



BERKSHIRE
FARM CENTER

STRONGER
TOGETHER



2020
ANNUAL
REPORT



Our families count on us and our ability to show up for them and this is more important now than ever before.

We will always be stronger together.

-Brian Parchesky,
President & CEO

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR _____
PRESIDENT & CEO and CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

This past year you stayed with us as we continued our mission of strengthening children and families across New York State. We cannot thank you enough.

Most of us have been negatively impacted by the pandemic in one way or another whether due to our own illness, loss of loved ones, unemployment, financial hardships, or the emotional, mental, and physical toll caused by the virus. Unfortunately, the pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on the children and families we serve who were already burdened with the many hardships of poverty, family separation, food and housing insecurity, increased substance abuse and more severe mental health issues.

Through this challenging year, we continued to support and serve our children and families. Our essential staff worked round-the-clock in the homes of the children and families we serve across the state - supporting nearly 2,000 children and families every day. We could not have accomplished this without your support.

As we move into 2021, the challenges of this pandemic are intensifying. Many adoptions have been placed on hold with the courts working on reduced schedules. Our children, particularly those who attend virtually, often with inadequate internet service, continue to struggle with school. Unemployment remains a reality for many parents and teenagers. But we, and they, still have hope.

You have been a significant contributor to our mission, allowing us to provide critical resources and support for those we serve. As you read through this report, we hope to inspire you to continue your support and find new ways to join with us to meet today's challenges.

On behalf of our children and families, we thank you for your continued support of our mission.

Warm Regards,



Brian Parchesky
President & CEO



Bob Kandel
Board Chairman

OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

A Letter from the Healy Family- Family Preservation Program

Page 6

A Fresh Start- Mott Family Scholarship Recipient

Page 8

Partners in Parenting- A Reunification Story

Page 10

We're on a Journey- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Page 12

Employee Highlights

Page 14

Financials

Page 16

Meet Patricia & Daquetta- Our Community Partners

Page 18

Donor Acknowledgments

Page 20



OUR MISSION

To strengthen children and families so they can live **Safely, Independently & Productively** within their home communities.



THE HEALY FAMILY

FAMILY PRESERVATION PROGRAM



Stock photo used for confidentiality

"In March of 2020 things took a turn for the worse for me and my family. The pandemic took away what little stability we had and sent us spiraling into a state of crisis and uncertainty. I became unemployed which made it hard to take care of four children.

Before the pandemic, our family was making progress in our routines and communication with the help of Berkshire's Family Preservation Program. When the shut downs began, it caused me and my wife overwhelming stress. School closings and limited financial resources made it very difficult to cover the costs of staying home, food and cleaning supplies. I thought to myself, *how are we going to get through this?*

But with the support of Berkshire and our Family Specialist, they made sure our kids had everything they needed to keep up with school, that we had cleaning supplies to stay safe and even helped me to find a job.

Without Berkshire, I'm sure we would have lost everything. The assistance that they were able to provide us was such a relief.

Berkshire saved my family. " -Marco Healy

With the support of our Family Specialists, community partners and passionate members of our Board of Directors, we were able to help the Healy family persevere through these challenging times by providing cleaning supplies, Wi-Fi for connectivity to virtual learning and service provisions, and other resources right in their own home. For other families, we were able to cover rent and utilities, provide food for those who were hungry and going without, as well as identify educational resources for children in disadvantaged communities who were disconnected from their education. Berkshire's essential staff continue to support and provide desperately needed resources to as many children and families as possible every day.



