



LEHIGH VALLEY

HCLV

Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley Annual Report 2017-2018

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From our President

This past year has been both rewarding and challenging for the Hispanic Center. We celebrated an important milestone - the 50th anniversary of the Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley. And while the Lehigh Valley has changed significantly since the late 1960s, the Hispanic Center continues to honor and promote the dreams of those dedicated men and women who gave birth to this new organization 50 years ago.

Those who founded HCLV envisioned a place where newcomers were welcomed; where the Latino culture and language were respected; where every person seeking assistance was encouraged and connected to services to help them develop their skills and abilities to their fullest potential. This was a noble vision in 1968, and it is just as relevant and important today.

We celebrated another milestone this past year and that was the opening of our new Fowler Community Wellness Center last May. Local government, individuals, corporations and organizations pitched in and helped us raise over \$2 million to complete the needed renovations. We are incredibly grateful for that support and are dedicated stewards of those funds. Embodying the vision of our founders, Fowler Center is a place for community members to access social services, receive quality physical and mental health care services, connect to career training and employment opportunities and make social connections.

In many ways, the Hispanic Center is not the same as it was 50 years ago but in so many ways it remains the same. I am blessed to be leading HCLV at this time in its history, along with a hard-working board, devoted staff and dozens of committed volunteers. We have set a solid path for the Hispanic Center's work in the community and continue to build support that it will thrive beyond the next 50 years.

Donna Taggart
Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley Board President

Our Mission - To improve the quality of lives of families (Hispanic and non-Hispanic) by empowering them to become more self-sufficient, while promoting an intercultural understanding in the Lehigh Valley.

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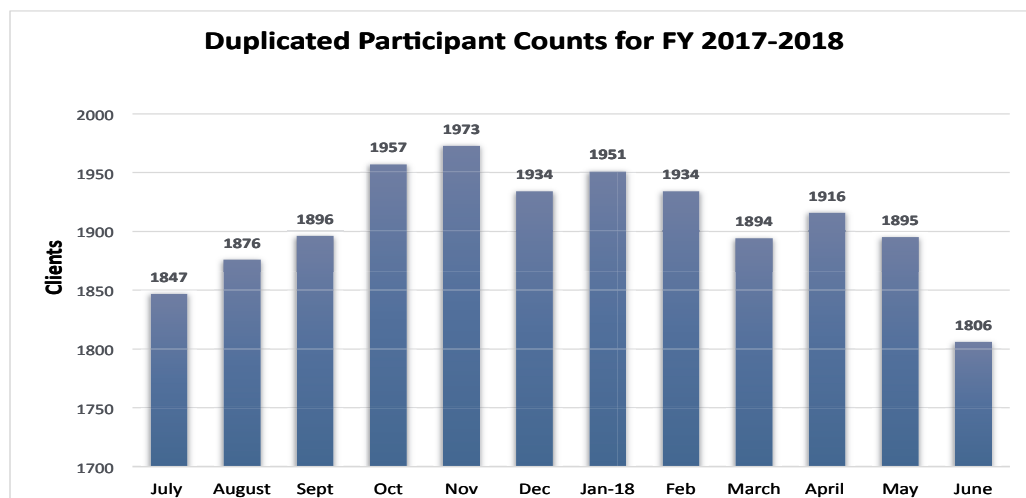
PROGRAM UPDATES

Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Program

During the 17-18 fiscal year, the Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley WIC office served 22,879 duplicated participants, with an average of 1887 duplicated encounters per month.

The WIC Nutrition Program helps pregnant women, new mothers, and children up to age five learn about nutrition, make healthy food choices, and improve overall health. Participants receive education on infant and child feeding, child development information and assessments, and vouchers to purchase healthy foods at grocery stores and local farmers' markets that help support proper growth and development. Eligibility extends to pregnant women, breastfeeding women up to one year post-partum, non-breastfeeding women up to six months post-partum, foster parents and step-parents of children five years of age and under. Many working families qualify for WIC as the income guideline is set at households with incomes at or below 185% of the federal poverty income level. WIC determines income based on gross income of all the members of a household, related or non-related.

