The Steinman Foundation is a private foundation dedicated to improving the quality of life in, and the communities that comprise, Lancaster County, PA.

ADVANCING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

The Steinman Foundation believes that the diversity of the Lancaster County community is a fundamental strength. Only through intentional integration of diversity, equity, and inclusion as values and practices can philanthropic and charitable endeavors ensure substantive change in our community.

In 2020, The Steinman Foundation created the Lancaster Partnership for Learning Equity (LPLE) in response to COVID-19’s disruption of K-12 education. Summer learning and after-school programs are offered by LPLE to provide rigorous academic instruction by highly skilled educators in a virtual environment. Curriculum was provided by BellXcel, a nationally recognized non-profit organization specializing in evidence-based educational enrichment programs. The United Way of Lancaster was a founding partner in LPLE.

LPLE’s 2021 Summer Learning Program was a five-week learning loss prevention and enrichment program provided virtually, with four unique program sites across Lancaster County:

- 463 students enrolled in LPLE’s Summer Learning Program, with grade levels ranging from Pre-K to 12th.
- Remote Learning participants saw, on average, one and a half months of academic gains in literacy, and maintained their initial mathematics scores throughout the program. In-person site participants, on average, maintained their initial literacy scores and saw academic gains of three months in mathematics. (Average summer learning loss typically amounts to a loss of two months per discipline.)
- 300 laptops were distributed across all program sites, with 270 students keeping their laptops at the conclusion of the program. The remaining 30 laptops were donated to the Lancaster City Public Library to be used for youth programming.

New in 2021, The Steinman Foundation partnered with the non-profit All Star Code, the leading nonprofit organization creating economic opportunity for young men of color by developing their entrepreneurial mindset, skills, and networks needed to succeed in a technological world. Eleven Lancaster students participated in the rigorous 6-week coding instruction and skill development course, culminating with their creation of apps that they designed to solve a community-based issue or need. The students created COVID-19 vaccine locator apps, virtual school instruction apps to fuel student engagement, and various others. All Lancaster scholars received a $15 per hour stipend, allowing them to earn while they were working on their coding skills.

The Steinman Foundation sponsored the first-ever Pursuit of Equity Prize during the 2021 Extraordinary Give hosted by the Lancaster County Community Foundation. This prize seeks to celebrate and encourage organizations that pursue equitable practices within their organization. Prizes were awarded through a lottery drawing from a pool of organizations that certified that their organization is programmatically and operationally pursuing equitable practices. Ten $5,000 prizes were awarded throughout the 24-hour day of giving that raised over $15 million in total for local nonprofit organizations.
The Internet has become an essential requirement for participating in modern society. COVID-19 has highlighted broadband gaps that have long existed in communities across the United States and Lancaster County is no exception. With a goal to identify more permanent solutions, the Economic Development Company of Lancaster County and The Steinman Foundation are leading an effort to create a countywide broadband strategy. With help from our partners, the Lancaster-Lebanon IU-13 and Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health, we have retained a national consultant to help map broadband accessibility across the county to create a local strategy that will deliver equitable solutions county-wide.

This year, we will be focused on addressing technologies, funding tools, partners, and a business plan to deliver equitable and consistent broadband access to all of Lancaster County.

For more information on our broadband strategy, visit edclancaster.com.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Steinman Foundation partnered with Comcast to help fund Internet Essentials, an internet connectivity program, to provide more than 1,000 families across the county access to high-speed internet, allowing students to attend school even when classes were remote. This effort, combined with the hundreds of laptops distributed through the Lancaster Partnership for Learning Equity, provided families the means to participate in society.

The effects of COVID-19 are still felt throughout our community, hitting those most vulnerable the hardest. The Steinman Foundation has dedicated $750,000 toward mitigating the impact of the pandemic by identifying community partner organizations throughout the county to ensure that every Lancasterian has access to shelter, food, mental health support and other essentials so many of us are able to take for granted.