1,510 youth & families were served in our family preservation programs in 2020

A FRESH START

MOTT FAMILY
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

I came to Berkshire 3 years ago when I was 15. I moved into a group home and then went to two separate foster homes. I thought I lost everything. But then I met my case workers, Jessica, Theresa and Brittany. They helped me to find my voice and the confidence to pursue my dreams. Before coming to Berkshire, I was anxious and lacked confidence. I definitely needed to improve my communication skills and the ways I expressed myself. Receiving the Mott Scholarship means everything to me. Berkshire has been instrumental in assisting me with my challenges and helping me to create new areas of strength. Specifically, my reading and writing comprehension and my level of confidence with speaking and expressing my feelings or wishes. The Mott Family Scholarship has given me a fresh start in this brand new chapter of my life. Receiving this scholarship is allowing me to further my education when I would not have been able to otherwise. I would not have worked as hard to stay focused and motivated without the guidance of my case workers and Berkshire Farm Center, and now with the Mott Family Scholarship I have everything I need to be successful.

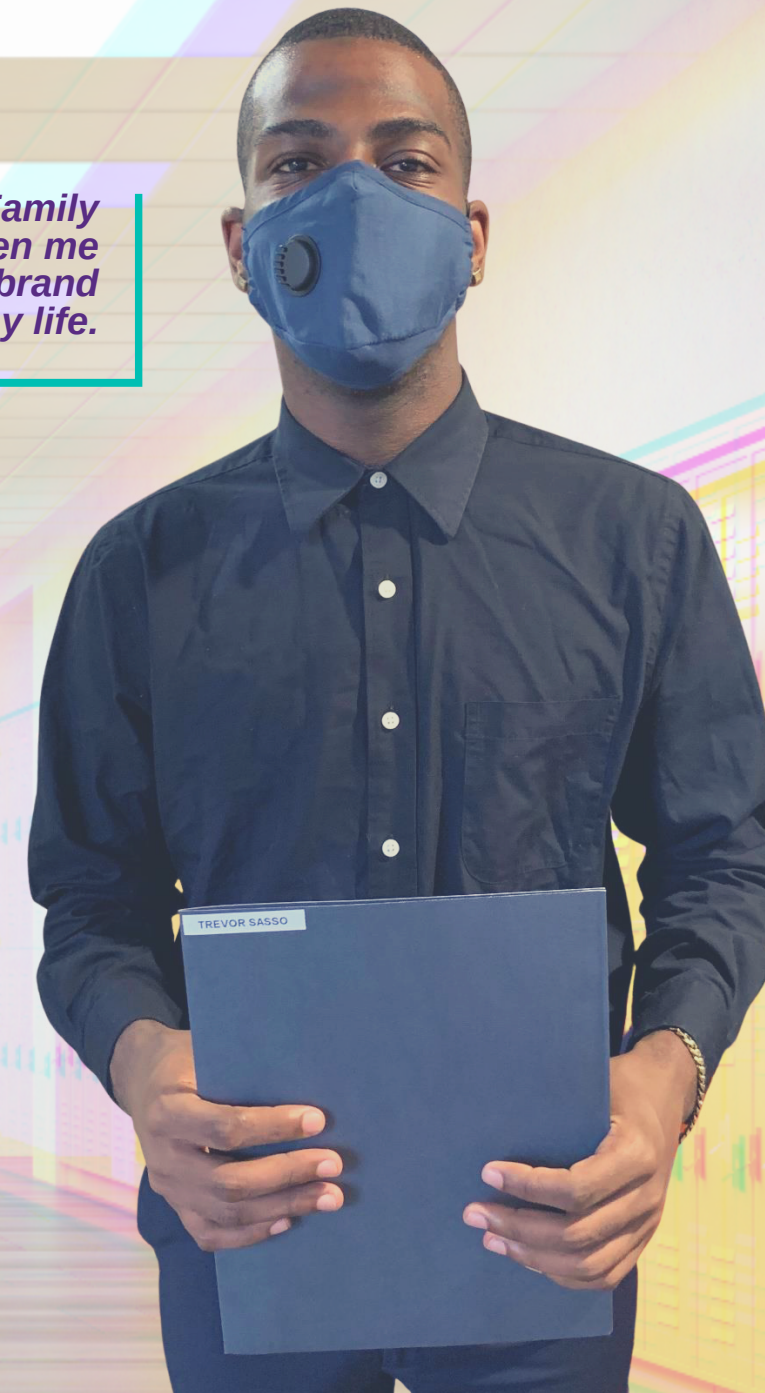
-Trevor, Mott Family Scholarship Recipient

Trevor is now 18 and has completed his first semester of college while he continues to work with Berkshire on his goal of living independently. With the help of his \$10,000 Mott Family Scholarship, Trevor will be able to continue his education at SUNY Purchase and earn his degree in Economics and Entrepreneurship. Trevor now describes himself as motivated, determined and inspired and he is well on his way of achieving his dream of becoming a fashion designer and business owner.

