



Legacy Newsletter

Published by the Washington County Community Foundation



This past spring, **\$250,500** was distributed to **60** fire, police, and EMS organizations in Range's core operating area.

Honoring our Heroes

The Range Resources Good Neighbors Fund has surpassed \$1.2 million in grants to support local first responders!

"Throughout the years, Range and its service partners have continued to answer the call to support local first responders in our operating area. These organizations serve our communities fearlessly and selflessly. Reaching this million-dollar milestone is the least we can do to show our gratitude to those who continue to protect us."

- Tony Gaudlip, Range Resources VP - Appalachia

The Range Resources Good Neighbors Fund was established at the Washington County Community Foundation in 2018 to support fire departments and emergency management services organizations in Range's core operating area.

Range Resources' philosophy is straightforward: to be good stewards for their shareholders, while doing the same thing for the environment and the communities in which they live and work. Their commitment to educating and training local first responders is just one example of their dedication to performing in a manner that reflects their own high expectations for community engagement and always meeting or going beyond regulatory requirements.

"These grants are truly saving lives. They've enabled us to purchase equipment that has already made the difference in real emergency situations in our community."

- Jordan Cramer, South Strabane Chief of Fire & Emergency Services and Assistant Township Manager



WCCF LEADERSHIP NEWS



New President & CEO

In May, the Washington County Community Foundation welcomed Aliesha Walz as its new President and CEO.

Walz is no stranger to the Foundation. She began her tenure with the WCCF in 2011 and advanced through several leadership roles, including Chief Operating Officer. Most recently, she served as Major Gifts Officer at the Washington Health System Foundation, where she significantly increased support from leadership-level donors.

Reflecting on her return, Walz described it as “a deeply meaningful homecoming,” adding, “As we move forward, I envision the WCCF strengthening its role as a trusted philanthropic leader by integrating authentic community engagement with data-driven decision-making.”

Walz is a Certified Fund Raising Executive, a graduate of Saint Vincent College and Leadership Washington County, and an active member of several professional fundraising associations.



Griffith Elected to Board of Trustees

Chad A. Griffith is the General Counsel at Northern Biogas, a leading developer and operator of renewable natural gas projects across the United States. Prior to joining Northern Biogas, he served as Chief Operating Officer of CNX Resources Corporation, where he held several executive roles in operations, marketing, and business development. His career has included leadership in legal, engineering, and strategic planning functions throughout the energy industry.

Griffith holds a Bachelor of Science in physics and computer science from Frostburg State University, a Juris Doctor from the West Virginia University College of Law, and an M.B.A. from Carnegie Mellon University's Tepper School of Business.



Celebrating Jutca's Service on the Board

The WCCF extends heartfelt thanks to Mary Ellen Jutca, who rotated off the Foundation's Board of Trustees in July. Throughout her tenure, Jutca generously shared her time, expertise, and thoughtful guidance, helping to strengthen the Foundation's work in the community. We are sincerely grateful for her dedicated service and lasting contributions to our mission.

From Global Aid to Local Impact

Arthur Keys' Humanitarian Journey

Arthur Keys' life reflects the classic hero's journey: leaving home, facing trials, and returning to give back.

Born and raised in Washington, he discovered his passion for faith-based humanitarian work at Bethany College. That calling took him to New York, Yugoslavia, and eventually Washington, D.C., where he and his wife Jasna founded International Relief and Development. The organization became the largest recipient of USAID funds, managing \$650 million in aid across 40 countries.



Arthur and his wife, Jasna.

Later, the couple returned to Washington County to raise Hereford cattle on family land. But Keys never stopped serving. He led a \$7 million renovation of the Thomas Campbell Apartments and mobilized clergy to support the City Mission's women's shelter.

Today, as Senior Minister at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), he continues to champion local and global missions, including immigration and humanitarian aid.

"Our economy and national security depend on global goodwill," he says. "We need to work together for the common good."

The Washington County Community Foundation is proud to name Rev. Arthur Keys the 2025 recipient of the **Louis E. Waller Humanitarian Award**, named for the man who built both the church Keys now leads and the apartments he helped restore.



Keys' international development career took him to many places, including Burkina Faso.

WCCF



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Community Snapshot

www.communitysnapshot.org

In July, we concluded our yearly Community Needs Assessment Survey and were thrilled to see participation increase by 48% from last year. Here are some key insights shared by our community.

Animal Welfare

82%



of respondents support funding for expanded low-cost spay & neuter services.

68%



of respondents support additional efforts for low-cost vet care and enforcement of animal cruelty laws.

Arts & Humanities



Historical sites were the attraction most visited by respondents in the past year, while local theater productions were the least.

Community Impact & Economic Development

8 of 10

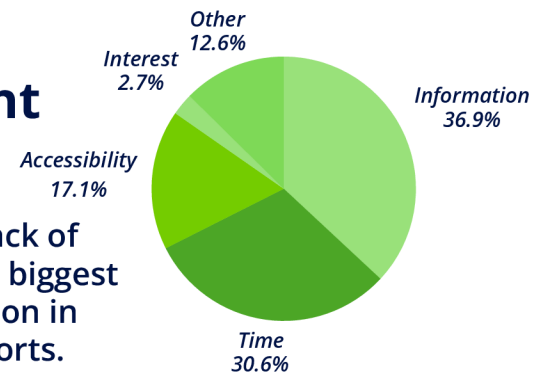


respondents identified lack of affordable options as the top barrier to housing.

