

Q1 Shaping Tomorrow Awards Summary

Category	Organization	Amount	Project Name	Project Description
Creative Expression	Demuth Foundation	\$25,000	Demuth Program Center Renovations and Immigrant & Refugee Artist Salon Exhibits	In support of renovations to the Demuth Foundation building to create a dedicated space for educational programs and gathering place for the community to enjoy artwork together.
Creative Expression	Ephrata Development Org DBA Mainspring of Ephrata	\$10,000	The Franklin Street Parking Lot Mural project	In support of a mural that will bring the Ephrata community together on a collaborative project while beautifying and drawing attention to an underutilized public space.
Creative Expression	PRiMA Arts Inc	\$65,000	Beloved Community Project	In support of the Beloved Community Project, an initiative that will elevate BIPOC voices and stories by offering performance space, organizational infrastructure, fiscal sponsorship, and workshops led by BIPOC artistic professionals.
Creative Expression	The Children Deserve a Chance Foundation	\$60,000	Poetry 3 (Poetry Cubed)	In support of Poetry Cubed, a public art and poetry project concept by Tina Thunda Khatt Oritz, that will bring poetry to neighborhoods across Lancaster.
Creative Expression	The Mix	\$65,000	Ripple Creators Program at The Mix	In support of the expansion of the Ripple Creators Program, an initiative that makes recording studios and creatives spaces accessible to students, to include 5 more middle schools in Lancaster County.
Creative Expression	YWCA Lancaster	\$50,000	Black Art Across Lancaster	In support of the expansion of the Black Artist Waystation to include a monthly local showcase of Black creatives for two years.

WellBeing & Vibrancy	Bright Side Opportunities Center	\$90,000	Strong Choices, Bright Futures	<p>"Strong Choices, Bright Futures" is a comprehensive wellness model that directly addresses the growing number and needs of Seniors in Lancaster County. There's a current trend in Lancaster County that gyms are discontinuing their SilverSneakers programs due to financial constraints. Our vision is to counteract this trend by not only continuing but expanding SilverSneakers offerings. By integrating culturally relevant fitness programs, we aim to create a welcoming community for seniors, encouraging them to utilize their SilverSneakers benefits more frequently. This initiative will promote longevity and active living, leading to lasting positive change in the community.</p> <p>Our program includes partnerships with Union Community Care, Landis Place on King , Homefields Farms, Nutrifreak, The Master Gardeners from Penn State Extension, and NoMato. Their collaboration ensures culturally diverse, age-appropriate fitness model represents a new approach to senior wellness and aging in place, going beyond traditional gym offerings. Seniors will receive a holistic wellness education that combats food insecurity, sedentary lifestyles, and addressing diseases prevalent in seniors.</p> <p>A key feature of our initiative is the 'Train the Trainer' model for SilverSneakers instructors. This model aims to increase the number of diverse fitness instructors certified to work with seniors. As Lancaster County anticipates an influx of seniors retiring here, preparing more instructors will help meet the growing demand for inclusive senior-friendly fitness programs.</p> <p>Strong Choices, Bright Futures aims to create a health-conscious community where seniors and people of color are empowered with knowledge, resources, and support to lead healthier lives. This new comprehensive approach of collaboration will bring together organizations caring for Lancaster's aging population. The Bright Side Opportunity Fitness Center is perfectly aligned to lead in this capacity.</p>
WellBeing & Vibrancy	Clinic for Special Children	\$25,000	New Clinic for Special Children... and Adults	<p>The Clinic for Special Children has a wonderful problem: Our patients are surviving into adulthood. Thanks to the Clinic's major advances in both diagnosis and treatment, many genetic disorders that used to be fatal in childhood are now survivable or preventable. Today 27 percent of our patients are 14 or older. Their complex conditions require ongoing monitoring and specialty care, but they still must come to a building designed for children.</p> <p>Our current building has run out of space to treat the 1,700 active patients we see each year. The waiting room is often standing room only. Former conference rooms now house cubicles for our growing staff. Expansion is not an option, as we are surrounded by preserved farmland. The Clinic needs a larger facility so we can treat patients into adulthood and serve an ever-increasing number of children and their families.</p> <p>To address this problem, the Clinic secured a site on Old Philadelphia Pike in Leacock Township, and our new three-story healthcare facility is now well under construction. The site meets our essential criteria of proximity to our patients, accessibility to the broader Plain community, and within a 30-minute drive of Penn Medicine Lancaster General Hospital. The new facility has been designed to serve both children and adults and will have twice as many exam rooms, more space for visiting specialists from partner organizations, and will be more accessible to the Plain community.</p> <p>This investment will construct our new building, increase access and reduce barriers to care, and enhance the Clinic's long-term sustainability. To help complete our new facility, we request a grant of \$25,000 payable over one to five years. Support from the Lancaster County Community Foundation will enable us to care for the children of central Pennsylvania's Plain communities with severe genetic disorders for as long as they need us, even into adulthood.</p>