This scholarship is made possible by Mr. Charles H. Mott, a dedicated and committed member of Berkshire Farm Center's Board of Directors for over 50 years, who started the Mott Family Scholarship for Berkshire youth pursuing higher education.

For more information on the Berkshire's Mott Family Scholarship, visit berkshirefarm.org/mott-family-scholarship

“
The Mott Family Scholarship has given me a fresh start in this brand new chapter of my life.”



Mott
Family
Scholarship

*\$323,000 has
been awarded
in scholarships
since 2010*

PARTNERS IN PARENTING

BIOLOGICAL PARENT
& FOSTER PARENT



Photo & names changed for confidentiality

Maya, Krystal, and Leo came to Berkshire because their family was in crisis. Steve, a single father, was struggling with his substance abuse and in need of treatment. While he was receiving the treatment he desperately needed, his 3 children needed a safe, temporary place to call home – this is where Beth came in.

Beth is a certified foster parent with an open heart and an open home. Maya, Krystal and Leo stayed with Beth while their dad was receiving help. From the beginning, Beth and Steve shared the common goal of working towards reunification for him and his 3 children. In addition to his own treatment for substance abuse, Steve received support from Berkshire's Family Specialist, Sarah, who spoke with him weekly, even after hours to build trust and a plan to stay on track with visitations.

While Sarah and Steve continued to build their relationship, Beth also played a strong, supportive role for him and his children. She ensured the children spoke with their father every week by phone and provided transportation to the Berkshire office each week so they could spend time with their dad. Beth also created a photo album for Steve, highlighting holidays and special events.

"Working towards family reunification is always the primary goal of foster care," said Sarah. "We met Steve and his children during a time of family crisis. Knowing the struggles and challenges Steve had to overcome, it was wonderful to see him and foster mom, Beth, work as a team to achieve the best outcome for Maya, Krystal, and Leo."

Eventually, Steve successfully completed treatment and moved into a new home that provided adequate space for his three children. When Sarah told Steve that his children would be returning to him, he had tears in his eyes as he thanked her. Soon after, Maya, Krystal, and Leo were surprised with a 'welcome home' party by their dad, foster mom, Beth, and their Family Specialist, Sarah.

"We are all so very happy with our new lives," said Steve. "The process and system works for those who are willing to make a change. I can't thank Beth and Sarah enough for sticking by me and my family."

"I am very proud of this family and I believe they truly are the embodiment of what we do here - reunify families. "

-Sarah Stamberg, Family Specialist



Foster
Care

*150
children were
reunited
with their biological
families or found
their 'forever
families' through
adoption in 2020.*



“ Our goal is to promote equitable experiences, opportunities, and outcomes for ALL members of the Berkshire community. ”

MARKEIA ROBINSON

BERKSHIRE'S DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

WE'RE ON A JOURNEY

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

This past year brought us a greater awareness of the structures that support inequities. These structures show up everywhere – including the child welfare field. We are acutely aware that once you see something, you cannot *unsee* it and once you know something, you cannot *unknow* it. So, the question arises – what are we going to do with what we now see and know with regards to inequities in our communities across New York State?

We are going to start by looking inward.

In September 2020, we hired the Agency's first Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). Her role is to create a roadmap for our agency to begin its journey – a journey towards being more diverse, inclusive, and equitable. While diversity is important, we acknowledge diversity is simply a math equation and having a diverse workforce does not necessarily mean our workforce is inclusive.

