

# Annual Report 2022

THE CREATING LANDSCAPES LEARNING CENTER, INC.



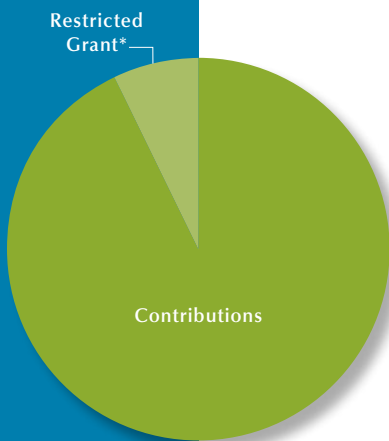


# Annual Report 2022 | Creating Landscapes

DEAR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS,

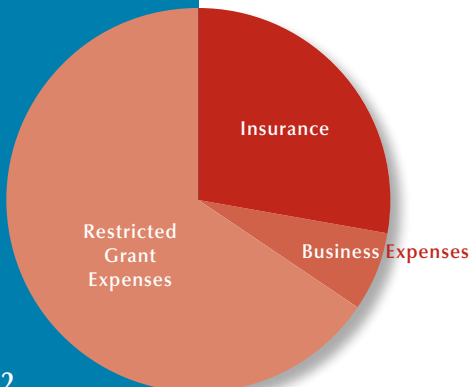


Photo by Joyce Klasen



<b>CORPORATE REVENUE</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Contributions	\$8,120.99
Restricted Grant*	108,600.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$116,720.99</b>

<b>CORPORATE EXPENSES</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Insurance	4,747.00
Business Expenses	1,159.15
Restricted Grant Expenses	11,118.81
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,024.96</b>



**C**reating Landscapes Learning Center, Inc., doing business as Creating Landscapes, continued its tradition of community support and involvement and expanded its reach through collaborative efforts with other community agencies and groups. We celebrate the excellent work of our three learning venues — Creating Landscapes for Families, the Creating Landscapes Early Learning Center, and Food4Thought.

Our venues enjoy a great deal of autonomy and independence while still benefiting from the support and encouragement of our experienced Creating Landscapes leaders and our Advisory Council members with particular expertise in various fields such as legal matters, insurance, fiscal management, personnel policies and marketing.

We have been grateful for the success of Crawford Gives in supporting our work and allowing us wider visibility in the community. Through the generosity of dozens of donors, Creating Landscapes, Inc. is able to fund basic services for our venues like insurance and web presence. Also, during this past year beautiful new signs were installed for the Families Early Learning Center, the Creating Landscapes for Families Garden and the Children’s Garden.

### Our venues have continued to prosper and grow

**The Creating Landscapes for Families Early Learning Center** plans to expand to include a new classroom and continues to provide exemplary, innovative and enriching preschool experiences for its students while nurturing critical thinking and problem solving.

# Learning Center, Inc.

Photo by Judy Acker



**Food4Thought** has been deeply involved in community gardens and nutrition education through Grow Meadville. The growth and community support for the Children's Garden has been especially rewarding. In collaboration with Women's Services, the YMCA and the City of Meadville, a Walkathon for Huidekoper Park playground successfully raised more than \$25,000 to fund summer programming at the park. The program has been very well received in the community and well attended.

**Creating Landscapes for Families** is maintaining its community of families at both the South Main Street garden and the Fifth Ward garden.

In addition, we worked in collaboration with one of our former educational venues, The Learning Center K-8 School, to secure a \$108,000 grant from the Green Mountain Energy Sun Club. Grant funds will be used to construct a timber

Photo by Jan Hyatt



Photo by Joyce Klaseen



frame outdoor classroom, made from sustainably harvested logs, nestled in the woods above the ravine at the school's new property. This outdoor classroom will enable Learning Center students and our broader Creating Landscapes community to continue the tradition of experiential learning, incorporating authentic interactions with nature. We look forward to the raising of the classroom in the spring of 2023.