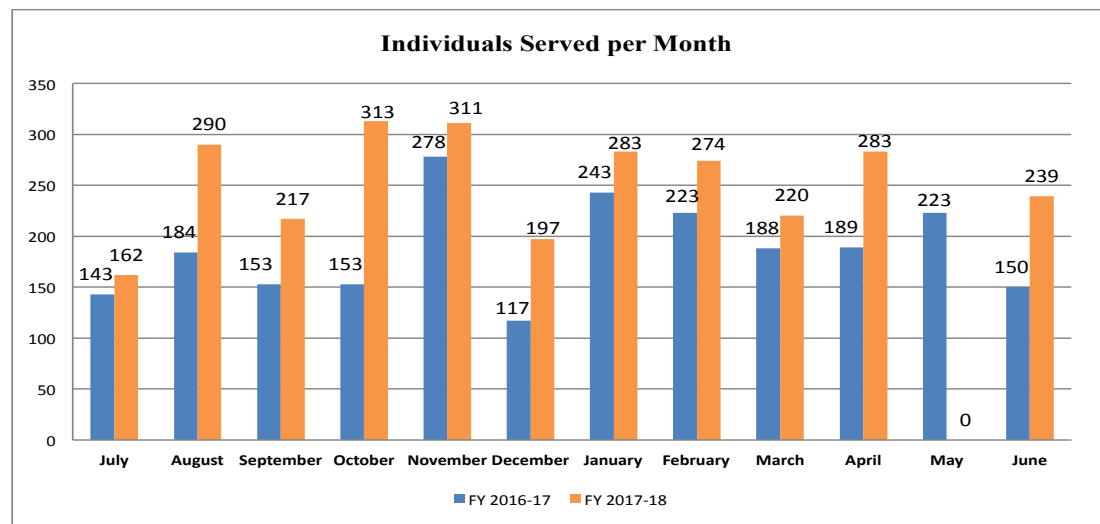
Below are the duplicated counts for FY June 2017-July 2018



PROGRAM UPDATES

Food Pantry Program

HCLV's Food Pantry Program provided food to 999 individuals, serving an average of 253 individuals per month. Clients received a three-day supply of food including fresh fruits and vegetables. The program provides a client choice model, case management services and referrals to HCLV programs and community partners.

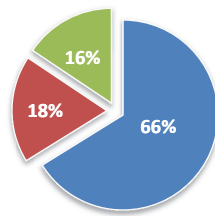
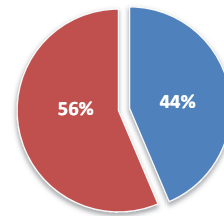


To provide fresh produce to our clients, HCLV continued its partnership with America's Grow-a-Row (AGAR). AGAR and HCLV provided 2,875 pounds of fresh produce for HCLV's Food Pantry participants. As in previous fiscal years, HCLV collaborated with Donegan Elementary School and Broughal Middle School to provide AGAR with a "Give Back". This "Give Back" consisted of a trip to one of their farms where students harvested over one thousand pounds of fresh produce for local food pantries and soup kitchens throughout the Lehigh Valley area. Continued

PROGRAM UPDATES

Food Pantry Program ContinuedNumber of Times Participants
Visited Food Pantry
(2017-2018)

■ 1-2 times ■ 3-5 times ■ 6 or more times

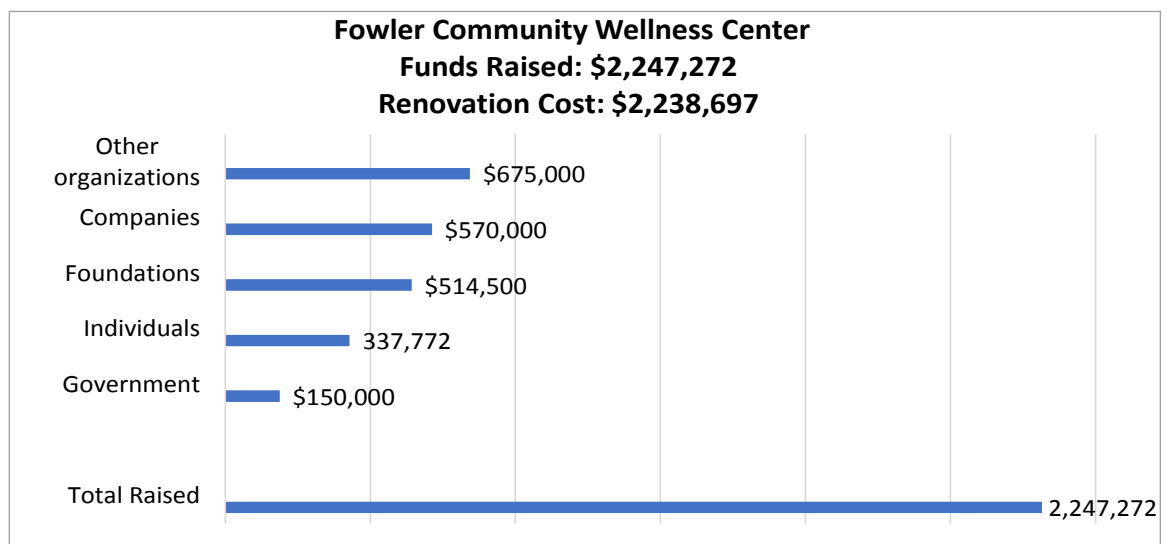
Adult Super Utilizers Referred to (CEP)
(2017-2018)■ Head of household
■ Family member (no direct contact with Food Pantry)Supporting Wellness at
Pantries**GREEN**Low in saturated fat,
sodium and sugar**YELLOW**Medium levels of fat,
sodium or sugar**RED**Higher levels of fat,
sodium or sugar

