement was the endowment of a Chair of Cardiothoracic Surgery by Marvin and Dee Ann Woodall.

In October, the health systems received excellent results for the 8/10-8/13 Joint Commission Survey. Also Dr. Anna Thomas joined our staff as our Palliative Care Physician. In November, Doylestown Health was notified that they would receive a RACP Grant of \$1M to use toward its new Women's Diagnostic Center. With the generous donation of the Clark Family, this new center opened in April 2022 as the Clark Center for Breast Imaging.

With another wonderful donation, we will open the Morrel Center for Prenatal Testing, adjoining the Clark Center for Breast Imaging. This addition will guarantee the best, state-of-the-art technology to test and evaluate the health of mothers and babies before birth.

Unfortunately, in March, we learned that the cumulative losses from our COVID efforts were \$56M. The federal government has only reimbursed for half of these losses, so the next couple of years will require extreme efforts to even get back to pre-COVID financial levels. However, our volumes are high as are our efforts and hopes.

The work being done in the Clark Center for Rehabilitation Therapy is yet another example of Doylestown Health's excellence. The Center employs only licensed therapists and great results are achieved faster as a result. Conditions such as lymphedema, spinal and extremity injuries, Parkinson's and cancer in addition to all physical, occupational and speech problems are treated.

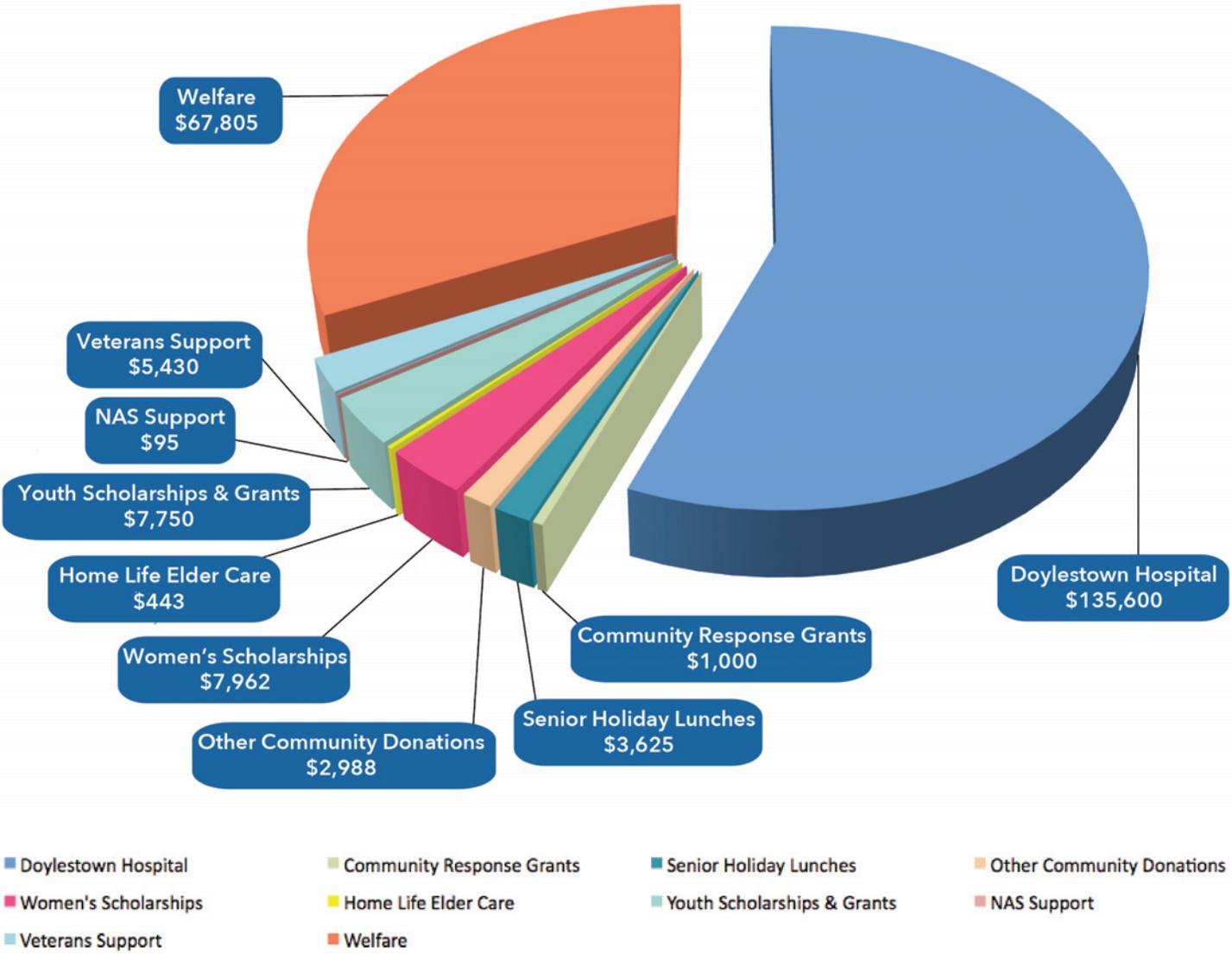
Work is underway on the first stage of the rebuild of Children's Village, which was destroyed by a tornado. We were able to find temporary space on Ferry Road, so the Village reopened one week after the tornado. The new Children's Village will increase in size from 18,000 to 30,000 square feet. The total cost is \$21M, partially funded by insurance proceeds, a \$1M RACP Grant, and donor funding. The new facility will be able to accommodate up to 211 children.

Recently, seventy-five of our DH Physicians received Top Doc honors from Philadelphia Magazine. Doylestown Rotary awarded Doylestown Health its Four-Way Test Award for remarkable efforts for the community during COVID and its ongoing excellence. As our 2021-2022 year winds down, we can certainly be proud of all that has been accomplished.