Having survived yet another year of the COVID-19 pandemic, we look forward to being able to provide a basis of love and respect for each other and growth, both organizationally and personally, for our venues and communities.

## DBA CREATING LANDSCAPES

### MEMBERS and OFFICERS of the BOARD of DIRECTORS

#### CORPORATE GOVERNING BOARD

- ANN ARESON, Ph.D.
- JENNIFER BRADY, MPP
- CORINNE CHAFEY, M.Ed.
- SCOTT A. DUDA JR., CPA  
*Treasurer*
- JENNIFER GIFFORD
- PETE GIFFORD  
*Co-Chair*
- JANYCE J. HYATT, M.F.A. Ed.D.  
*Corresponding Secretary*
- JOYCE KLASEN
- WALLACE G. MASON II, M. Ed.
- ROSS PRATHER, Esq.  
*Legalities*
- STUART ROTHMAN
- REBECCA SPADAFORÉ
- CHARLOTTE WELLMAN, Ph.D.  
*Recording Secretary*
- SCOTT YEAGER  
*Co-Chair*

#### ADVISORY BOARD

- ROGER JANES  
*Insurance*
- LINDA WETSELL  
*Allegheny College*

#### VENUE GOVERNING BOARD CHAIRS and/or REPRESENTATIVES

- JOYCE KLASEN  
*Creating Landscapes for Families*
- WALLY MASON  
*Food4Thought*
- PETE GIFFORD  
*Families Early Learning Center*

#### VENUE GOVERNING BOARD TREASURERS

- CHARMAINE KOEHLER-LODGE  
*Creating Landscapes for Families*
- PETE GIFFORD  
*Food4Thought*
- CORINNE CHAFEY  
*Families Early Learning Center*

**Join us for some Saturday**

**SUMMER FUN!**

In the Walkable Meadville Children's Garden  
10:00 – 11:00 AM  
June 11-August 20, 2022\*

\*Children under 8 years old must be accompanied by an appropriate adult

**CREATING GARDEN ART**  
with Mike Marley

**EXPLORING BUGS & BLOOMS**  
with Scott Sjolander

**LEARNING GARDEN BASICS**  
with Crawford County Master Gardeners

**AND/OR**  
11:00-Noon  
Join our hike along the Walkable Meadville Path to the Library for more...  
[walkablemeadville.org](http://walkablemeadville.org)

**SUMMER PARK PROGRAM**

Huidekoper Park

June 27-August 12, 2022  
10 AM - 4 PM, Monday - Friday

Multiple activities • sports • games • art • field trips



# Creating Landscapes for Families



## FAMILIES GARDEN



Every year in the middle of summer, Jan Hyatt reminds all those involved in the good work of Creating Landscapes Learning Center, Inc. to start reflecting and writing our thoughts for the current year's Annual Report. The Annual Report is important to Jan — it is important because writing it offers time for reflection for each "venue" in the Creating Landscapes orbit — it is our chance to "look back" as we "think forward" to the next step. It is also our chance to stop and pause with gratitude for all that we have been given — a generous bounty of time and resources from friends, family, neighbors and community partners.

Looking back over the 10 years of Creating Landscapes for Families, location, time and format of "Families" program have changed — adjustments to our program have been made to best meet the needs of families.

As I sat to write this report on a beautiful July evening, I did what I always do. I went to our community garden on South Main Street and found a peaceful spot on one of our benches. True to form, our next-door neighbor and steadfast Families Founder, Brenda Boyd, soon joined me on that bench. There I found my energy and inspiration.

Brenda reminded me that although many things in our program have changed over the years, many things have remained the same. The important things. Brenda told me that...

- "I see people every day — picking cucumbers and peppers in our garden. They are taking them for their kids."
  - "When people see me out here, they come over and we talk."
  - "The little kids like to play in our garden, and they respect the plants. I show them about how they grow."
- Soon, our garden neighbor, Kim, came over with a can of soup, a box of cereal and a package of hand wipes for Families Little Food Pantry. She said...
- "I had extra and I hope someone can use this soup and cereal."
  - Kim then sat with us and talked for a while about the tomatoes she is growing in pots in her yard and invited us to see the "hens and chickens" plants she has started.