HCLV's Food Pantry also implemented the food ranking system developed by the Freshplace pantry located in Hartford CT. Called Supporting Wellness at Pantries, this evidence-based approach to healthy nutrition uses a stoplight ranking system designed to help food pantries promote and clients to choose healthy foods. The system groups foods into colors based on the frequency they should be consumed: Green (frequently), yellow (sometimes), and red (rarely). This intuitive system empowers the Food Pantry clients by helping them make healthy food choices.



Fowler Community Wellness Center Opens

The dedication of the completed Fowler Community Wellness Center took place on May 31, 2018. The center opened for services on June 4, 2018, on schedule and within a carefully managed budget. The collective goal in establishing the wellness center is to have greater impact on the health status of our community by addressing the social and economic determinants of health in addition to meeting physical and mental health needs.



2.25 million dollars contributed by generous community donors for the total renovation of HCLV's 1920's era Fowler Building!

Partnership Development

Since the opening of the FCWC, many of the services that were identified by the Center for Integrative Health community coalition are starting to be offered at the FCWC: physical and mental health services, social services, various forms of wellness education, and financial and legal education. FCWC partners co-located at the center have started providing services.

- H.O.P.E. Clinic at St. Luke's
- HCLV's Women, Infants and Children program
- HCLV's Community Empowerment Program for Adults
- Pinebrook Family Answers mental health services
- PA CareerLink Bethlehem Employment and Training Center



Puerto Rican Relief Initiative

When Hurricane Maria devastated the island of Puerto Rico in 2017, many families residing there migrated to the Lehigh Valley. This diaspora created a sudden influx of people in need of housing, food, education, health care and other services. Lehigh Valley agencies responded by creating the Estamos Listos (We are Ready) Campaign in order to help residents of Puerto Rico displaced by the hurricane to relocate successfully in the Lehigh Valley. Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley led the effort to hire three “relocation advocates” to help families navigate local social services.

The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation awarded the Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley a grant to support a full time Relocation Advocate, who served 998 unduplicated individuals with wrap-around case management services.

- **55 clients** were referred/connected to the Fund to Benefit Children & Youth for children’s furniture
- **69 families** were referred/connected to the Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot for furniture
- **1,000 bus passes** were distributed among clients to assist with transportation needs
- **192 clients** were served by the HCLV Food Pantry
- **300 winter coats** were distributed
- **55 clients** were provided \$300 each for rental assistance

In addition, the relocation advocate assisted families in obtaining other social services such as health insurance, access to health services, food, clothing, food stamps, state IDs, state driving licenses, ESL classes, computer classes, connection to higher education institutions and summer programs for children/youth. Also, HCLV received a grant from PA Temporary Shelter Assistance Program through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the amount of \$105,983 to provide rapid rehousing. This grant provided clients with security deposits, up to three months of rental assistance, and assistance with utility bills. In fiscal year 2018, HCLV distributed \$12,150 to six families.

Workforce Board Lehigh Valley – PA CareerLink® Bethlehem Employment and Training Center

The Workforce Board Lehigh Valley established its first satellite employment and training center at HCLV in mid-2017. Bilingual staff provide immediate, individualized career direction, including needs assessment, employment skills, and job search techniques; Jobgateway on-line employment matching, referrals to career training services and employers, and assistance with preparing resumes, cover letters and applications. The center relocated to the Fowler Community Wellness Center in mid 2019, to share an office suite with HCLV's Community Empowerment Program for Adults. This allows staff and clients of these two programs to work together closely.

Fiscal year outcomes:

- **159 full-time jobs** were secured
- **25 part-time jobs** were secured
- **1,845 information sessions** on job-seeking skills and retaining employment

Community Empowerment Program for Adults

HCLV's Community Empowerment Program (CEP) for adults focuses on empowerment and self-sufficiency through personal growth and financial independence. The Community Resource Coordinator works individually with members of the community to assist them in attaining employment and other services that lead to self-sufficiency. Services included job readiness, placement and referral: life skills education; and information and referral. In fiscal year 2017-18, 913 unduplicated individuals participated in the CEP.