*Joan Parlee*, VIA VP of Health Services,  
Chair of Doylestown Hospital and Foundation Boards

The Village Improvement Association of Doylestown donated more than \$232,698 during fiscal year 2021-2022 to enhance the health and welfare of Central Bucks County and its surrounding communities.



Summary of numbers or statistics

2021-2022 Financial Results as reported by Bee Bergvall & Co.

Total Revenue	\$329,253.02
Total Expenses	\$289,762.77
Total Assets as of 6/30/2022	\$1,982,159.72

### History of Doylestown Hospital



Doylestown Hospital began as an eight-bed facility in a rented home on Oakland Avenue in Doylestown. Later, a larger hospital was built on Belmont Avenue, just a few blocks away. In the Hospital's earliest days, VIA members filled many roles beyond administration, including doing laundry and preparing food.

In 1986, the health system was moved to a stand-alone nonprofit corporation which the VIA continues to govern through majority representation on the Hospital and Foundation Boards. One VIA member also serves as Chairman of both Boards.



Today, the Doylestown Health System on West State Street encompasses Doylestown Hospital, with 271 beds in a state-of-the-art acute care facility with a medical staff of more than 435 physicians in over 50 medical specialties. In addition to its main campus, the healthcare system also includes other health care sites, physician offices, Pine Run Community (1992), Pine Run Lakeview Personal Care (1998), and an urgent care facility (2017).



To support the hospital, the VIA held its first Bucks County Designer House & Gardens fundraiser in 1971 at Wheelbarrow Hill. With community support and member dedication for more than 40 years, this event is now the VIA's largest annual fundraiser and the VIA has raised more than \$5 million to benefit Doylestown Hospital and to fund its other Association programs.



Doylestown Hospital was once again ranked as one of the best hospitals in the region and within Pennsylvania in the latest U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals rankings. Doylestown Hospital is 7th in the Philadelphia Metro Area and 13th in Pennsylvania. Doylestown Hospital also achieved “High Performing” status for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair; Aortic Valve Surgery; Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD); Colon Cancer Surgery; Heart Attack; Heart Bypass Surgery; Heart Failure; Hip Fracture; Hip Replacement; Kidney Failure; Knee Replacement, and Stroke, in recognition of care that was significantly better than the national average, as measured by factors such as patient outcomes. “High Performing” is the highest award a hospital can earn for U.S. News’ Best Hospitals Procedures & Conditions ratings.



“Our performance as an independent health system and the high marks we receive for patient safety and experience are the result of continuous efforts and focus on the quality of care delivered to each and every patient,” said President and CEO Jim Brexler. “This is how we remain relevant and indispensable to our community, as we have for nearly 100 years. Achieving regional and national recognition is not our goal, but we humbly accept. Our focus is on what’s most important - the patients, families and community we serve.”



The annual Best Hospitals rankings and ratings, now in their 33rd year, are designed to assist patients and their doctors in making informed decisions about where to receive quality care for challenging health conditions or elective procedures. The annual Procedures & Conditions ratings are designed to assist patients and their doctors in making informed decisions about where to receive care for challenging health conditions or elective procedures.



For the 2022-2023 Best Hospitals rankings and ratings, U.S. News evaluated more than 4,500 hospitals across 15 specialties and 20 procedures and conditions. Fewer than half of all hospitals received any High Performing rating, and only four earned this rating in all procedures and conditions. State and metro area rankings reflect the highest performing hospitals in the area across multiple areas of care.



“When patients are considering their options for care, the Best Hospitals ratings are designed to help them identify hospitals that excel in the kind of care they may need,” said Ben Harder, chief of health analysis and managing editor at U.S. News. “A hospital that’s earned a High Performing rating in a service may be a good option for patients in need of that service and their medical professionals to consider.”



The U.S. News Procedures & Conditions methodology is based entirely on objective measures of quality such as survival rates, patient experience, and how successfully each hospital helps patients get back home.

## A quick snapshot of Doylestown Health

Doylestown Health is a comprehensive healthcare system of inpatient, outpatient and wellness education services connected to meet the health needs of all members of the local and regional community. Doylestown Hospital, the flagship to Doylestown Health, has 271 beds and a Medical Staff of more than 435 physicians in over 50 specialties. An independent nonprofit health system, Doylestown Health is dedicated to providing innovative, patient-centered care for all ages.

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## Pine Run Retirement Community



Located on Ferry Road outside of Doylestown in Central Bucks County, Pine Run Retirement Community opened in 1976 as one of the first retirement communities in Bucks County - and the only one with a full-service, 200-bed regional Health Center devoted to senior care. The community attracted recently-retired seniors and the Pine Run Health Center soon became a key health care component for hundreds of families throughout Bucks and Montgomery counties.

Doylestown Hospital purchased Pine Run Retirement Community in 1992, adding specialized senior care to its community-based healthcare system. In 1998, Doylestown Hospital purchased a personal care facility, which became Pine Run Lakeview, in Doylestown Borough.

As part of Doylestown Health, Pine Run Retirement Community offers residents the ease and convenience of health care services delivered within one dedicated system.

The Pine Run Health Center is staffed by an interdisciplinary team of doctors, nurses, social workers, rehabilitation therapists, therapeutic recreation staff and dietitians, all under one roof. If necessary to visit health care providers at Doylestown Hospital or another location within the health system, assistance with appointments and transportation is readily available through the Pine Run Health Center Concierge.



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## Home Life Committee

**The Home Life Committee provides a means for VIA members to volunteer elder support at Pine Run and Pine Run Lakeview.**

Due to COVID-19, personal contact with residents was difficult this year, however the Committee continued with as many activities as possible and tried to provide continuity to residents.

