

Bradford-Tioga Head Start, Inc.

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



A letter from the Executive Director

I remember where I was when the program was "shut down" by Governor Wolf due to a virus called COVID-19. I thought this would go on for a couple of weeks. That was almost two years ago.

The journey has had its challenges, and in many areas, we had to find new beginnings of how to operate our 2-county program in order to support and provide programming to children and families. To describe it best, it was like trying to fly a plane while we were still building it.

Fast forward two years we are providing in-person programming and sometimes still needing to pivot to remote/virtual programming when a COVID-19 case touches us. Words like COVID, pivot, remote, team, victory sprayers, sanitizer, masks, quarantine, and isolation have taken on new meanings. Technology has been greatly impacted, and we now provide devices that can be used from home for both staff and families, as we use ZOOM and GoToMeeting platforms for meetings, home visits, lessons and trainings.

Through this pandemic we have learned that it truly takes a community to persevere when things seem bleak. We have learned to depend even more on each other; when one staff or parent needs lifting up, another is close by to offer support and encouragement.

Fortunately, our regulatory agencies and local Foundations have provided additional funding for us to meet the health challenges we face. We have purchased many more disinfecting, sanitizing, and personal protective supplies than "normal." Our Board and Policy Council have stepped up to the plate and continue to guide and direct us in a time where, for the most part, they are meeting virtually.

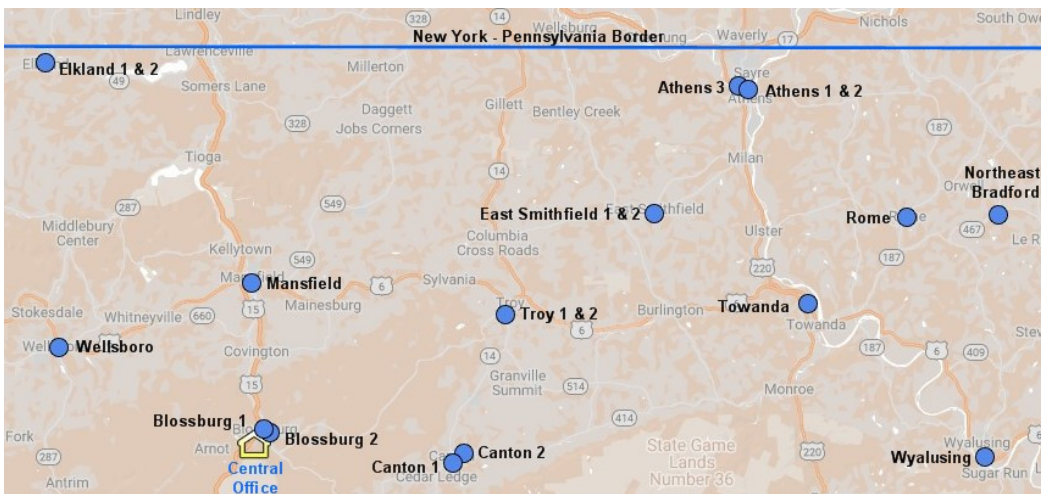
We have an incredible resource within our program and that is our staff who are heroes in their own regard. They face the challenges every single day by delivering items/food to families, providing in-person and remote services to children and families, getting 2+ year old children to wear a face mask, and providing safe environments for children and each other. Along this journey, we are paying particular attention to the well-being of our staff and provide support, wellness baskets, how to "build their bounce," and some monetary acknowledgements for their heroic efforts.

With many kind regards to you for your encouragement, support, and guidance,

Jody Thomas
Executive Director



Center Locations



Board of Directors



Top Row: Brooks Eldredge-Martin, Desiree Rockwell, Florence (Flori) Prough, J.D., LL.M., C.M.M.