And THEN, our five-year old neighbor Legend came speeding over to show us his dirt bike! He was quick to announce that ...

- "Miss Brenda showed me where I can ride so I don't run over the plants."
- "I've been taking care of our pumpkins. I'm making sure no one is picking them until they're ready and then I'll make sure we share."

Contributions

FAMILIES REVENUE	Amount
Contributions	\$1,522.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$1,522.00</b>

FAMILIES EXPENSES	Amount
Contract Services	\$1,650.00
Program Costs	105.77
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,755.77</b>

Program Costs

Contract Services



*Because we live in a community that bolsters us with contributions of time and resources, we continue to grow Families Garden on neighborhood land that is offered to us by the generosity of the Meadville Redevelopment Authority.*

Brenda, Kim, and Legend remind us that because of our good fortune...

- We offer food for tables; time to talk and listen to each other; and opportunities to learn from each other.
- We give what we can to those who need, and we celebrate one another's ideas and accomplishments.
- We take good care of our place and our work. We share.

Families are always looking forward to the "next best way" to live as a productive part of our community. Brenda, Kim, and Legend remind me how good it is that we have "landed" in our little garden on South Main Street for the summers.

Joyce Klasen,  
Creating Landscapes for Families  
Venue Representative



# Creating Landscapes for Families Early Learning

## IN KEEPING WITH OUR MISSION . . .

**To begin this year's report** for Creating Landscapes for Families Early Learning Center, I asked our Lead Teacher and Director if I could share a portion of what she recently wrote about our preschool...

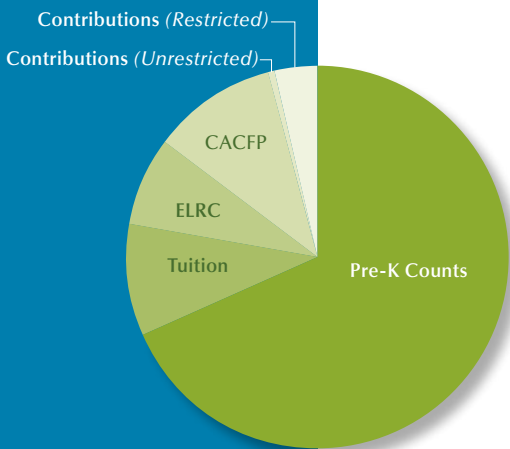
*'Our children learn to respect themselves, each other and their community. They learn to observe their surroundings, and leave them a little better than they were found. Our children also value all members of our ELC team; showing appreciation for our kitchen and custodial staff through art, song and conversation.'* — Kelly Winters

Having had the good fortune of spending much time in our preschool classroom this past year, I can tell you that these words of Kelly ring true. Like all early childhood settings in the country, 2021/2022 was a year of staff shortages and constant adjustments to guidelines that helped keep our children and staff as healthy as possible. If I had to choose just one of Kelly's words to define "our little school" — as we lovingly refer to it — it would be "appreciation." It is the "appreciation" for one another and for the work we believe in that kept our school together throughout a tricky year, and it is with appreciation that I offer you a glimpse of those who are thoughtfully planning our sixth year as Families ELC!

Under the combined leadership of Kelly Winters and Stacey Phillips, Laurel Smith and Shelley Johnson (assistant teachers), 'Our children learn to respect themselves, each other and their community' with pride and good ole preschool enthusiasm! Kindness is an emphasis during EVERY moment of EVERY day. The staff leads by example, and with their love and guidance, our young children rise to the occasion! EVERY SINGLE TIME!