Growing an inclusive organization where diverse backgrounds, ideas and perspectives are welcomed and valued at every level where decisions are made is crucial to our ability to accelerate meaningful change. We know diverse and inclusive organizations are better problem solving entities. More solutions from greater perspectives will improve our ability to provide the tools, trainings, and resources necessary in order to provide the highest quality of care for our children and families.

Our children and families need us. We are committed to understanding the social constraints and inequalities that are barriers for those we serve – this is crucial to our mission. Equally, examining the possible inequalities that exist within our own agency that may prevent career growth opportunities for all of our employees, is just as important. We are committed to identify and eliminate internal barriers for entrance, growth, and upward mobility for those who work with us. We have a long history of growing leaders from within and want to continue this tradition by ensuring *all* employees have that opportunity.

Whether as employees, donors, board and committee members, community partners or clients, we want you to better understand who we are, who we serve, where we stand on important issues, and how you can join us in our mission of strengthening children and families to live safely, independently, and productively within their home communities.

We hope you will join us on our journey.

THANK YOU

Our staff's focus has been caring for our children & families, and our focus is caring for them.



We are proud of how our 550 statewide employees continue to provide services to over 2,000 children and families daily, despite all of the challenges this year has brought. We know this type of dedication and commitment is not without sacrifice.

In 2020, we provided coffee gift cards for employees, partnered with restaurants to provide meals for those working at our facilities, hosted wellness initiatives and mindfulness webinars, and gifted everyone with a self-care day so they could recharge, relax and do something they enjoyed with the people that matter to them the most.

FINANCIALS FY

2019-2020



In 2020, Berkshire took on many strategically planned changes as well as the arrival of a global pandemic that continues to challenge our business, our staff and the children and families we serve. We worked through the discontinuation of our founding program and embarked on two, new federally funded programs. Through the pandemic we have continued to contract with 54 counties and serve over 2,000 children and families everyday across New York State in an unprecedented and ever-changing environment.

The dedication and selflessness of our staff this last year is unlike anything I have experienced and I am in awe of the determination and strength we have seen from our youth and families.

The support you have shown this year has allowed us to continue our mission and provide children and families essential supplies and services that go beyond what is given to us in our contracts.

Thank you- We hope you will continue to support us in the new year.

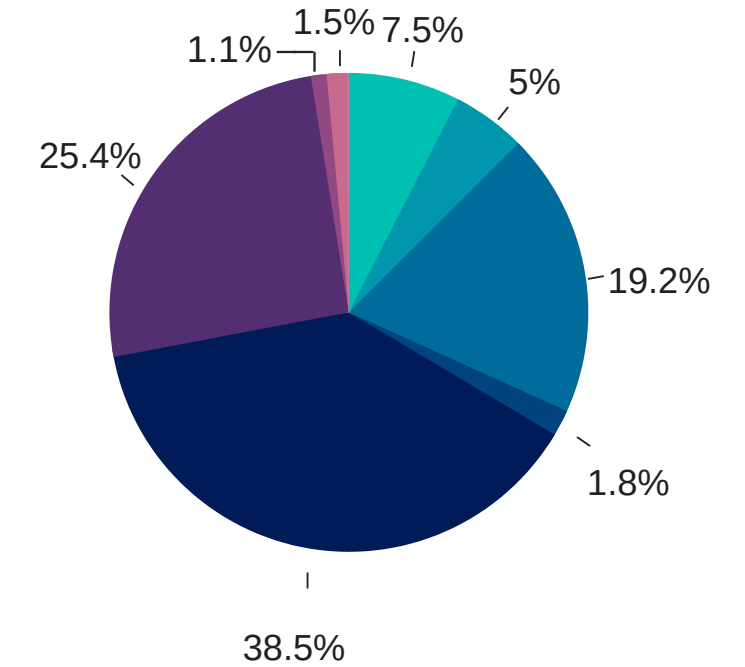
-Nikki McArthur, CFO

7,369

The number of children and their families we served in FY 19-20.