Second Row: Gene Yajko (Chair), Nancy Stamilio, Keren Clark, Henry Dunn

Third Row: Pamela (PJ) Barnes, Ron Gilbert, Sam Rotella (Vice Chair), Samantha Wilcox, Esquire

"BTHS has been very beneficial to my family, from educating our kids and getting them ready to go to Kindergarten, to helping us with applying for health insurance. In the years when we really needed help making sure our kids had a great Christmas, BTHS helped us sign up for programs that provided presents for our kids. We have been a part of the Head Start program for a total of 8 years and have built life long friendships from staff in the classroom to staff in Central Office."

Robin Kingsley - BTHS parent for several years
and current Policy Council member



Employee Service Awards



Employees reaching five year increments are recognized for their years of service. They are given a certificate and a gift card of \$50 for every 5 years of service. Pictured: Tanya Chapel, Early Head Start / Social Services Coordinator presents Donna Cummings, Wellsboro Family



Partner, with her 30 years of service award. Other Staff receiving awards for Five Years: Teresa Adams, Nichole Ambruch, Sandy Button, Bernie Decker, Jessica Dilly, Robin Flynn, Kristin Rider, Nina Sakers. Ten Years: Tami Hunsicker, Linda LeBlanc. Twenty Years: Wendy Williams.

Policy Council

- Parents elect members who serve up to 5 years.
- 51% of membership are parents/guardians of enrolled children.
- Community representatives are elected by parents from organizations such as WIC, Housing Authority, Health and Dental fields, and faith-based.



The Kingsley family has participated in Bradford-Tioga Head Start programming for several years; all of the Kingsley children attended Head Start and Rachel was also enrolled in Early Head Start for three years. Parents, Robin and Ryan, both have been actively involved in the program including serving on **Policy Council**. Pictured are: Front: Charlotte (6); Back row: Roxanne (20); Regina (4) held by Robin; Carl (19); Ryan, and Rachel (17).

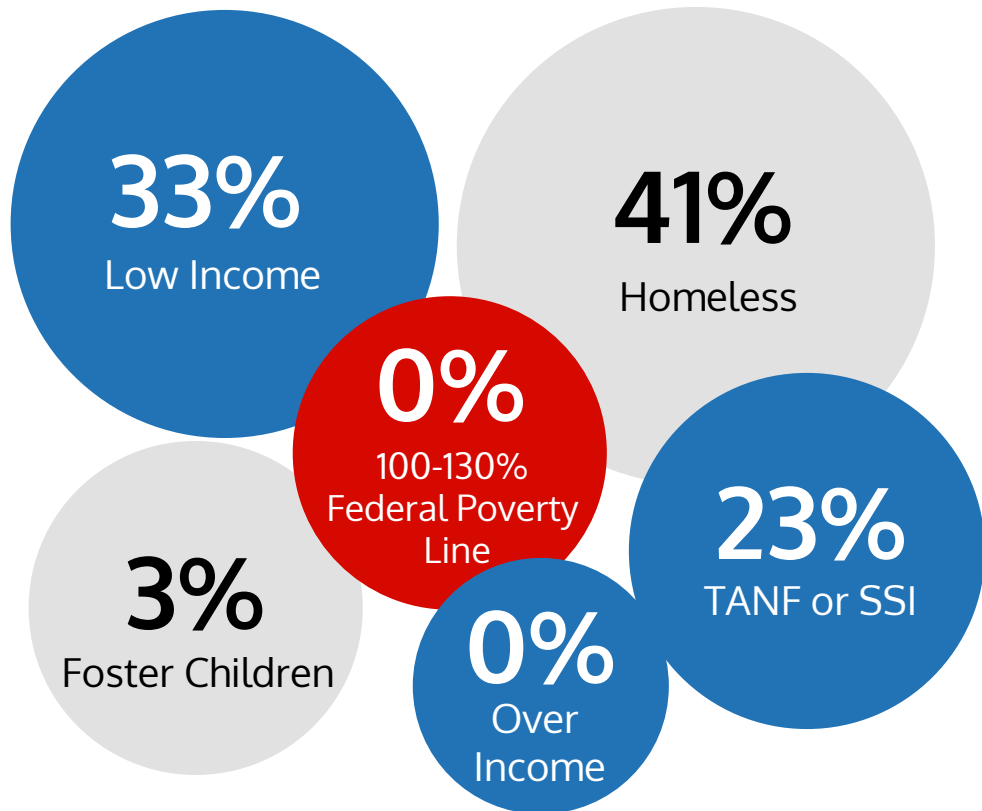
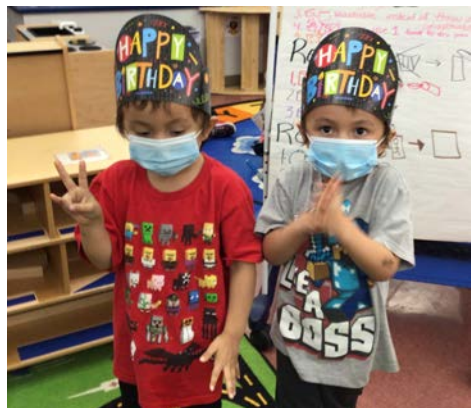