• CHI Saint Joseph’s Children’s Health established the Crisis Meals Initiative to provide residents of Columbia Borough with the comfort of a nutritious, freshly-prepared meal each day. Through the Healthy Columbia Project and in partnership with the culinary expertise of Fuel Madness Meals and Gypsy Kitchen, CHI provided 6 nutritious meals, fresh fruit, and healthy snacks to 250 members of the Columbia community every 5 days. The Steinman Foundation partnered with CHI in providing the meals in Columbia and utilizing the same model, extended the Crisis Meals Initiative to serve residents in need throughout the Penn Manor School District. Over a period of 8 months, between the two locations, CHI’s Joseph Children’s Health provided 637 meals to children, families, and residents in need in Lancaster County.

• On February 1, 2021, the LGBTQ+ Coalition of Greater Philadelphia launched a 3-month pilot program called HEART (Homelessness Emergency Assistance & Response Team). Designed to provide low-cost transitional housing to support individuals sheltering in unaffirming environments and/or at risk of homelessness, the program provided essential support to individuals with need and worked with community partners to offer life skills including budgeting, locating access to health resources, etc. The HEART Program also offered a warm, hardship to housing resources and medical services, in addition to providing emotional support for program participants. At the conclusion of the pilot, 100% of HEART participants transitioned into permanent housing and a medical home. Due to the success of the pilot, a permanent HEART transitional housing location opened at the start of 2022.

• The Steinman Foundation continued its support of the Community Mental Health Assistance Program (CMAP) in partnership with Mental Health America of Lancaster County. CMAP provides free and confidential therapy sessions to essential employees and other community members who otherwise do not have access to mental health services. This program is ongoing. For more information, please visit mhalancaster.org/cmap.

The Internet has become an essential requirement for participating in modern society. COVID-19 has highlighted broadband gaps that have long existed in communities across the United States and Lancaster County is no exception.
The Steinman Foundation is pleased to have supported the following organizations and initiatives in Lancaster County in 2021. Since its conception in 1951, the total philanthropy of The Steinman Foundation now exceeds $105 million.

SUPPORTING LOCAL JOURNALISM AND MEDIA LITERACY

News deserts are a national problem as nearly 70% of counties in the United States do not have a daily newspaper. Disinformation – it is intentional or inadvertent – is proliferating.

The Lancaster County Local Journalism Fund’s (LCLJF) mission is to support, protect, and expand local journalism and in so doing Lancaster County’s community media. The LCLJF serves to ensure that local news is available to the nearly 1,500 miles of the county’s streams are classified as impaired, contributing to pollution of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Lancaster County represents 32% of PA’s pollution loading reduction goals. Today more than 50% of Pennsylvania’s waters are classified as impaired, contributing to pollution in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

The Steinman Foundation is striving to help Lancaster County meet its pollution loading reduction goals. Today more than 50% of the county’s streams are classified as impaired, contributing to pollution of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Lancaster County represents 32% of PA’s pollution loading reduction goals. Today more than 50% of Pennsylvania’s waters are classified as impaired, contributing to pollution in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

The Steinman Foundation supports key organizations such as the Lancaster County Clean Water Partners and the Water Science and Technology Center to help to support Lancaster County meet its pollution reduction goals. The Foundation has helped to support municipalities and others working toward clean water goals.

COMMUNITY JOURNALISM AND MEDIA LITERACY

Central to healthy, vibrant, and informed communities, as well as the legacy and history of The Steinman Foundation and its partners, is healthy, inclusive, and sustainable local journalism. The Steinman Foundation supports local journalism of excellence, with a focus on promoting data-driven decision making.

The Steinman Foundation supports the extraordinary Give: Pursuit of Equity Prize, given annually by The Steinman Foundation to encourage and advance of quality local journalism and media literacy.

The Steinman Foundation seeks to expand economic opportunity and promote workforce development in Lancaster County by focusing on STEM education. Under the leadership of Ms. Barbara Altmann, in addition to funding over $105 million to the following organizations and initiatives in 2021.

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THE STEINMAN FOUNDATION PARTICIPATES IN:
- Media Funders Network
- STEM Funders Network
- National STEM Ecosystem
- Knight Media Forum

QUESTIONS?
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