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## Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Committee

**The Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Committee creates Baby Bags to give to the mothers of those babies born with NAS. The items included in the bag address both the health and well-being of the infants and improve the bond between the babies and their parents.**

This year, eleven baby bags were delivered to the Pediatric Floor. VIA members supported this project with hand knitted hats and blankets. Small teddy bears were made and given to the Committee by the ladies at Pine Run.

## Welfare Committee

**\$67,805 Donated  
to Those in Need  
415 Individuals Helped**

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

Together with annual grants to area social service agencies, annual assistance to those in need amounted to \$67,805.00.

FISH	\$6,700.00
Ann Silverman Community Health Clinic	\$3,000.00
Central Bucks school children (gift cards and special request)	\$36,100.00
A Woman's Place	\$3,000.00
Meals on Wheels	\$3,000.00
Bucks County Intermediate Unit	\$3,000.00
The Doylestown Food Pantry	\$5,000.00
Valley Youth House the Synergy Project	\$4,000.00
Doylestown Health	\$705.00
Lenape Valley Foundation	\$3,000.00
1st Baptist Church	\$300.00

## Community Response and Recognition

The Community Response and Recognition Committee was hampered by the ongoing COVID pandemic. George Sigety was formally recognized at the June 2022 luncheon for the work he completed in the James-Lorah Memorial Home Garden in 2020.

*Over the years the VIA has donated almost \$200,000 to over 50 organizations. The thank you letters we receive are heartwarming. You should be very proud to be a part of the VIA's mission in our community.*

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## Veterans Committee



Donations from VIA members and an outside donation from the Good Time Motorvators car club allowed the committee to continue its support of our actively deployed troops as well as veterans.

The largest portion of the funds collected went to the Family Readiness Group (FRG) at the Biddle Air National Guard Base. The funds were used to purchase gift cards for both food and gas to be distributed to needy military families. The remaining funds were distributed to the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at the University of Pennsylvania, which provides counseling to returning veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD). The help that is provided to these veterans has been recognized as being very effective at preventing suicide among our military. Telehealth counseling, which allows Bucks and Montgomery County veterans to remain at home and receive help, was also emphasized.

Mailings of paperback books collected for the deployed troops as well as for veterans during their military hospital stays continued during the year. This project is known as Operation Paperback and is extremely appreciated by the military who receive the books.

The committee also provided Get Well cards for Veterans during their stay at Doylestown Hospital. The cards are placed in boxes conveniently located throughout Doylestown Hospital.

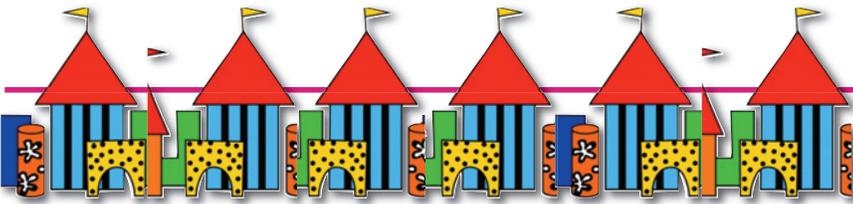
Additionally, the committee coordinated the November Petite Luncheon and arranged an excellent slide presentation called "Eye In The Sky" by the Commander from the Biddle Air National Guard Base. This presentation left attendees with a feeling of great confidence in our military to not only protect our troops on the ground but also to ensure the safety of our homeland. Biddle FRG representatives Anna Richar and Jenny Pappas also spoke about their gratitude for generous VIA donations over the years which help so many military/family members during stressful financial periods. They emphasized that 100% of VIA donations go to the troops.

Once again the committee arranged and coordinated strong VIA participation in the annual Doylestown Memorial Day Parade.

### Committee funds were distributed in the following manner:

Family Readiness Group at the Biddle Air National Guard Base	\$4,150
Steven A. Cohen Foundation at the University of Pennsylvania	\$1,000
Hospital Get Well Cards for Veterans	\$ 150

\$130 is being held for future budgeted expenses.



The Children's Village was established by the Village Improvement Association and first opened its doors in 1985. Originally intended to provide a rewarding, educational, nurturing, and convenient experience for children of Doylestown Hospital employees, Children's Village started as a "one-room schoolhouse" with a front door, three classrooms and two offices - serving a total of 40 children.

High demand plus requests for enrollment from non-hospital employees allowed our facility to grow and accommodate a larger population. By 1993 they had grown to three buildings with 15 classrooms and had the ability to accommodate additional area children. Today's Children's Village serves more than 200 children from five counties. Children's Village fosters a comprehensive learning environment and accepts children with disabilities as well as non-English speaking children. They also work closely with Child Care Information Services of Philadelphia (CCIS) to help families in need of financial assistance.

Children's Village is a fully licensed and nationally accredited early childhood education center, offering programs for children six weeks of age, up to and including kindergarten. Carefully designed curriculum at Children's Village employs Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), and concentrates on the behavioral, social, emotional, and intellectual well-being and growth of each in-

dividual student, establishing a strong learning foundation for each child and fostering a positive learning environment with ample opportunities for play. For over 35 years, Children's Village has been the "home away from home" for thousands of children from our local community. Today, Children's Village serves second-generation children and families—parents, who were once students, trust their little ones to our care.



The Children's Village facility on the Doylestown Hospital campus was destroyed by a tornado in August 2021. Soon after, Doylestown Health announced that rebuilding would be a new priority of ONE VISION: The Campaign for Doylestown Health, and demolition took place in November 2021. A groundbreaking ceremony for the new Children's Village was held on Saturday, December 4, 2021. The rebuilt Children's Village will include 16 classrooms for five age groups, from infancy through kindergarten; a library; a teaching kitchen; an art studio; a multipurpose room for gatherings and fitness; an outdoor play space and enhanced safety and security features. Children's Village will receive a \$10,000 gift from the VIA.