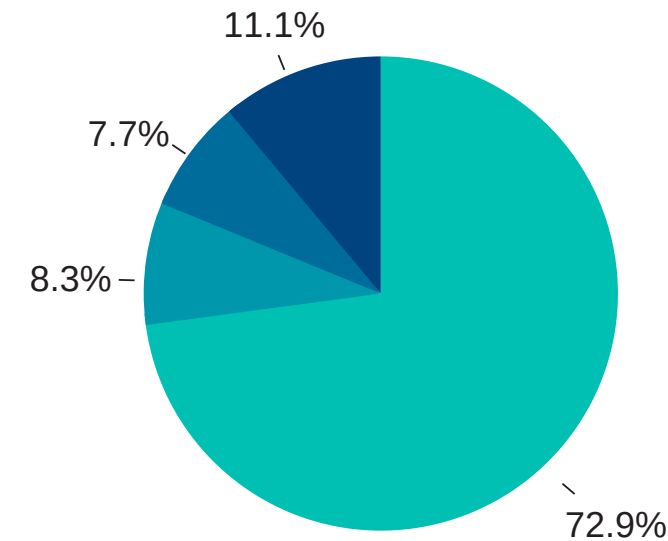
REVENUE

- Foster Care Program - \$14,175,831
- Prevention Services - \$9,373,204
- Detention - \$7,088,378
- Residential Treatment Center - \$2,779,369
- Group Homes - \$1,834,162
- Medical Services - \$649,640
- Office of Refugee Resettlement - \$548,259
- Other - \$388,470



EXPENSES

- To pay employees & provide benefits - \$30,337,118
- To support our youth - \$4,854,113
- Interest & other expenses - \$4,517,539
- Programs & building maintenance - \$3,019,559



*Totals based on pre-audited financials

MEET PATRICIA

FOSTER-ADOPTIVE PARENT, BOARD MEMBER &
COMMUNITY IMPACT COMMITTEE MEMBER



WHY DO YOU SUPPORT BERKSHIRE FARM CENTER?

I support Berkshire Farm Center because I believe in the mission, but also because the organization is the reason I have my children. I believe we all share in the responsibility of improving our communities and I personally enjoy supporting those who are trying to better themselves. Berkshire offers many programs that help families stay together and improve their lives. Additionally, the foster care services they provide have given me the gift of children. Berkshire has facilitated the adoption of my son through the foster care system.

HOW ARE YOU INVOLVED WITH BERKSHIRE?

I first joined Berkshire Farm Center as a foster parent and soon after joined the Board of Directors. Additionally, I co-chair the Community Impact Committee, where we share the Agency's mission with individuals and businesses across New York State, raise funds, bring new ideas to the table, and encourage others to get involved. I am also an advocate in my personal life, shining a light on foster care wherever I go.

WHY SHOULD OTHERS GET INVOLVED WITH BERKSHIRE'S MISSION IN 2021?

For those seeking to support a community-based organization that enriches the lives of children and their families, I would encourage you to choose Berkshire Farm Center. Berkshire helps thousands of children and their families each year and funds raised go to directly supporting their mission.

MEET DAQUETTA

DONOR, COMMUNITY PARTNER &
COMMUNITY IMPACT COMMITTEE MEMBER



WHY DO YOU SUPPORT BERKSHIRE FARM CENTER?

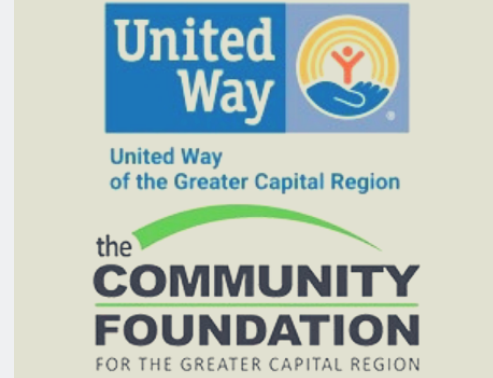
I support Berkshire Farm Center because I believe in its mission. Children are our future; therefore, it is imperative that organizations like Berkshire exist and provide the critical services and programs needed to support them and their families become their best selves. As a former employee of Berkshire Farm Center, I have witnessed first-hand its mission, program and services in action. I do not want to imagine a place without organizations such as Berkshire Farm Center serving the most vulnerable children and families with a trauma informed model of treatment and care.