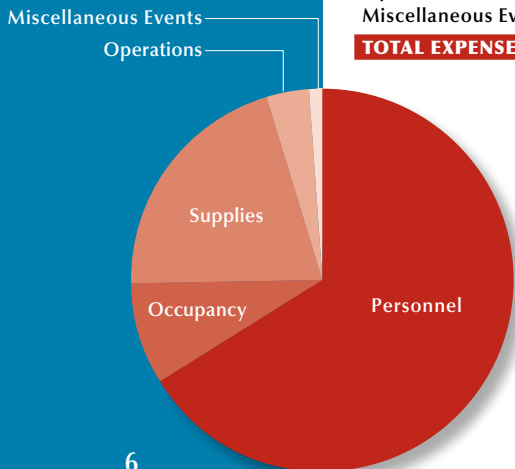
ELC's support staff is key to days that run smoothly. Our "Papa Chuck" cares about our school — every detail matters to Chuck. But most of all, it's the sweet little smile he gives to the children when they see him in passing and proudly say, "Hi Papa Chuck! Thank you for cleaning our school!" Shantia, Brenda and Cheryl prepare beautiful and nutritious meals for the children — they get to know each child's food preferences, and they offer "new things" to try! Brenda, Cheryl, Chuck and Shantia offer our school so much more than a job VERY well done. They offer each child a place in their heart.

ELC's Board of Directors is a "hands on" Board with members bringing a broad range of expertise to the table. Whether it is to share technology skills; keep precise records; prepare impeccable financial reports; advise on all aspects of human resources; manage building repairs and renovation projects; or ensure that Creating Landscapes mission and EACH CHILD is "front and center" in every Board decision we make, ELC Board members are unwavering in their encouragement and support of this good work.



<b>FAMILIES REVENUE</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Pre-K Counts	\$135,977.35
Tuition	18,860.00
ELRC	14,965.43
CACFP	21,186.17
Contributions (unrestricted)	1,173.63
Contributions (restricted)	6,770.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$198,932.58</b>

<b>FAMILIES EXPENSES</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Personnel	\$118,977.35
Occupancy	\$15,700.00
Supplies	36,679.72
Operations	6,668.10
Miscellaneous Events	1,687.50
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$179,712.67</b>



# Center



Photos by Joyce Klasen



And our families... they are devoted to their children; to each other's children; and to our little school. Our families really do become ONE BIG HAPPY ELC FAMILY!

Again I quote Kelly..."Our children and families learn from each other. They build friendships and help where there is a need."

Our children thrive because of the collective support of our families.

Finally... our children. They are curious and playful. They have big emotions and big ideas. They are eager to please and willing to try new things. They ask for help when they need it, and gently offer help and hugs to friends in need. And how fortunate we are to be a place where several times a day we hear, "I DID IT MYSELF!" And better yet...we often hear one child say to another, "YOU DID IT!"

With appreciation for all who give their best to make our little school a place where children, families and staff feel loved and safe, we head joyfully into the coming school year!



# Food4Thought

## LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE . . .



Photo by Jan Hyatt

### COMMUNITY GIVES!

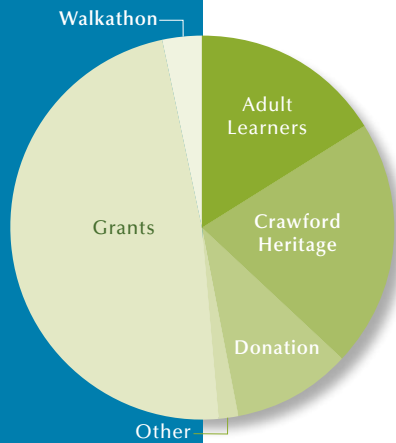
M. Scott Peck said, "There is no adequate one-sentence definition of community. Community is something more than the sum of its parts, its individual members. The great enemy of community is exclusivity. Groups that exclude others because they are poor or doubters or divorced or sinners or of some different race or nationality are not communities; they are cliques — actually inclusive defensive bastions against community. It is our task — our essential, central, crucial task — to transform ourselves from mere social creatures into community creatures." This quote summarizes **Food4Thought's** goals this year.

The **Children's Garden**, the **Walkathon** and the **Huidekoper Park Program** were well received by the neighborhoods and community. Many people pitched in to make these programs successful. In doing so, many children and parents participated helping make their community a better place to live. They grew, they learned, they played, they made new friends, transforming themselves into community creatures.