Basilio Huertas Senior Center

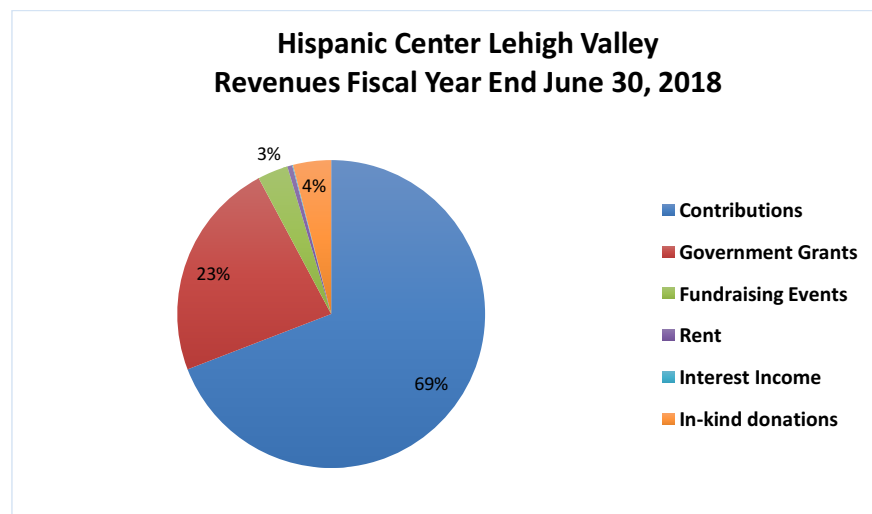
The Basilio Huertas Senior Center provides adults more than 60 years of age with personalized case management services as well as the opportunity to engage in educational and social activities that promote health and well-being. In fiscal year 2017-18, 100 unduplicated seniors participated in center activities and structured programs. The focus of services provided by HCLV staff and community providers is to maintain seniors' health and their on-going ca-

pacities to continue residing in the community. The Basilio Huertas Senior Center accomplished that in 2018 through numerous community partnerships:

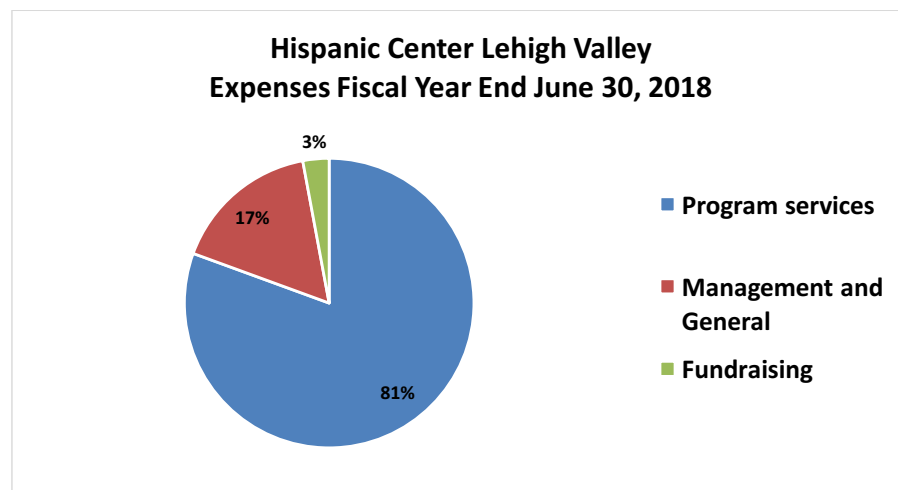
- Moravian College Nursing Program students provided blood pressure screening and education. Senior center staff supplement physical assessments of health status with completing an Instrumental Activities of Daily Living assessment to chart and track the physical and mental capacities of participating seniors.
- Lehigh University's Community Voices Clinic and Lehigh Valley Health Network's Memory Café Program provided mental health services such as group therapy and memory loss prevention. To support these services and identify problems early, senior center staff completed the PH-Q9 depression screen every six months so seniors could be referred to appropriate type and level of care.
- Seniors participated in the St. Luke's University Health Network diabetes management program.
- Feeding America, Sam's Club and Second Harvest provided fresh fruits and vegetables for use in the weekday breakfast and lunch meals that provide healthy foods to participating seniors each week day.
- Lanta Transportation Services transported senior center participants to medical appointments.
- Phoenix Rehabilitation and the Bethlehem Health Bureau offered a Matter of Balance classes for fall prevention and muscle-strengthening exercise classes. To establish functional baselines for participating seniors, center staff conducted Gait Analysis Assessments every six months regarding ability to walk, balance, and posture.

HCLV FINANCIAL REPORT

Revenues



Expenses



THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

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