Policy Council Members Include: Crystal Barnard, Bill Baker, Leslie Camp, Amanda Carreon, John Coole, Terry Davis, Theo Deitman, Brittney Dieffenbach, Brian Garcia, Zoe Hooper, Crystal Jackson, Robin Kingsley, Melissa Farenish, Mercedes Meuse, Chris Morgan, Lauren Morse, Kelsey Counterman, Juanita Rice, Elizabeth Rose, Hailey Stoddard, Valerie Umble, Samantha VanNess, Renee Weed, Alison West, Richard Wortman.

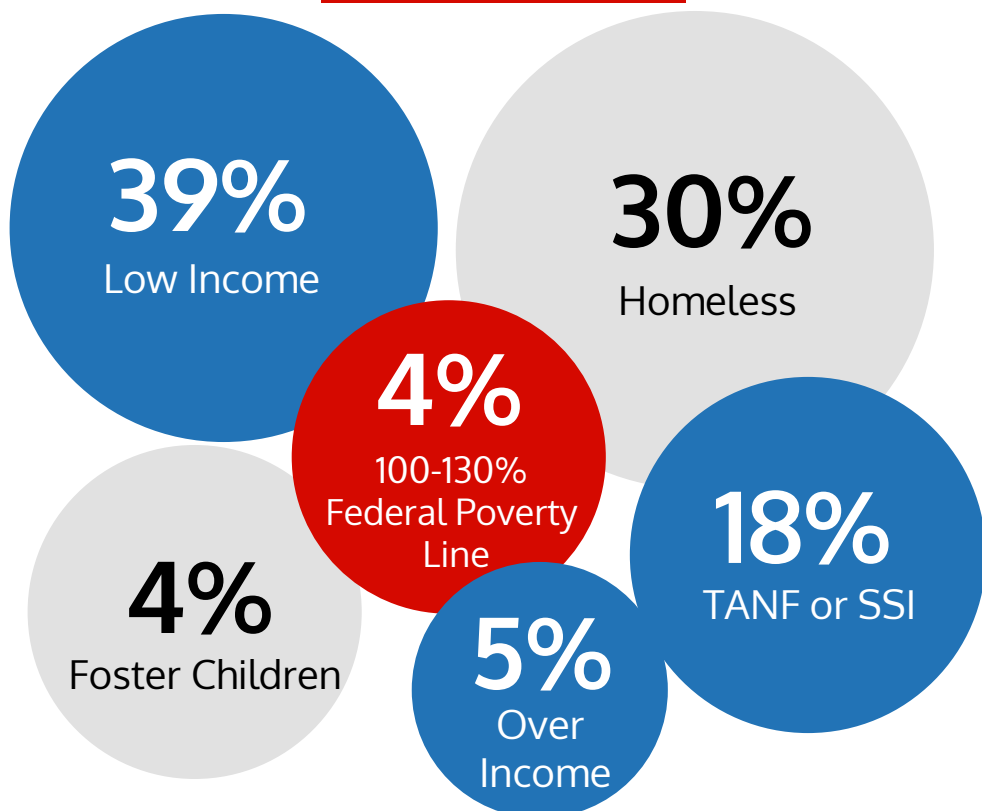
4 *Our highly competent staff provides exceptional, educational opportunities...*