The VIA Education Committee supports the mission of the VIA by overseeing the yearly pursuit, evaluation, selection and presentation of three \$2,000 scholarships to students who are planning to study Human Health Care. This scholarship is named in memory of two outstanding women and members of the VIA - Hannah Pollock, a visiting nurse, and her sister, Laura Haddock, a school teacher. Additionally, the committee seeks, evaluates, and selects candidates for the \$2,000 VIA Ruth Boland Memorial Nursing Scholarship.

The Education Committee sends an email and letter to the guidance department of each high school in the Central Bucks School District to advise the students who meet the application requirements in early February. To be eligible, the student, male or female, must be accepted for further study in a human health related program, and reside in the Central Bucks School District.

### Hannah Pollock - Laura Haddock Scholarship

awards \$2,000 scholarships to three Central Bucks School District  
students planning to study human health care.

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These scholarships were presented to the following recipients in June  
at a luncheon held at Spring Mill Manor.

**Mehir Badlani:** Mehir graduated from [Central Bucks High School South](#) with an Honors Diploma and was selected as this year's salutatorian. He has held the office of President of the American Health Occupations Club and volunteered his time in hospitals. Mehir will attend Union College, where he will major in Biology. He will continue directly to Albany Medical School.

**Alexis Smith:** Alexis graduated from [Archbishop Wood High School](#) with an Honors Diploma. She plans a career in medicine and will begin her educational journey at Fordham University, where she will study Biology.

**Mollie Story:** Mollie graduated from [Central Bucks High School South](#) with Honors. Mollie has shown interest in health care from a young age. She plans to attend Sacred Heart University in Connecticut, where she will study for her doctorate in Physical Therapy in a six-year program.

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Ruth Boland  
Memorial Nursing  
Scholarship

\$2,000

### Boland Scholarship

The 2022 VIA Ruth Boland Memorial Nursing Scholarship was awarded to [Mia Schnapf](#), who graduated from Central Bucks High School East with a Scholars Diploma. She will be attending Villanova University this fall to major in Professional Nursing and plans on continuing toward an advanced degree. The scholarship is awarded in memory of the former VIA President and nurse, Mrs. Ruth Boland and was presented at the VIA annual luncheon by Kathleen and Jeanne Boland, daughters of the late Dr. and Mrs. Boland.

HOBY  
Scholarships

\$675

### HOBY Scholarships

In recognition of their leadership potential, three students from Central Bucks High Schools received scholarships to attend a 2-day Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) State Leadership Seminar. More than 10,000 high school sophomores from across the U.S. attend the seminars, which are intended to inspire young people to a life dedicated to leadership, service, and active involvement in designing a better world for tomorrow. These scholarships went to: [Brayden Butts](#), [Jasmin Kainth](#) and [Nisha Vyas](#)

The Richard A. Reif  
Scholarship

\$1,000

### Richard A. Reif Scholarship

Doylestown Health's Volunteer Services interviews all teen volunteers who have contributed significant hours of service by their senior year. This award focuses on the contribution to the Culture of Caring at Doylestown Health and \$1,000 was awarded to [Thanmayee Yalamanchi](#), who attended CB South. She volunteered in both the MRI and Patient Transport Departments and contributed 335 hours of service to Doylestown Health.

The VIA funds this award.

James-Lorah  
Memorial Home  
Awards

\$100 awarded to  
two students

### James-Lorah Memorial Home Awards

This year marks 96 years of a remarkable James-Lorah family legacy for two Central Bucks West High School students. In 1924, Martha James Lorah established the Deed of Kindness Prize in her will and her husband, George Lorah, both a minister and amateur poet, established the George H. Lorah English Prize in his wife's memory. Each award is for \$100.

The Martha J. Lorah Deeds of Kindness Award: [Amanda Katz](#)

The Dr. George Lorah English Award: [Katherine Matteson](#)

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## Women's Scholarships

### Women's Scholarships

\$7,962

The VIA Women's Scholarships provide modest financial support, based on need, to prepare eligible women to enter, or re-enter, the job market by furthering their education in an undergraduate degree program or in pursuit of a vocational certificate or diploma. All scholarship recipients work closely with a counselor, career coach, or a self-sufficiency coach to ensure their success. During the current academic year, the committee processed two applications from one scholar and awarded \$7,962. The candidate completed a program at Bucks County Community College and then enrolled at LaSalle University.

With the initial fund, generously provided by Marvin and Dee Ann Woodall, and the ongoing support of the VIA and Designer House allocations, the Women's Scholarship Fund has become a consistent source of support for Bucks County women as they pursue their educational and employment goals.

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## Honoring the Past

### Conservation Committee

Conservation Committee members focus on the maintenance and improvement of the gardens at the James-Lorah Memorial Home. The committee also engages in fundraising to meet the financial cost of present and future projects at the home.

Members of the committee, along with the JLMH "Garden Gals," work together to beautify the VIA Headquarters. The Conservation Committee donated \$1,000 to go towards developing a garden around the base of the historic oak tree in the side garden of the JLMH. This spring donated ferns and other woodland species were planted on the property. The committee continues to take care of the planting of the urns in front of the house.

A new sign, designed and funded by the committee, was installed in the Past Presidents Garden at Doylestown Hospital. Located outside the Chapel, the Garden provides a lovely peaceful place of contemplation with welcoming benches.

After a two year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Conservation Committee looks forward to the return of their Annual Card and Game Party Luncheon fundraiser in October.

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## James-Lorah Memorial Home (JLMH)



The mission of the James-Lorah Memorial Home Committee is to supervise and coordinate the operation, preservation and maintenance of the headquarters of the Village Improvement Association, its House/Museum and the adjacent Auditorium, and to restore and conserve the records of the VIA and the contents of the House/Museum. The James-Lorah House and Museum is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is available for tours in accordance with the terms of the will of Miss Sarah M. James, who bequeathed her home to the Village Improvement Association.