HOW ARE YOU INVOLVED WITH BERKSHIRE?

My involvement with Berkshire consists of sponsorships, monetary contributions, participating in their Holiday Angel program and serving on the Community Impact Committee.

WHY SHOULD OTHERS GET INVOLVED WITH BERKSHIRE'S MISSION IN 2021?

The children and families that Berkshire Farm Center serves, its outstanding outcomes, and the need to continue to thrive and excel in its mission, service and programs. As a nonprofit, Berkshire Farm Center requires community support and investment in 2021 and beyond. COVID-19 has created an array of challenges. It truly takes a village to raise a child and support families through challenging times. The time to support Berkshire's mission is now.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS, FRIENDS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS



\$10,000 +

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Charles S. Keene Foundation
Robert Kandel & Abby Hamlin
Loudon Family Fund
Charles & Anne Mott
Schwab Charitable
The Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region
The Kaplen Brothers Fund Inc.

\$2,500-\$4,999

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Mutual of America
Ray Energy Corp
Stewart's
Theodore & Renee Weiler
Foundation, Inc.
Ultimate Software
Alan & Elaine Weiler

\$500-\$999

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Ken Nercessian
Betty & Steven Newman
Karen & Thomas Parker
Jeffrey Persch
Mary & Henry Thompson
Gladys Valverde
Saundra Williams
Kristina Zeis

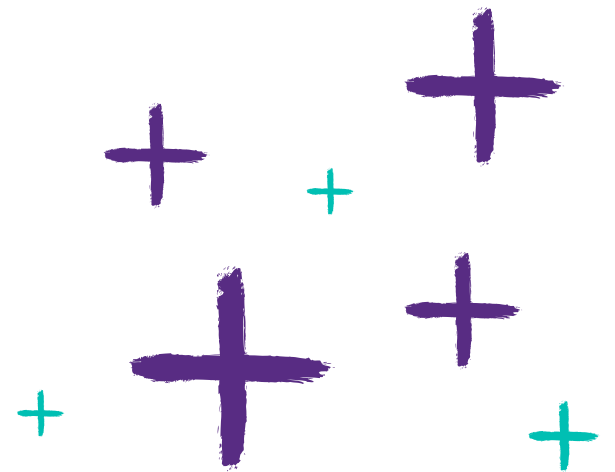
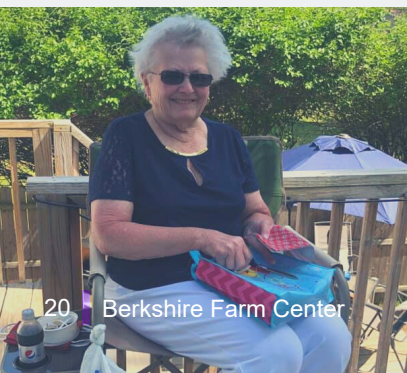