Another initiative this year is, **Good To Go 5-2-1-0**. Our program is patterned after Maine Health's Let's Go initiative, which is a nationally recognized obesity prevention program for children and adults. It focuses on healthy eating and active living. Jennifer Brady introduced the program to F4T.

Thanks to Jennifer, Maine Health is willing to consider piloting a program in Crawford County. For this to happen, F4T needs to have three entities, a non-profit, school district and medical community.

Ann Areson and Wally Mason have met with Meadville Medical Center personnel, Anne White, Brian MacMurray and Tracy Meure. A meeting with Crawford Central School District K-12 Curriculum Director, Jennifer Galdon, Meadville Medical Center and Food4Thought has been scheduled.



<b>Food4Thought REVENUE</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Adult Learners	4,220.00
Crawford Heritage	5,470.00
Donation	2,650.00
Other	406.00
Grants	12,577.00
Walkathon	811.93
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$26,134.93</b>

<b>Food4Thought EXPENSES</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Adult Learners	\$6,602.00
Children's Garden	4,107.86
Huidekoper	478.03
Printing	611.00
Walkathon	2,939.93
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$14,738.82</b>

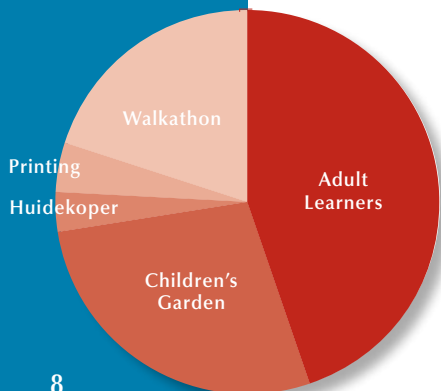


Photo by Judy Acker





**GOOD TO GO!**

**5** or more  
**FRUITS & VEGETABLES**

**2** hours  
or less of  
**RECREATIONAL SCREEN TIME**

**1** hour or  
more of  
**PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

**0** sugary  
drinks,  
**MORE WATER**

**5210**  
**EVERY DAY!**  
This graphic is adopted from  
Let's Go! [www.letsgo.org](http://www.letsgo.org).

Let's  
make  
healthy  
choices!

A project of  
Creating Landscapes,  
Food4Thought  
[www.creatinglandscapes.org](http://www.creatinglandscapes.org)



Photos (right two columns) by Judy Acker



Photos (left two columns) by Ian Hyatt



# The Creating Landscapes **IDEA** (1990)

INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING *at the* INTERFACE *of* IMAGINATION *and* CRITICAL THINKING

## *Enabled by* ALLEGHENY COLLEGE (1990–2020)

---

### **SUMMER LANDSCAPES**

*The Summer Creating Landscapes Program (1990)*

— where curious students and creative faculty play and learn together.

### **AESTHETIC EDUCATION**

*Aesthetic Education Programs for Educators (1990)*

— where area educators discover the power of arts-infused learning as a viable path toward achieving twenty-first century learning skills.

### **ENRICHMENT COLLABORATION**

*The Enrichment Collaboration for Middle and High School Students (1999)*

— where Allegheny College faculty and community professionals offer enrichment opportunities in the arts and sciences for area middle and high school students on twelve Fridays each academic year.

### **ADULT LEARNING FORCE**

*The Adult Learning Force in conjunction with the Enrichment Collaboration (2010)*

— where adult learners participate with area high school students to reacquaint themselves with the best of liberal arts learning.

## *Enabled in the Community by* CREATING LANDSCAPES LEARNING CENTER, INC. (2011–2022)

---

A non-sectarian, non-profit organization that extends creative and active inquiry to inter-generational learners. Our work is distinguished by aesthetic learning, which engages the senses and emotions in addition to the critical mind.

### **LANDSCAPES for FAMILIES**

*Creating Landscapes for Families (2011)*

— where families wholeheartedly navigate LIFE together, sharing possibilities.