Eligibility Statistics

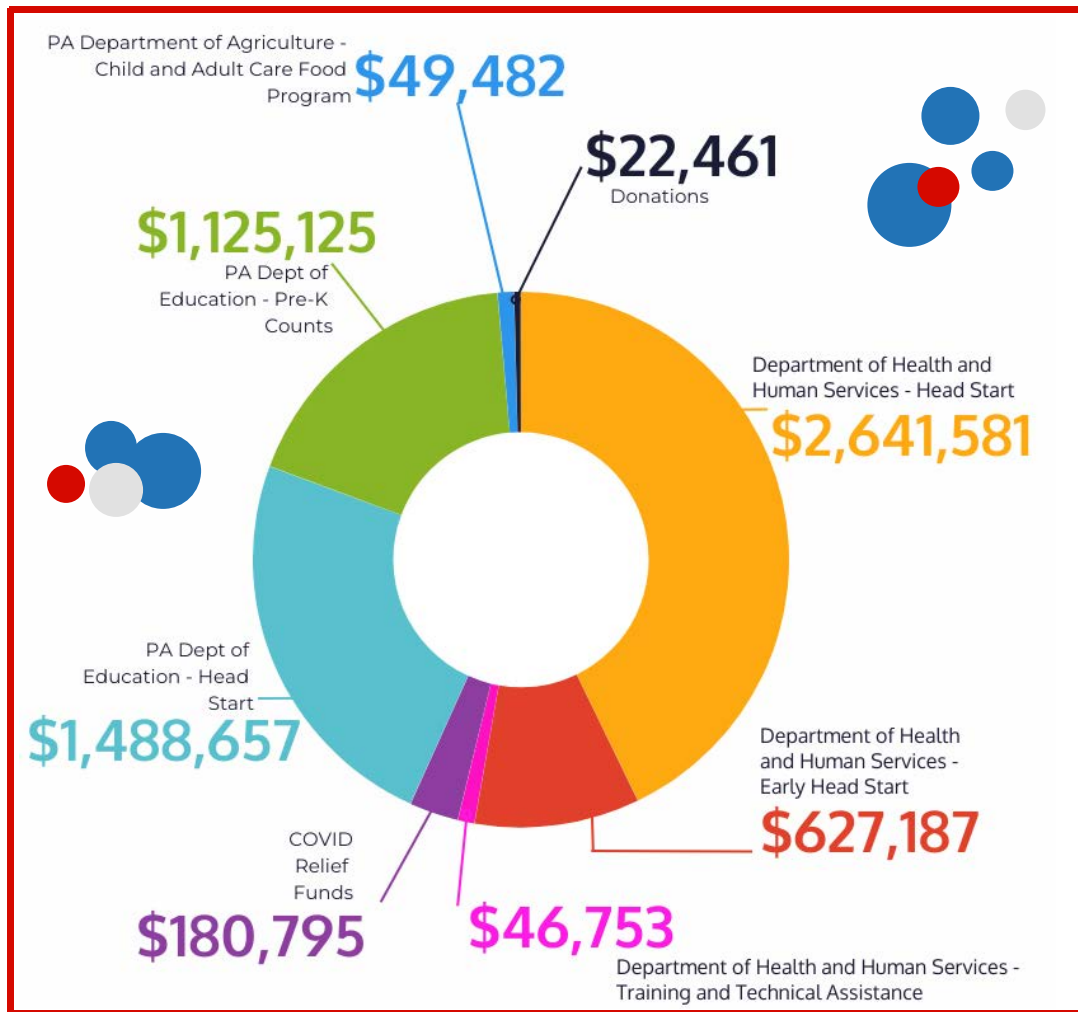
Early Head Start



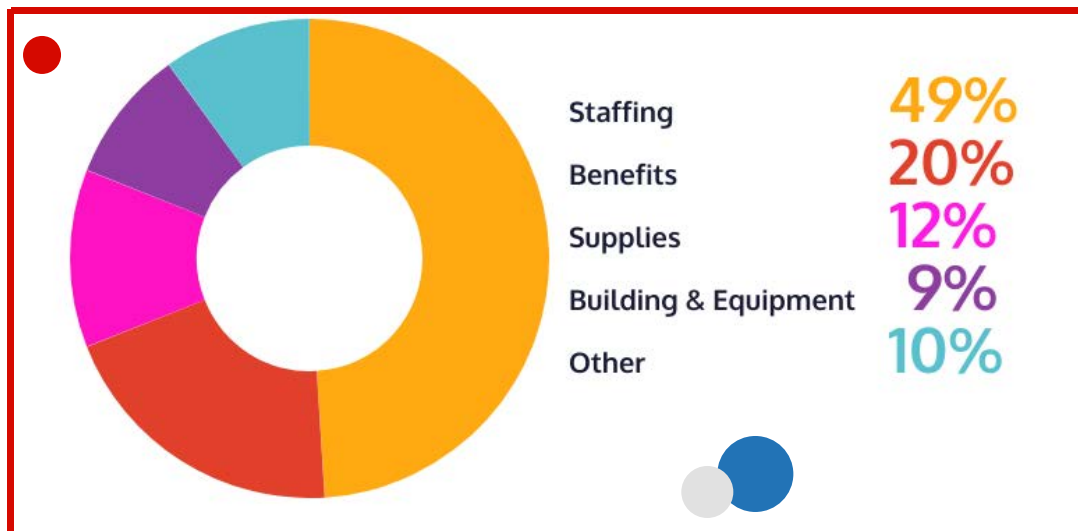
Head Start



2020-2021 Funding



2020-2021 Expenditures





2020-2021 Number of Children/Families Served

Early Head Start

Children **73**
Families **71**



Head Start

Children **205**
Families **195**

Enrollment criteria fully maintained and eligibility requirements met at 100%



"Head Start essentially has given my life meaning. Before I became an employee, I was seeking a fulfilling career where I could use the multitude of skills I had obtained in college and in prior job experience. Bradford-Tioga Head Start is where I want to stay until I can no longer sustain a career. Not only have I felt successful and supported every step of the way, but I feel like the program I specifically work for was designed for me."



Tessa Kirk
Athens 2 Teacher



2020-2021 Average Monthly Attendance

88.5%
Early Head Start



88.34%
Head Start



Our highly competent staff provides exceptional, educational opportunities...

School Readiness Activities

Bradford-Tioga Head Start, Inc. is committed to providing all children with a variety of opportunities in preparation for a successful transition to Kindergarten.

Activities includes:

- Parent trainings to help prepare children & parents for kindergarten
- Establishment of specific goals with parent input
- Transition meetings for children with special needs
- Visits to kindergarten classrooms and school cafeterias
- School Readiness Plan developed by parents, staff, school and community
- Head Start/Pre-K/Kindergarten teachers visit other classrooms
- Kindergarten Camps
- Literacy enhanced by providing one book monthly to each family
- Kindergarten transition packets given to each child/family

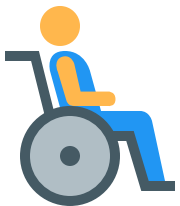


Health and Dental Statistics

Of the 73 Early Head Start Children served:

89%

Up-to-date
on Medical Exams



12%

Had Special Needs

100%



Had a Dental Exam

Of the 205 Head Start Children served:

100%

Up-to-date
on Medical Exams



18%

Had Special Needs

91%



Had a Dental Exam



2020-21 School Readiness Outcomes



In all age groups, gains were made in physical health & development, cognition & knowledge, approaches to learning, language & literacy, and social & emotional. For the birth-to-three population, the largest gain was in the physical health and development area with an 11% gain. In the three-to-five population, the largest gain was in the cognition & knowledge area with a 27% gain.