The use of the James-Lorah Auditorium has returned to pre-COVID status. New and old organizations are making use of the facility and have shared positive comments about the upgrades to the facility and the professionalism and attention to detail of the caretaker.

Indigenous Ingenuities was retained to provide maintenance assistance with the Home's gardens. Master Gardeners also enhanced the gardens with perennial and native flowers which will create a three season garden. Funds from the 2021 Designer House, the Conservation Committee and an anonymous donor also allowed for the creation of a garden around a prominent oak tree on the property, installation of a new fence along the back of the property, and railings in the backyard. Several necessary repairs to the house were also completed.

Two new tours were held: a Victorian Wake in October, in partnership with the Civil War Museum, and the Women in History Tour in March, in partnership with local Girl Scouts. The Victorian Christmas Tour returned in December, partnered with the Doylestown Historical Society. With the help of JLMH docents, tours for new members were also held. The Annual Henry Mercer Birthday Celebration tour took place in June with the help of the Civil War Museum, local Girl Scouts, and a student from Doyle Elementary School. The committee hopes to continue the tradition of working with our young people to teach them local history and encourage them to pursue their talents. Private tours also continued throughout the year. The total number of visitors to the house/museum was 430. To enhance the tour experience, a VIA/JLMH gift shop was opened and Eventbrite is now used to purchase tour tickets.

# Continuing & Promoting the VIA Legacy

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## Strategic Planning Committee



The VIA is a philanthropic organization and strategic planning focuses on the viability and relevance of the organization into the future. The strategic plan defines our goal and how to get there by adhering to the Vision, Mission, and Values.

Although COVID restrictions delayed implementation of some outreach initiatives to increase the organization's visibility, a slide presentation explaining our history, relationship to the hospital and community service initiatives was completed. This will be shared in the fall of 2022.

When it became apparent that a change in the dates of this year's Designer House would result in a funding shortfall for the Welfare Committee and the community organizations that it assists, a Neighbors in Need NOW appeal was launched. As of June 25, \$42,416 was raised. The Neighbors in Need NOW campaign also published articles highlighting interviews with several of the Welfare Committee's partners.

Another focus of the committee was on retaining VIA members and increasing the organization's membership. The Membership Committee reached its FY 2022 goal of 275 members by promoting the organization at the Designer House, JLMH House Tours, and events for friends and neighbors of members.

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## Membership Committee



The Membership Committee encourages prospective members to join the VIA and current members to be actively involved in the organization. It also welcomes and greets new members and guests at the monthly general membership meetings.

A the end of June 2022 there were 284 VIA members, exceeding the goal of 275. This year's new members learned of VIA from: Designer House, Hospital/Pine Run, friends, JLMH, Arts Festival, and publications like the BC Herald. Continuing the program initiated last year, each new member has been assigned a mentor to help the new members if they have questions or concerns. A new checklist for mentors was developed. Working in conjunction with the Governance Committee, the committee has helped initiate a Working Women's Task Force to address the needs of the VIA's members who are working women. It is hopeful that this group will be able to provide working women with some meaningful opportunities that suit their schedules, which are generally outside the normal weekday working hours of most VIA committees.

## Information Technology Committee

The committee's mission is to evaluate and manage the technology the VIA needs to operate in a safe and effective manner. The VIA's Information Technology Committee provides logistical tracking and support for the organization's various software and hardware assets and online accounts.

This year the Information Technology Committee offered Google Workspace training classes monthly, and by request at other times. The VIA now has 75 trained members using the VIA intranet, including most of our major committees' chairs. During the summer the updated VIA member list was reviewed and the Google users, shared drives, and drive access assignments were updated. A method to redirect emails sent to the VIA address for members who are not yet active in the system was implemented and the redirect for all non-users will be implemented in the coming year.

The committee continued updates to both the VIA and Bucks County Designer House's websites, including major revisions of the VIA site to consolidate smaller pages, streamline navigation, and update information. As part of our system tracing, the system inventory database tracks 36 different software packages or online systems/accounts that the VIA uses, as well as our larger hardware systems/items. This year the James-Lorah Auditorium's new audio-visual systems were added and training of other VIA members in the systems' use was started.

The committee was fortunate to add two new members, both of whom have website and computer experience.



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## Governance Committee

The Governance Committee supported the mission of the VIA by recommending processes to attract and retain new members, match member skills with needs of the VIA committees, encourage development of members to leadership positions, and articulate the requirements of committee chairs and Board members. In doing this, the committee also maintained and updated, as needed, the Bylaws and Policies Manual for the VIA. The following are among the committee's significant accomplishments this year:



- The Nominating Committee produced a full slate of officers for the 2022-2024 term.
- Bylaws Subcommittee approved changes to both the Bylaws and Policies of the VIA which were all accepted by the Board and membership.
- The Membership Committee had a record number of new members this year, many of whom are working women. The Governance Committee developed a questionnaire and a taskforce to address the interests of working women in the VIA.
- The Governance Committee monitored the Board financial support of the VIA and 100% of Board members complied.
- Governance administered and reported on the Annual Board self-assessment. Results were all favorable.
- An index of documents has been developed for Board Orientation.
- VIA Board Education has been arranged for monthly Board meetings with topics in the area of IT training, COVID education, Patient Safety metrics, Hospital Pharmacy topics, and education on the history and concept of the VIA governing the hospital, not owning the hospital.

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## Floral Arts Committee

The Floral Arts Committee supported the Mission by enhancing the VIA meetings/events and participating in community events that recognize the important work the VIA does in the Central Bucks community.