### **FOOD4THOUGHT**

*Home of Grow Meadville, Walkable Meadville, the Children's Garden, Summer Playgrounds and Good To Go 5-2-1-0 (2014)*

— where collaborators gather to nurture grassroots engagement and action toward a well-fed, well-educated and resilient community.

### **FAMILIES EARLY LEARNING CENTER**

*(2017)*

— where children love to learn, teachers love to teach and families feel at home. A 4-STAR Early Learning Center for children 3-5 years old offering pre-school that includes Pre-K Counts and wraparound care.



## A SINCERE THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED IN 2021-2022!

### Creating Landscapes for Families Early Learning Center

Brenda Boyd  
Corinne & Rich Chafey  
Tara Courson  
Cheryl Dooley  
Pat Ferrey  
Corey & Erin Free  
Harold & Deb Free  
Pete Gifford  
Sue Ann Glancy  
Jan Hyatt  
Shelly Johnson  
Joyce & Bob Klasen  
Charmaine Koehler-Lodge  
John Lawrence  
Deb Lehman  
Tamaya Mailliard  
Matt McElhinney  
Stacey Phillips  
Ross Prather Esq.  
Cynthia Rhoads  
Rosemary Richardson  
Jodi Sipos  
Laurel Smith  
Chuck Thoms  
Kelly Winters & Family  
Dana Yeager

Crawford Area  
Transportation Authority  
Early Learning  
Resource Center  
Ernst Seeds  
Jenn Gifford Designs  
Marquette Savings Bank  
Susan Moorehead:  
Pre-K Counts  
Pathstones Senior  
Employment:  
Michael Lehman  
Robin Howell:  
Penn West University  
(formerly Edinboro  
University)  
John & Helen Timo  
Foundation  
Unitarian Universalist  
Church

### Creating Landscapes for Families

*Our generous donors of time, resources, and funds – July 2021 through June 2022*

Chris Bell  
Brenda Boyd & Georgia  
Savannah Clark & Legend

Chris & Tammy Collins  
Common Roots  
Cheryl Dooley & Kimmee  
Paul Gosnell & Sue Sloss  
Harmony  
Janyce Hyatt  
Bob & Joyce Klasen  
Klasen Children – Julie,  
Bob, Susan, Erin  
George Newsome  
Candi & Traci North  
Stacey Phillips & Jackson  
Matt McElhinney  
Rosemary Richardson &  
Children  
George Stabile & Barb  
Newcamp  
Lee Scandinaro  
George Vukmer  
Jane Warner, Charlie, & C.J.  
Wyattville Gardens

*Throughout the spring, plants, potting soil, and garden tools were lovingly dropped off in our Community Garden. All summer long, non-perishable food and household items were placed in the Food Pantry at our garden. Books were shared at our Little Free Library. We know the names of some of those givers, and they are listed above, but many donated without our knowing their names. We thank ALL who quietly and generously "filled our jar" – whoever you are... your support sustains us, and your spirit inspires us.*

### Food4Thought

*Contributions/Donations Food4Thought: Grow Meadville, Walkable Meadville, Children's Garden, Good to Go 5-2-1-0, Food Insecurity and Huidekoper Park Playground*

Ann Areson  
Truman Boyd  
Tina Carter  
Brenda Costa  
Mary Ann Culver  
Harrison Dixon  
Cheryl Dooley

Hannah Fuller  
Em Giering  
Pete Gifford  
Jenny Glover  
Patti Hart  
Bruce Harlan  
Beth Heuchert  
Juvia Heuchert  
Maja Heuchert  
Hanna Heutsche  
Jan Hyatt  
John Hyatt  
Susannah Hyatt  
Bob Kerr  
Charmaine Koehler-Lodge  
Doug Lodge  
Danuta Majchrowicz  
Sherry Mason  
Wally Mason  
Mike Marley  
Mark McGinty  
Guy McUmbert  
David Miller  
Jed Miller  
Gretchen Myers  
Barb Newcamp  
Cindy Ondish  
Patti Prince  
Stewart Rothman  
Lee Scandinaro  
Scott Sjolander  
John and Jody Sperry  
George Stabile  
Rosanne Sommers  
Kinorea Tigri  
George J. Vukmer Jr.  
Kimmy Warner  
Ted Watts & Friends  
Aaron White  
Ashleigh White  
Julie Zimmerman