Early Head Start (Birth to 3 Year Old)

Physical Health & Development

82%

88%

93%

Cognition & Knowledge

87%

90%

94%

Approaches to Learning

86%

89%

94%

Language & Literacy

78%

83%

87%

Social And Emotional

83%

85%

88%

Head Start (3 to 5 Year Old)

Physical Health & Development

91%

94%

98%

Cognition & Knowledge

58%

70%

85%

Approaches to Learning

77%

85%

92%

Language & Literacy

69%

82%

92%

Social And Emotional

92%

88%

93%



FALL



WINTER



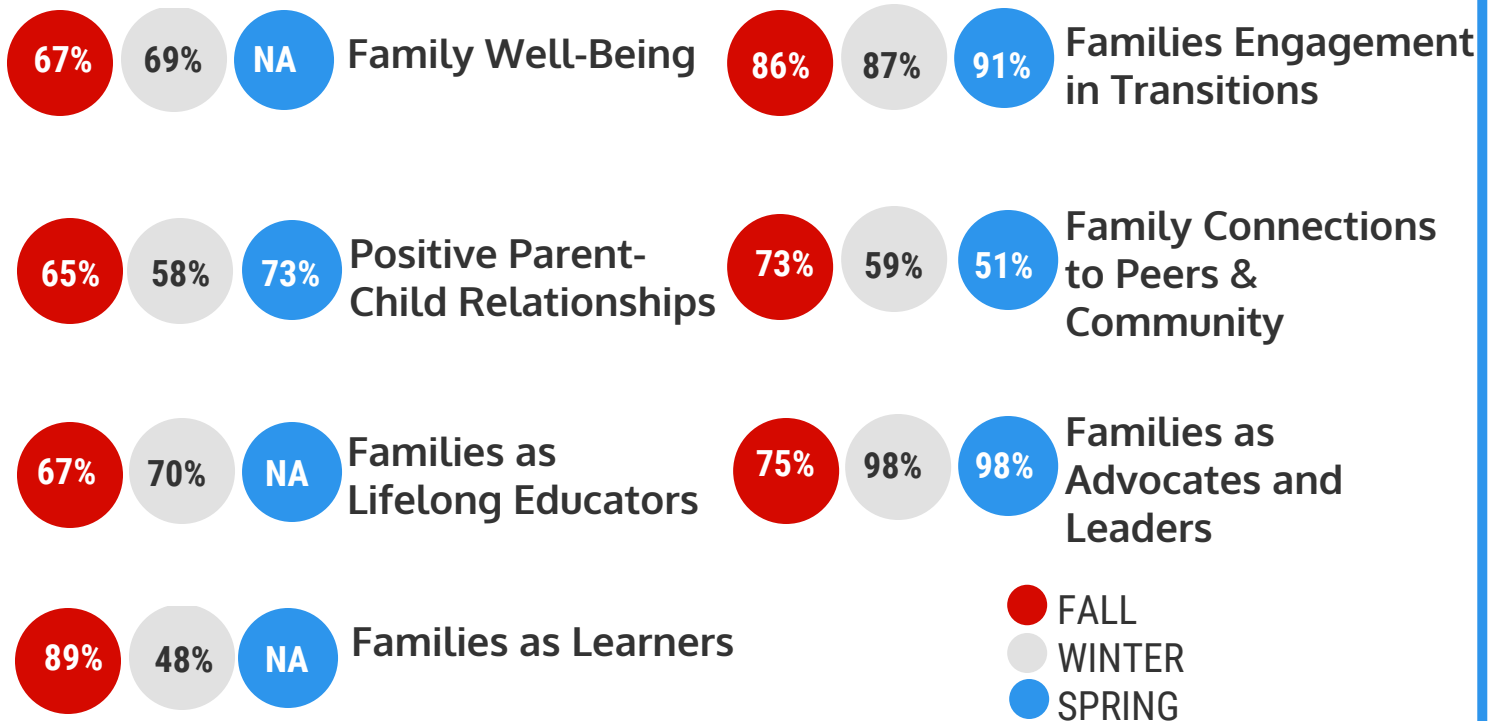
SPRING

Our highly competent staff provides exceptional, educational opportunities... 9

Parent Involvement Activities

Parent, Family and Community Engagement

2020-21 Parent, Family and Community Engagement Outcomes



Parents participate in classroom and family play group activities. They are invited to develop a Family Partnership Agreement where they set goals for themselves as a family and work with staff to develop an Individual Plan for their child. Parents are invited to participate in curriculum activities where they receive training on their child's development, health, and education. Parents can serve on Policy Council, which makes decisions such as approving policies, hiring new staff, and approving program options.

This year's Parent, Family and Community Engagement Outcomes indicate that the area of Families as Advocates and Leaders had the highest gain at 23%.





"The ONLY Thing Consistent About Head Start is CHANGE!!! I can honestly say, I have never been bored at my job."

Annette Geneski -
retired Family Advocate



Accountability

Government and regulated monitoring visits conducted include:

- **Federal Monitoring Visit:** week of February 10, 2020; a Focus Area 1 (FA1) evaluated all areas of the program. **The program was issued an exemplary rating.**
- **State Program Review:** March 8, 2021: An **exemplary outcome** was achieved.
- **The 2020-21 Financial Audit:** completed August 2021; an exceptional outcome given with **no findings or material weaknesses** identified.