WellBeing & Vibrancy	Lancaster Downtowners	\$13,000	It Takes a Village in Every Town	<p>Lancaster Downtowners will support the growth of up to two village “spokes” in other communities in Lancaster County. As one of nearly 300 villages in the national Village to Village Network (VTV), we are part of an innovative & growing movement that is shaping the future of aging. Villages are grassroots, person-centered, volunteer-based organizations that work best when they are meeting the unique needs of their hyperlocal communities. Lancaster Downtowners currently connects and supports over 250 seniors living in and near the City of Lancaster.</p> <p>We’ve had conversations with individuals throughout Lancaster County who want to be a part of a village, but aren’t close enough to the city for our current concentration of volunteers and services to reach them. Targeted outreach with these interested people will help organize and catalyze the neighborly spirit that exists in our community, and provide an equitable point of access for folks who aren’t connected to family or other informal supports.</p> <p>With support from this grant, we will develop a hub-and-spoke network of villages in our county that will support elders' needs for the next century. We will: update our technology infrastructure to handle the hub and spoke model (\$6,000); support interested persons in their outreach to build a village (\$4,000); and provide mentorship and administrative support in line with the VTV model (\$3,000). We have the capacity to launch two spokes.</p> <p>Lancaster is already on the map as a top place to retire, but the amenities that raise our profile aren’t available to everyone. The village approach to eldercare is accessible and touches every focus area of well-being and vibrancy: a sense of belonging and purpose improves mental health; volunteer drivers providing reliable transportation to medical appointments improve healthcare access; group walks, yoga, and bike rides keep people active; and informative programs, such as how to avoid scams, support financial health.</p>
WellBeing & Vibrancy	Mental Health America of Lancaster County	\$75,000	Continuum of Care for Lancaster County Youth	<p>The Continuum of Care for Lancaster County Youth bridges gaps in services that youth with mental health needs and their families encounter. Mental Health America of Lancaster County (MHALC) leads the project, connects people with resources, and proposes expansion to meet growing needs. Current partners are Community Services Group, Compass Mark Focused Future, Forged in Fire, IU13 and Samaritan Counseling Center.</p> <p>Pre-COVID, mental health disorders in youth were increasing. Now, the need for services is even greater and trauma is the primary reason youth seek help. The County’s 2021 PA Youth Survey shows: 30.4% felt so sad almost every day for two weeks or more that they stopped some activities 17.7% seriously considered suicide during the past year 69.2% experienced emotional abuse</p> <p>Some counties have systems of care that coordinate mental health resources, but Lancaster County does not, making it difficult for parents and providers to meet complex needs. This led MHALC to create this continuum of care. MHALC & its partners meet monthly to remove barriers to care and well-being, offering support and follow-up for each family and working collaboratively to offer: Mental health care system navigation Mental health screenings and education Mental health services and care for youth Support groups for youth and their parents</p> <p>The Continuum gives families individualized support for youth who have mental health needs, and resources for parents and caregivers. For example, if a child’s diagnosis leads to the need for an individualized educational plan, MHALC staff assists with navigation and advocates for the family.</p> <p>MHALC’s community-based approach ensures that people can access support, referrals, and services to address mental health concerns. Our vision is a society where mental wellness is the foundation of a healthy community. We help people help themselves, and normalize conversations about mental health to reduce stigma and create pathways to wellness.</p>

WellBeing & Vibrancy	UDS	\$25,000	CAPABLE Program	<p>UDSF will utilize the Shaping Tomorrow funds to establish the CAPABLE infrastructure as a licensed provider. CAPABLE is a comprehensive initiative that employs a multidisciplinary approach, combining home modifications, occupational therapy, and support services to address individual needs of older adults. This includes people with disabilities empowering them to live independently while acquiring skills and resources to create a safer living environment for them. We anticipate working with 60 individuals in the first year & plan to increase our caseload in Lancaster County by 50% (30 individuals) each subsequent year. Ultimately, we anticipate CAPABLE being rolled out throughout our service area over the next 5 years, with Lancaster County serving as our best practice model. Specifically, these funds will be allocated towards updating IT systems, purchasing small durable medical equipment & performing small home repairs, all of which are crucial for creating a safe living environment. This transformative initiative will help improve health outcomes by reducing falls, decreasing unnecessary hospitalizations while lowering healthcare costs all contributing to Lancaster’s vibrancy.</p> <p>It is noteworthy to mention, CAPABLE is aligned exclusively with Pennsylvania’s 10-year Master Plan on Older Adults to address the rapidly growing population of older adults & individuals with disabilities in PA. This plan provides a roadmap for public & private entities, like UDS, to implement strategic programs like CAPABLE to make the Commonwealth inclusive and accessible for this vulnerable population and ultimately ensuring they are able to live safely & independently at home.</p> <p>Finally, consider this grant as the catalyst for older adults & people with disabilities to have the essential infrastructure for safe & sustainable independent living. This is an investment in the community, with a lasting impact felt for the next 100 years.</p>
WellBeing & Vibrancy	Union Community Care	\$45,000	Improving Health Equity with Techquity	<p>At Union Community Care our purpose is to spark equity through patient-led healthcare that welcomes and strengthens our communities by integrating body, mind, and heart. Healthcare access is an important equity issue, and we are at the forefront of providing access to all regardless of ability to pay.</p> <p>Through telehealth options, satellite sites, and mobile health strategies, Union is actively working to reduce barriers to quality healthcare and improve the health of our community. We aim to meet people where they are and target patients who struggle with obstacles such as lack of transportation, childcare issues, and long work schedules.</p> <p>Technology tools like telehealth platforms and online patient portals can enhance healthcare delivery in many ways – but we need to better understand how technology impacts our community members.</p> <p>“Techquity” focuses on the concept that healthcare technology can either increase barriers or decrease barriers to care depending on its use. Do our community members have data plans and devices that will support advanced technology solutions? Do they have the digital literacy to use them? How do language barriers, cultural barriers, geography, and poverty impact how people use technology?</p> <p>As we look toward the future, our goal is to bridge the digital divide and promote health equity by ensuring that digital health services are accessible and equitable for all patients, especially underserved communities.</p> <p>A Shaping the Future grant from the Lancaster County Community Foundation would help us launch a community-wide health equity initiative to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Assess the digital needs and barriers in our community; ☐ Work with community partners to address technology access and digital literacy training; and ☐ Identify user-friendly, culturally sensitive technology solutions to improve community health.