\$5,000-\$9,999

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\$1,000-\$2,499

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Up to \$499

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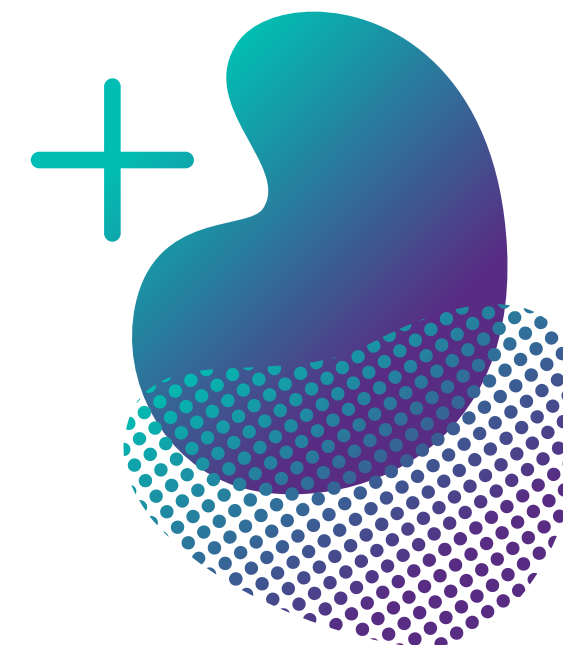
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Jessica Wilson
Matthew Wing
Phillip & Tina Wright
YMCA
Janet Zelesnikar



Mia of Mia's Cookie Jar donating her homemade cookies to our essential workers



Harriet Hofaker sewing one of the over 1,500 masks she donated to our children & families

Holiday Angel

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 Kim Adams
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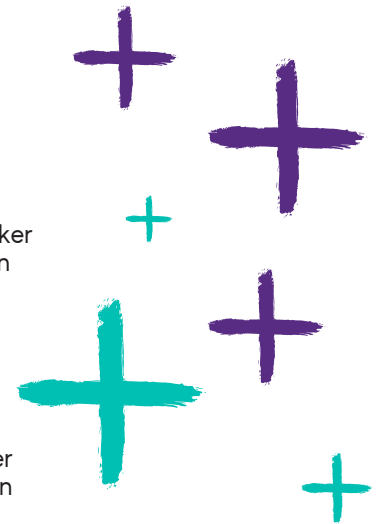
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 Ryan Orzechowski
 Jessica Osborne
 Kateryna Otruba

Kristen Palmer
 Rita Palmer
 Katie Pape
 Leo & Dolores Parchesky
 Kim Perone
 Deb Perry
 Jeffrey Persch
 Jen Picarillo
 PiSA BioPharm
 Kristin & Thomas Polizzi
 Megan Pope
 Autumn Pope
 Christine Powell
 Sarah Prather
 Jessy Price
 Sarah Prutzman
 Kristen Quesada
 Muriel Raggi
 Paula Ramer
 Gray Reed
 Kathleen Reilly
 Elizabeth Reyes
 Cheryl Richardson
 Rosalyn Richter
 Denise Ripic
 Lauren Rivard
 Christina Rizza
 Kenneth Rock
 Alyssa Rodriguez
 Kathy Rodzinka
 Jennifer Rodzinka
 Danielle Rosato
 Keith Rose
 Courtney Rosiek
 Adrianna Rowland
 Tamara Rowser
 Patricia Russell
 Rosemary Ryan-Yaichuk
 Pamela Safirstein
 Taylor Sanzone
 Michelle Sanzone
 Jennifer & John Scheitinger
 Peter Schmidt
 Margaret Schroll
 Melinda Schultz
 Michael Sebba
 Allana Sendzicki

Sandra Shank-Kenik
 Hilda Shaw
 Kaitlin Shaw
 Jordan Siegel
 Jon Siegel
 Tamara Slater
 Yolanda Smalls
 Michele Smith
 Shannon Lynn Smith
 Theresa Smolen
 Lori Snyder
 Holly Sokol
 Marc Soto
 Sue Souto
 Elly Spiegel
 Jaclyn Spinelli
 Melissa Stanton
 Allison Storrs
 Lauryn Strickland
 Megan Subik
 Julia Sutherland
 Theresa Swenson
 Stephanna Szotkowski
 John Tanner
 Nick Taro
 Alexis Tersten
 Kevin Testo
 Melissa Thompson
 Kate Thompson
 Jolynn Thompson
 Jamie Torney
 Brittany Trela
 Sarah Tudda
 Jennifer Turcotte
 Angela Vacari
 Sarah Valis
 Leah VanDerkwarker
 Kim Vandersanden
 Andrea Venesky
 Jami Mills Vibbert
 Kara Vormwald
 Erica Wallens
 Jessica Walter
 Holly Walthour
 Marguerite Warner
 Quinton Washburn
 Vivian Weaver