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## Social Committee

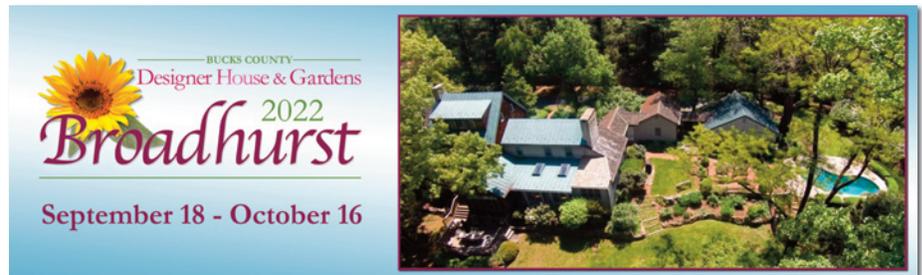
The Social Committee planned a number of events throughout the year, allowing members to enjoy one another's company and pursue shared interests. These included a tour of Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, followed by a luncheon, a tour of Doylestown Cemetery conducted by a VIA member, and a visit to the Mennonite Museum with a luncheon afterwards.

# Bucks County Designer House & Gardens

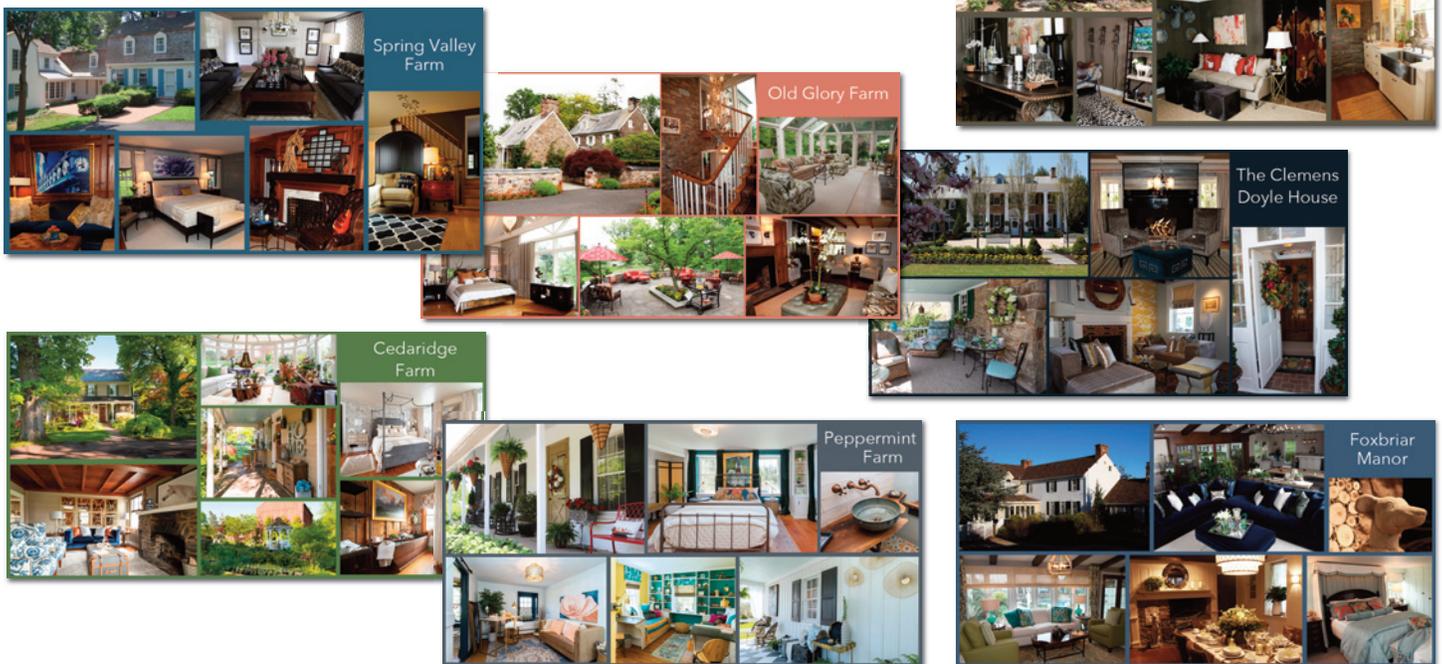


## Designer House & Gardens

The Bucks County Designer House & Gardens is the VIA's largest fundraiser, supporting Doylestown Hospital and other VIA community projects. A spacious older home, made available by a generous homeowner, is completely redecorated by interior designers and landscapers who are selected by the Designer and Landscape committees; the property is then opened to the public for tours for a period of one month. Historically this has taken place in the spring, however supply chain issues created by the pandemic necessitated moving the 2022 house date to the fall. Many subcommittees, including Tickets, Finance, Designers, & Boutiques are at work to present this year's house, *Broadhurst*, which will be open for tours from September 18 to October 16, 2022.



## Past Bucks County Designer Houses



The Bucks County Designer House & Gardens is the VIA's largest fundraiser that supports Doylestown Hospital and other VIA Community Projects.

We would like to extend a special thank you to our  
*Generous Sponsors*



**BRONZE EVENT SPONSORS**

Doylestown Radiology Associates  
Firsttrust Bank  
Lockton Companies  
Penn Color  
Penn Community Bank  
Silverman Family Partnership, Inc.  
Simply Fresh by McCaffrey's  
TD Bank

**TENT SPONSOR**  
AB&C

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Bugajewski Facility Services

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Doylestown Commerce Center  
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Jeanne & Rob

**PREMIER MEDIA SPONSOR**

Bucks County Herald

**MEDIA SPONSORS**

Bucks County Women's Journal  
River Towns Magazine

**MEDIA SUPPORTERS**

Bucks County Magazine  
Princeton Journal - Witherspoon Group  
Suburban Life Magazine

**HOUSE SPONSOR**

Benjamin Moore & Co.



