It is my honor and privilege to close the decade on a high note on behalf of the Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley—Board of Directors, Staff, Volunteers—and all those we serve. Over the past year, HCLV has become a model for transformation and collaboration between and among community agencies. Our programs and reach are expanding thanks to generous community partners who have stepped up in support of our services. At HCLV, we believe in a community that embraces economic opportunity for all and sees cultural diversity as a foundation for building a stronger society and a more vibrant economy.

We also believe that, at the heart of change is the individual’s desire and willingness to pursue a path toward their own independence and self-sufficiency. None of this would be achieved without a dedicated staff and board committed to forward-thinking goals and aspirations both big and small. I also wish to take this opportunity to thank the individuals, companies, and community organizations that believe in HCLV’s mission to help the most vulnerable populations in our community, and for joining us in celebrating and uplifting the contributions of our Hispanic community.

It is predicted that by the year 2050, racial minorities, including the Hispanic population, will make up a majority of the U.S. population according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The Lehigh Valley is seeing these demographic changes and HCLV stands ready to support all communities, no matter the racial or ethnic background. HCLV will do so with continued and transformative change. In fact, our 2018 Inaugural Health Equity Summit honed in on immigration and the challenges and opportunities immigrants face in today’s world. With a newfound commitment to civic engagement, we are proud to partake in Census 2020 efforts over the upcoming year, and I am eager to report back soon.

Twenty nineteen was a banner year for the Hispanic Center. Thanks to the support of our community partners, we reached our goal and successfully completed our Vision for Renaissance Capital Campaign. This allowed HCLV’s aging facilities to undergo renovations to address decades of deferred maintenance. Please stop by our facilities in the heart of SouthSide Bethlehem to see the vibrant plaza that welcomes HCLV’s visitors day in and day out. We hope to see you soon!

Donna Taggart
President, Board of Directors
Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley
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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Victoria Montero, MPH – Executive Director
Delia Marrero – Manager of Operations
Louis M. Maio – Fiscal Director
Marly Rodriguez – CEP Community Resource Coordinator
Banessa Tenezaca – Food Pantry Coordinator
Marilyn Perez-Mendoza – Lehigh University Community Fellow
Liza Pérez León – Senior Center Coordinator
Irene Berrios – Senior Center Chef
Jade Carrion – WIC Coordinator
Savannah Buday – WIC Nutritionist
Nancy Mendez – WIC Program Assistant
Yaseleen Rivera – WIC Program Assistant

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Vision for Renaissance Capital Campaign Reaches Its Funding Goal!

Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley’s transformational Vision for Renaissance Capital Campaign has reached its goal, surpassing our expectations, thanks to overwhelming support from our community! Since launching the campaign in November 2014, generous donors stepped up, pledging and funding $3 million to address decades of deferred maintenance and facility improvements—enabling HCLV to expand programs and services, and meet the needs of the communities we serve.

Travel down 4th Street in the heart of Bethlehem’s SouthSide to see the beautiful revitalization of HCLV’s aging operations and Basilio Huertas Senior Center building at 520 E. 4th Street, which now benefits from an ADA-compliant entryway and upgraded facade. Enter the building by walking through The Henry and Jeanette Weinberg Plaza, named in honor of the generous gift provided by the Weinberg Foundation, which funded the plaza’s creation. Inside, see the Basilio Huertas Senior Center’s brightened activity and dining room which hosts a myriad of community events. It now holds ADA-compliant bathrooms and a fully equipped industrial-grade kitchen that is up to the task of serving 120 breakfast and lunch meals for the estimated 60 seniors who gather each weekday—many of whom live below the poverty line.

Walk down the block to view the exterior renovations that have returned HCLV’s 1920’s-era, 10,000 sq. ft. building at 502 E. 4th Street to its former glory, creating the Fowler Community Wellness Center (FCWC), which opened for services in May 2018. Etched glass panels in the lobby commemorate the role that Bethlehem Steel played in SouthSide Bethlehem and among the Hispanic community. Enter to see the modern reconfiguration of the building’s interior, now supporting multiple community agencies in providing a range of services to enhance the health and well-being of individuals and families.