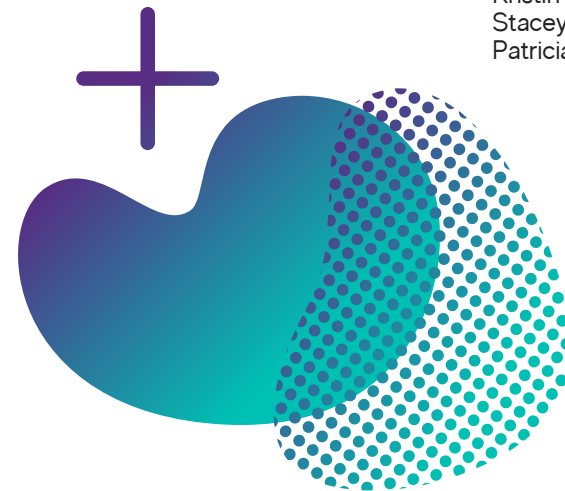


Gifts-In-Kind

Airdrenaline Adventure Park
 Albany Ninja Lab
 BBL Construction Services
 BBL Hospitality
 Bob's Discount Furniture, LLC
 BPOE Amsterdam Lodge #101
 Tanya Buechner
 Jennifer Carter
 Comfort Cases
 Autumn Congrove
 Tim Crossley
 Delmonicos
 Extendher LLC
 Girl Scout Troop 1716
 Stephanie Guelpa & Jack Steffek
 Emily Heatherton-Brown
 Lisa Hetherington
 Harriet Hofaker
 Jess Horowitz
 Huck Finn's Warehouse & More
 Kinderhook Elks Lodge #2530
 Krauses Chocolate
 Kelly Mason
 Lisa & Francis
 Michael McAndrew
 McCann's Pharmacy
 Norina Melita
 Mullen's Pub
 Naomi Palmer
 Dennis Sepulveda
 Susan Strode
 The MoonCatcher Project
 Joseph A. Tubiolo Jr.
 Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.
 Zero Gravity Laser Tag

Legacy Society

Charles S. Keene Foundation
 Northrop, Stradar & Glenn, P.C.
 PNC Advisors
 Louis Amyot
 Jane & John Austin
 Clara Bancroft
 Wray Bentley
 Margarethe Brinkman
 Marybeth Brown
 Allison Carter
 Carolyn Castle
 Edward Clendenin
 John Crowell
 Mary Ebel
 F. Faulkner
 Ruth Ferry
 Clara Forester
 Frederick Frear
 Genevieve Green
 Ruth Greene
 Elizabeth Havens
 May Henderson
 Helen Ikeler
 J. Johnson
 Thomas & Sandra Jones
 Franklin Judson
 Dorothy Kraft
 Amy Kulley
 Raymond Marshall
 Ida Mayer
 Carolyn McCann
 James McV. Breed
 Alice Melady
 Elsa Meyer
 John Millard
 Gladys Murray
 Josephine Musgrave
 Mary O'Neil



Monthly Giving

Julie Brennan
 Kristina Bonetsky
 Olive Coutsonikas
 Bailey Naples
 Lisa Newcomer
 Jennifer Parker
 Patricia Russell
 Gladys Valverde
 Jasmin Valverde
 Kristina Zeis

Community Impact Committee

Julie Brennan
 Sarah Brennan
 Daquetta Jones
 Jessica Kansas
 Betty Newman
 Melissa O'Reilly
 Kristin Polizzi
 Stacey Roussin
 Patricia Russell



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Berkshirefarm.org/donate

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Berkshirefarm.org



Our Mission:
To strengthen children & families so they can live safely, independently &
productively within their home communities.

www.Berkshirefarm.org