**BUCKS COUNTY**

**Designer House  
& Gardens**

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## Fundraising Committee

Although somewhat hampered by COVID restrictions, the Fundraising Committee actively planned and executed VIA fundraising events and coordinated fundraising projects within the VIA. Over \$6,000 was raised involving six different activities:

**Amazon Smile Foundation: \$261 • Genevieve’s Kitchen: \$1,920 / October, \$1,570 / April  
Poinsettia Sale: \$1,092 • Holiday Bling Sale: \$176 • Holiday Cookie Sale: \$987**

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## 1895 Society Committee



The 1895 Society Committee is responsible for encouraging donations to the VIA, maintaining donations records, and recognizing donors. The committee also assists in the development of policies and procedures regarding the processing of donations to honor the donor’s intentions. The committee is responsible for the recognition of donations in the Annual Giving Report and through special donor events as appropriate.

The Annual Giving Report was prepared and released in the fall of 2021 and was posted to the VIA website and linked to a social media release thanking donors at Thanksgiving. During the year, a Gift-in-Kind procedure and form were formalized. An inaugural Legacy League member recognition event, which had been postponed due to the pandemic, was held in April. Six new members were welcomed into the VIA Legacy League this year.

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

The VIA would like to thank all the generous donors who make our impact in the community possible. In addition to the monetary gifts listed below, countless contributors of gifts-in-kind and services rendered are greatly appreciated and help us to fulfill our mission to "Enhance the Health & Welfare of Central Bucks County and Surrounding Communities".

## Gifts greater than \$25,000

Robert W. Stuckert Trust

## Gifts of \$10,000 - \$25,000

Dr. Donald E. & Joan B. Parlee

## Gifts of \$1,000 - \$4,999

Anonymous  
 Christopher Beck  
 Patricia Gorsky  
 Diana Hazzard  
 Kathleen Krick  
 Joey Mcalinden, *chef/owner*  
*Genevieve's Kitchen*  
 Lillian O'Connor

## Gifts of \$500 - \$999

William Barba  
 Geraldine Beagle  
 Marianne Chabot  
 Whitney Chandor  
 Beverly Collier Campbell  
 Janice Cope  
 Beverly Harvey  
 Jeanne Hurford  
 Polly O'Brien

## Goodtime Motorvators Car Club Event



"The Goodtime Motorvators Car Club donates money to the VIA Veterans Committee because the club trusts that 100% of the money donated will benefit local veterans in need."

## Gifts of \$250 - \$499

Ruth Carlson  
 Carol Counihan  
 Goodtime Motorvators  
 Elizabeth Graham  
 Joyce A. Hanson  
 Charlotte Keenan  
 Glenn & Kathleen Meyer  
 Marguerite Quinn  
 Jean Upton  
 Patricia Urban  
 Dee Ann Woodall

## Gifts of \$100 - \$249

Randolph & Lorraine Barba  
 Patricia Bitzer  
 Rhea Brown  
 Rosemary Burrage  
 Linda Cacossa  
 William A. Chabot  
 Patricia Conti  
 Sharon Curran  
 Elizabeth Dinlocker  
 Sharon Fetterolf  
 Jane Fox Laquer  
 Helen Hammes  
 Doylestown Health  
 Dr. Sandy M. Homel  
 Nancy Jenkins  
 Johnson & Johnson  
 Jackie Kennedy  
 Barbara Kieffer  
 Helen Kline  
 Fred Koberna  
 Kathleen Landis  
 Maureen T. Marron  
 Linda Matula  
 Ruth Maxson  
 Geryl McMullin

"My donations to the VIA support our Mission to help those in the community - to give them a hand up rather than a hand out. Perhaps it is a mom who wants to improve her economic situation and applies for a Women's Scholarship, or an elderly person needing help paying for a prescription. We know "we cannot help everyone, but everyone can help someone."

- Helen Hammes

VIA President, 2022 - 2024

## Gifts of \$100 - \$249 (cont.)

Ann Moon  
 Phyllis Morris  
 Jacqueline Newman  
 Karen O'Brien  
 Joanne Page  
 Nancy Pastorok  
 Ann Rainey  
 LaFaun Reed Kahn  
 Ginny Riedley  
 Jean Rutherford  
 Jeanne Sandusky  
 Cory H. Schroeder  
 Heidi Shiver  
 Karen Simon  
 Donald Siriani  
 Terry Steinberg  
 Cleta Szoke  
 Huldah E. Taylor  
 Janet & Bill Westerman  
 Lydia Winderman

### Gifts up to \$99

Anonymous  
Mary Bachman  
Barbara Botto  
Ann Callahan  
Grace Carr  
Maureen Casey  
Tracy Lynne Cloud  
Carol Courtwright  
Nancy Cunningham  
Carolyn Della-Rodolfa  
Mary C. Dischinger  
Edi Eisenbraun  
Angela Falzone  
Pamela Finley  
Georgia Ford  
Nancy Gimbol  
Lynn Goldman  
Pamela Good  
Suzanne Guckavan  
Susan Halstrick  
Jane Hellberg  
Patricia H. Herstine  
JoAnn Hibbs

### Gifts up to \$99 (cont.)

Mary Horvath  
Margaret Houck  
Robin Kaufold  
Deborah Kniese  
Carolyn Kozakowski  
Marlene Krell  
Teresa Kruse  
Kathryn A. Lambert  
Jean Leister  
Nancy Lelli  
Sandra Leon  
Diana Lippincott  
Joan Logrando  
Roanne Lukens  
Thomas McFarland  
Grace McGinniss  
Kirstin McGowan  
Kyle McKoy  
Darla McPherson  
Charlene Mehra  
Marilyn Mele  
M. Luisa Mercuri  
Mary Jane Mims