- **Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Audit:** conducted the week of May 5, 2021 with minimal concerns.



Photo credit to:
ScottMartinImages

"BTHS staff have many experiences that are helping them through these times. They are appreciated by many people."

Brooks Eldredge-Martin -
BTHS Board member

Private Donations

Curiosity Circle - \$25-99

William & Karen Friedenber
Joann Ogden
Larry & Jean Smith
Nancy Stamilio
Steve & Sherry Stiner
Robert & Susan Storch

Imagination Circle - \$100 - \$249

Roger Bunn
Theodore Dehaven
Terry & Anita Duvall
John & Nan Estep
Danise Fairchild
J. Dennis Murray, PhD
John & Jane Novak
Florence & Patrick Prough
Pat & Lexa Reuter
Mike & Sherry Stoudt
Luke & Laura Straniere
Samantha Wilcox, Esquire
Eugene Yajko

Creativity Circle - \$250 - \$499

Shane & Jill Nickerson
Brooks Eldredge-Martin
Donald & Donna Wilson

Discovery Circle - \$500 - \$999

Henry & Sarah Dunn
Jim & Maria Nobles
John & Erin Reuter
Jody & Doug Thomas

Inspiration Circle - \$1000 or more

Anonymous
Ron Gilbert
Sandra and Robert Wheeland

The Marsha Kay Mase Foundation was founded in 1984 in memory of Marsha Kay Mase who had a passion for children with special needs. This year, the Mase Foundation funded the purchase of sensory stones and busy boards for classrooms in Tioga County. Pictured is Amanda Carson, Mental Health / Early Intervention Coordinator and Joann Ogden, Mase Foundation Board Member.



Community Giving

Amazon
Bloss Holiday Market
Calverack Electric Cooperative
Cox Stokes & Lantz
Jones Foundation
Landon Memorial
Mathmatica
Power Kunkle
Randy & Nancy Williams Family Foundation
Seltzer Group
Tioga Bradford County Housing Authority
Troy Lions Club
Troy Vets Club
Tyoga Running Club
United Way
Ward Manufacturing
Wellsboro Electric Company
Wellsboro Foundation
Wellsboro Rotary

Donations and Grants

Landon Family	\$ 500
Lutes Foundation	\$ 800
Mase Foundation	\$ 936
Packer Foundation	\$5,618



Coats, boots & snow pants were donated to the Mansfield and Blossburg classrooms, by the Mainesburg United Methodist Church in memory of member Jill Cross.