HCLV’s renewed approach is serving as a model in the Lehigh Valley, based on collaborative and integrated co-located services offered by multiple providers with the aim of addressing the interrelated layers of health, well-being, and self-sufficiency. This includes all aspects, from physical and behavioral health, to financial security and job training opportunities, to placement in secure, well-paying jobs. Social service outreach helps families obtain services such as assistance with finding stable, clean, and safe housing and access to healthy foods, as well as health and wellness fitness and educational programs.

The FCWC is also home to Bethlehem’s Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutrition service clinic, PA CareerLink’s Bethlehem Employment and Training Center, Pinebrook Family Answers behavioral health services, St. Luke’s specialty medical services, and a wide range of programs that encourage healthy lifestyles. State-of-the-art communications and IT systems set up by Service Electric Communications and Moravian College have made it easier to communicate across HCLV facilities and connect people to vital services.

Continued
We hope you enjoy these before and after photos demonstrating the profound transformations that have taken place. When you’re in our neighborhood, please take the time to stop by and experience the changes for yourself. HCLV welcomes your visit with open arms!
Take a moment to read the names of the donors who have made HCLV’s facility and service improvements possible. On behalf of HCLV Board of Directors, staff, and the individuals and families benefiting from their generosity, we extend our heartfelt gratitude.

VISION FOR RENAISSANCE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS

**VISIONARIOS** (Visionaries)
$200,000 and above

W. Beall & Marlene “Linny” Fowler
Geisinger
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Pennsylvania Department of Aging
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Service Electric Cable TV & Communications
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$20,000 - $50,000

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**LIDERES DE BRONCE** (Bronze Leaders)
$2,500 - $15,000

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Raquel M. Ruiz-Castaneda
Glenn M. Taggart Family Foundation
of the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation

With special thanks to our Buenos Amigos (Good Friends) who made gifts up to $2,500.

*Gifts that support building operations and maintenance
CAMPAIGN QUICK FACTS:

Campaign Kick-off: November 2014 – Campaign Close: September 2019

$3 million raised for comprehensive renovations and improvements of two buildings, comprising over 15,500 square feet.

$4 million raised to support operations and programs during the Capital Campaign.

$425,000 raised for facility communications, IT systems, and long-term building maintenance.

Capital Campaign Funding Sources:
- 17 grants from foundations and charitable trusts
- 14 grants from companies
- 40 gifts from individuals
- 7 from government grants
- 4 gifts from non-profit organizations
HCLV’s Food Pantry has undergone a year of transformation following the relocation to the first floor of our 520 E. 4th Street building following a flood in the basement. Individual volunteers and donors, as well as community organizations and businesses, made this move possible in every way. Our community came together in ways both big and small—hauling boxes with supplies for the move, donating industrial strength refrigerators to keep donated produce fresh, and rallying the masses for individual contributions. Thanks to our friends at La Mega Radio Station who hosted a Radiothon for HCLV’s food pantry which raised $7,500. The initiative showcased the pride and compassion that threads the fabric of our community.

We continue to strengthen our work through partnerships with local businesses and organizations to provide a variety of food options to our participants. As a member agency of Second Harvest Food Bank, HCLV’s Food Pantry is able to access food at minimal cost. Our partnership with America’s Grow A Row provides our food pantry with fresh produce and weekly donations from Sam’s Club are shared with the Basilio Huertas Senior Center program to supplement Senior Center participants’ daily hot meals with more meats, fruits, and vegetables.

HCLV’s Food Pantry saw an 84% increase in senior participants over the age of 60, signaling a need for comprehensive social services across all ages of the human life cycle. HCLV is proud to invest in, and dedicate resources to, this vital and vulnerable group of our target population, and thanks the individuals, community organizations, companies, and businesses that support the HCLV Food Pantry program through their time, donations, and client referrals.

HCLV is sincerely grateful to the various community leaders supporting the Food Pantry—be it through independent food drives or volunteers. Exemplary community leaders include B. Braun Medical, the Bethlehem Area School District, Inc., Grace Church, HGSK Lawyers, the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, Life Church, Northampton Community College, Wind Creek Bethlehem, and so many more. Thank you for believing in the impact of this vital HCLV program.

| 44,112 pounds of food distributed |
| 794 total individuals served |
| 194 children served |
| 168 seniors served |
| 41 super utilizers connected to CEP |
The Basilio Huertas Senior Center provides adults over 65 years of age with programming that supports multifaceted aspects of wellness: the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual well-being. The Basilio Huertas Senior Center promotes healthy aging by providing seniors with the vital programming that promotes aging in place by allowing them to maintain their independence in daily life.