### Gifts up to \$99 (cont.)

Barbara Molesworth  
Joanne Murray  
Shirley Myers  
Barbara Ann Price  
Janet Punzak  
Katharine Rancourt  
Christine Robinson  
Mary Lou Sander  
Tricia Scheeler  
Donna Schuman  
Laurie Schutt  
Patricia Shire  
Carol Shugars  
Elizabeth Sporer  
Carol Trunzo  
Marjorie Vansant  
Faith Voit  
Dolores Volker  
Jean Westcott  
M. Sue Whitlock  
Louise Woodruff  
Linda Wortell



### Legacy League Members

Helen Hammes  
Joyce A. & Steven Hanson  
Kathleen & Andrew Krick  
Donald E. Parlee M.D.  
Joan B. Parlee  
Barbara Ann Price  
Jean & Dan Upton

### Legacy League Recognition Brunch



"The VIA has been a huge part of my life for the last thirty years! I believe in all the VIA charitable endeavors and support giving to causes right here at home." - Joan Parlee

*Chair of Doylestown Hospital and Foundation Boards  
2016-2022*

## In Memory of

Marilyn Bailey  
*Polly O'Brien*

Marjorie Barba  
*Randolph & Lorraine Barba*  
*William Barba*  
*Elizabeth Dinlocker*  
*JoAnn Hibbs*  
*Thomas McFarland*  
*Nancy Pastorok*  
*Heidi Shiver*  
*Donald Siriani*  
*Huldah E. Taylor*  
*Janet & Bill Westerman*

Ed Bornak  
*Grace Carr*

John Bronsky  
*Teresa Kruse*

Martin J. Budnicki  
*Phyllis Morris*

Alfred Carlson  
*Jean Upton*

Ernest Chiodi  
*Patricia Conti*

Raymond Crain  
*Jeanne Sandusky*

John Dahl  
*Sharon Fetterolf*

Martha Deknatel  
*Elizabeth Dinlocker*

Linda Felt  
*Jean Upton*

John Gellasch  
*Mary Bachman*

Clarence (Larry) Good III  
*Pamela Good*

Michael Homel  
*Dr. Sandy M. Homel*

Raymond E. Hopkins  
*Diana Hazzard*

Stephen Kozakowski  
*Carolyn Kozakowski*

John F. Marron  
*Maureen T. Marron*

Hugh McGinniss  
*Grace McGinniss*

Barbara Molesworth  
*Jean Upton*

George Morrison  
*M. Sue Whitlock*

James D. Murphy Sr  
*Helen Hammes*

Don Page  
*Joanne Page*

Marty Richino  
*Lydia Winderman*

William H. Rorer III  
*Whitney Chandor*

Anthony Rzempoluch  
*Marilyn Mele*

Tom Sandusky  
*Jeanne Sandusky*

Joseph Schmidt  
*Mary Lou Sander*

Nick Trunzo  
*Carol Trunzo*

## In Honor of

All Veterans  
*Joan Logrando*

Mary Jane Beck  
*Christopher Beck*

Christopher Chandor  
*Whitney Chandor*

Jan Cope  
*Lillian O'Connor*

Howard Fetterolf  
*Sharon Fetterolf*

LTC George Kieffer  
*Barbara Kieffer*

George Kennedy  
*Jackie Kennedy*

Roger Lambert  
*Sharon Fetterolf*

Timothy Necarsulmer  
*Pamela Finley*

Jack Olsh  
*Tricia Scheeler*

Donald E. Parlee M.D.  
*Joan B. Parlee*

Joan Parlee  
*Jean Upton*

Barbara Ann Price  
*Jean Upton*

VIA Assistance  
*Tracy Lynne Cloud*

VIA Members who served  
in the Military  
*Patricia Shire*



"The VIA has a long history of remarkable women. I like to give in recognition of living and deceased VIA Members who have helped the organization achieve its mission of improving our community." - Jean Upton, Chair of the 1895 Society



## Neighbors in Need NOW Donors

The VIA would like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their contributions to the Neighbors in Need NOW Campaign. Donations to this campaign were distributed by the VIA Welfare Committee to various charities supporting those in need in our community.

Peter Achorn  
Betty Atwood  
Mary Bachman  
Stephanie Baggett  
Susan Barger  
Mark Barr  
Barbara & Bill Boyle  
Marie Brescia  
Anne & Ben Bugajewski  
Ann Callahan  
Ruth Carlson  
Marianne & Bill Chabot  
Elizabeth & William Chabot Jr  
Chandor Charitable Giving Fund  
Barbara & Robert Chierici  
Beverly Collier Campbell  
Patricia Conti  
Richard Cooper  
Bill & Jan Cope  
Patrick & Carol Counihan  
Barry & Melissa Curewitz  
Mark & Denise Dauber  
Larry Dimmig  
William & Sarabeth Gadd

Dorothy Gahman  
Joan Garber  
Liz Graham  
Helen Hammes  
Joyce A. Hanson  
Nina Heitz  
Patricia Herstine  
Carol Hirt  
Johnson & Johnson  
Christine & Philip Junker  
Cheryl Kelly  
Andrew & Kathleen Krick  
Jean Leister  
Sandra Leon  
Mary Lee and Bill Lieser  
Leslie Marsden  
Barbara Martini  
Ruth Maxson  
Joyce McCormick  
Joanne McHugh  
Geryl & Robert McMullin  
Barbara Mills  
Marilyn Mullen  
Joy Nash

Lillian O'Connor  
Stephanie O'Connor  
Panera Bread  
Cheryl Paradiso  
Joan Parlee  
Michelle Pedersen  
Mary Beth Phillips  
Barbara Ann Price  
Ginny Riedley  
Ann Russell  
Hara Salkovitz  
Jeanne Sandusky  
Cory H. Schroeder  
Laurie Schutt  
Sherry Shain  
John Soderberg  
Elizabeth Sporer  
Linda Sullivan  
Patricia Urban  
Olga Wolf  
Laura Wortman  
Michael & Dorothy Zelesko