Conservation & Environment

37%

of respondents said lack of information was their biggest obstacle to participation in local conservation efforts.



Education



Public Libraries were ranked the most accessible education services.



Adult Education & Tutoring were ranked the least accessible education services.



Human Needs



70%

of respondents cited affordable childcare as a significant barrier to employment.

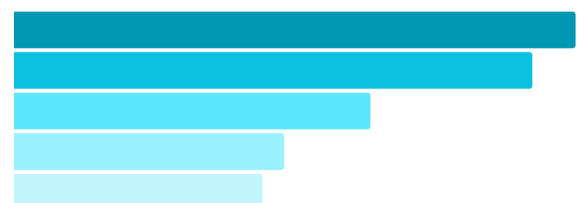
Religion & Faith

On average, respondents rated Washington County **3.16/5** for how welcoming it is to people of different belief systems.



Health & Fitness

Mental Health
Substance Abuse
Food Insecurity
Affordable Fitness
Economic Stability



Mental health and substance abuse topped the list of community health concerns, followed by food insecurity, affordable fitness, and economic stability.



The Sweet Side of STEM



Trinity Intermediate School is kicking off a deliciously creative new initiative "Empowering Entrepreneurial Skills through Innovative Technologies." This hands-on program blends tech, entrepreneurship, and real-world learning for fourth and fifth graders . . . with a sweet twist.

Thanks to a \$10,000 Capacity Building Grant from the WCCF, the school has added an X-Tool laser cutter and a Cocoa Press chocolate printer to its innovation arsenal. With these tools, students will design, create, and market their own products, from laser-cut crafts to edible chocolate creations. Their classroom is transforming into a mini makerspace and business incubator, where education meets imagination.

The project will wrap up with the launch of a student-run store, giving kids the chance to sell their creations to peers, staff, and the local community, and gain valuable entrepreneurial experience along the way.

"With this grant, we aim to empower student creativity, foster entrepreneurial skills, and build stronger community connections. We're excited to see how these tools boost engagement and inspire the next generation of creators and problem-solvers." ~ Trinity Intermediate School Principal Lindsay Benzenhoefer



SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

Brushstrokes of Change



Mrs. Sherrie' Rodriguez Named Outstanding Educator

A famously misquoted line from F. Scott Fitzgerald, "There are no second acts in American lives", has long been misunderstood. In fact, Fitzgerald believed the opposite: that second chances are real and transformative.

Bethlehem-Center School District art teacher Sherrie' Rodriguez is proof. The 2025 recipient of the Washington County Community Foundation's **Dr. Howard Jack Outstanding Public Educator Award**, Rodriguez returned to school to earn her art education degree after volunteering in her sons' classrooms.

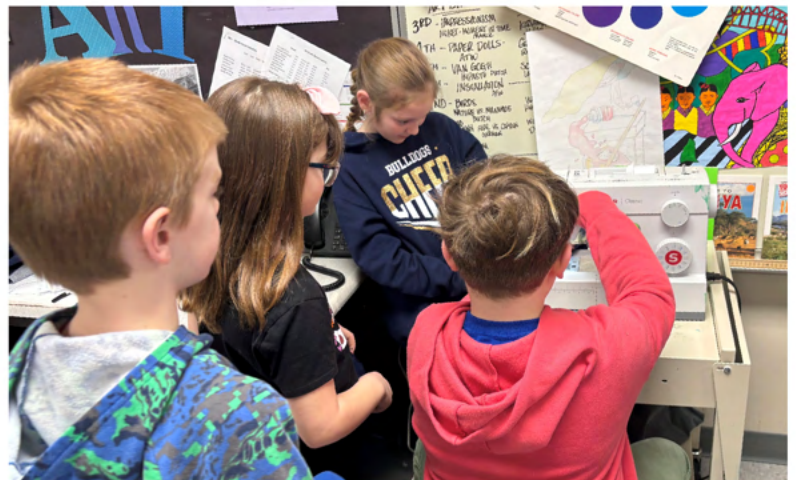
Her second act has had a powerful impact. Since becoming a teacher, she has secured over \$45,000 in grants for creative and tech-based programs, helping students grow in confidence, skills, and self-expression.



"Combining my love of art and those 'aha' moments when a student understands something —that's magic," she says.

Rodriguez also shares wise advice for struggling students: connect learning to what you love. "Can you learn math through sports, baking, or art? School is a must, but using your passions can make it easier and more meaningful."

It's a reminder for all of us: blending what we love into our work can turn even routine days into something inspired.



Third-grade students engage in peer mentoring at the sewing machine as part of the new nine-week sewing curriculum.



Washington County
Community Foundation

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**The Washington County Community Foundation seeks to
improve the quality of life in Washington County by
promoting and facilitating philanthropy.**

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