Armstrong Group:  
Ryan Kebe  
Bloomington Valley  
Landscaping:  
Mitch Hohmann  
Career Link:  
Amber Baumcraz  
Caroline Fredricka  
Holdship Charitable  
Trust  
CATA Crawford Area  
Transportation  
Authority: Tracy Labow  
City of Meadville:  
Gary Johnson,  
Maryann Menanno,  
Katherine Wickert  
Crawford County  
Visitors Bureau:  
Kevin Parsons

Crawford Heritage  
Community Foundation  
Crawford Central School  
District: Superintendent's  
Office  
Meadville Area Senior  
High School and  
Jeanette Curry  
Cup n Spoon  
French Creek Valley  
Conservancy:  
Judy Aker, Hannah, &  
Wendy Kedzerski  
Epiphany of the Lord  
Parish: Rev. Joseph  
Petrone, Moira Mawn  
Half.ast Dirt Works: Erik  
Jenn Gifford Design  
McKinley Charitable Trust  
Meadville Medical Center:  
Brian MacMurry, Anne  
White, Tracy Meure,  
Shawn Riggin  
Meadville Public Library:  
Susan Hanley, Steve Utz  
MMC Grove Street:  
Corey Morris &  
Christina Hargeneater  
Northstar Rentals Property  
Management: Atlee  
Pizza Villa Ice Cream  
Parlor  
Robert L Hyatt Family  
Fund  
S & G Printing  
The Nutrition Group:  
Janielle Cressley



### Contributions and Donations from the Community

Robert & Michele  
Ackerman  
Kathleen & Jeff Allio  
Ann Areson & Greg Dauber  
Mary Bames  
Bill & Ruth\* Bywater  
Brian & Sylvia Cagle  
Amelia Carr & Pete LeBar  
Corinne & Rich Chafey  
William & Carla Chisholm  
Mark & Hannah Cosdon  
Amelia Crowley  
Judy Dasovich  
Scott Duda  
Patricia & Steven Ferry  
Richard & Laurie Freysinger  
Laurie & Darrell Gebhardt

Amara Geffen &  
Jonathan Miller  
Jennifer Gifford  
Peter Gifford  
Laura Heesch\* &  
Brian Hill  
Jennifer Hellwarth &  
David-Joshua  
Searle-White  
Maja Heuchert  
Janyce J. Hyatt  
John & Jill Hyatt  
Roger Janes  
Megan Kelly  
Bob & Joyce Klasen  
Charmaine Koehler-Lodge  
Dianne Lawson  
Susan Lundell  
Wallace & Sherry Mason  
Mary Lynn & Reid Mauri  
Michael McGrath &  
Alice Deckert  
Lynn & Guy McUmbert  
Clemence & Homer\*  
Mershon  
Joyce Milbeg & Michael  
Thomson  
David C. Miller &  
Charlotte H. Wellman  
Ross Prather Esq.  
Matthew Mitchell &  
Pamela Runestad  
Austin & Shannon Rock  
Stuart & Kathleen  
Rothman  
Karen Schreiber  
Lisbet Searle-White  
Nancy Sheridan\*  
Ishita Sinha-Roy  
Diana Smith & Frank Smith  
Rebecca Spadafore  
John & Jody Sperry  
Karen Steffes  
Linda & David Wetsell  
Susan Wycoff  
Scott Yeager

Crawford Heritage  
Community Foundation  
Jenn Gifford Designs  
The Robert Hyatt  
Family Fund  
McGill Power Bell &  
Associates LLP  
Jonathan Miller Design  
Redevelopment  
Authority of the City  
of Meadville  
Maryann Mennano  
George J. Vukmer Jr.

\* Deceased