HCLV provides Senior Center participants with daily access to breakfast and lunch, and programming around social activities. Much of our work would not be possible without the collaboration of vital community partners. One such partner is the Second Harvest Food Bank, which serves under-nourished seniors through the SUNShine Box program. Every month, HCLV provides 48 seniors with SUNShine Boxes, which provide our seniors with supplemental food.

To promote physical wellness, Senior Center participants also frequently make use of the South Bethlehem Greenway, accessible from HCLV’s facilities and commonly accompanied by a doctor or nutritionist from St. Luke’s University Health Network. This type of programming serves as a resource for participants with limited access to health-related services. In addition, the Bethlehem Health Bureau’s “Matter of Balance” workshop works with Senior Center participants to foster physical independence. In conjunction with United Way, HCLV is also able to provide diabetes education programming at the Senior Center. Blood pressure, glucose, and BMI screenings—provided by Moravian College nursing students and residents from St. Luke’s—are another example of the impactful community partnerships established to improve the quality of services offered to participants enrolled in HCLV programs.

Beyond the physical factors of health and wellness, HCLV aims to support Senior Center’s participants with the social factors that promote a healthy life as well. We often hear participants speak to the value of the social capital built within the four walls of the HCLV Senior Center. Our participants are intellectually stimulated by social activities such as educational workshops, English language classes, singing, dancing, games, and dominoes. Crafting, storytelling, and gathering in groups—be it over art or simply socializing over coffee in the mornings—allows participants to observe healthy social wellness practices which are vital to late stages of the human life cycle. In having a gathering place with resources tailored to senior participants, the Senior Center supports individual emotional wellness, and participants spread cheer that echoes throughout our facilities.

| **7,537** daily hot meals served | **87 seniors** served | **48 seniors** receive monthly Second Harvest SUNShine boxes | **44 seniors** provided with diabetes education |
In order to address the multitude of community needs, HCLV is committed to collaborative partnerships that support individuals on their path to establishing self-sufficiency. The Fowler Community Wellness Center is a prime example of the benefits that come from meaningful, community-driven alliances. Joined under one roof, the programs and services below work toward the collective goal of improving the health status of our community. Working together allows these programs the ability to address the social and economic determinants of health, as well as the physical and mental health needs of our community.

HCLV’s Community Empowerment Program (CEP) was established with the goal of connecting residents to community resources in times of crisis, helping residents to learn English, and providing assistance with attaining employment. Today, this program works to improve self-sufficiency through personal growth and financial independence. Our staff works one-on-one with individuals in times of need—spreading compassion and accessibility with every client served, recognizing the difficult challenges that arise in circumstances of crises.

794 individuals participated in CEP over the past year, benefiting from support services. Services range from basic life skills to educational courses, personalized for those on a path toward self-sufficiency. CEP services fall into one of three categories: job readiness, placement, and referral; life skills education; and information and referral.

On matters of job readiness, staff collaborates closely with the staff located at the satellite office of PA CareerLink Bethlehem Employment and Training Center located in the Fowler Wellness Center. As part of the education and training component of the program, HCLV regularly hosts free computer skills and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to community members.

In addition, CEP staff, in conjunction with our community partners, organize special events throughout the year, such as a fall back-to-school backpack and school supply drive. They also distribute winter coats in the cold months, put on a community Thanksgiving dinner, and host a winter holiday gathering for community members.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>794 individuals served</th>
<th>695 encounters for information and referrals</th>
<th>241 encounters for employment referrals, job readiness and placement services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>529 encounters for life skills education services</td>
<td>46 sessions of ESL class</td>
<td>31 sessions of computer class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PARTNERSHIPS/PROGRAMMING

Puerto Rican Relief Initiative

Twenty nineteen marked two years since Hurricane Maria devastated the island of Puerto Rico. Since then, many families have relocated to the Lehigh Valley. The Puerto Rican Relief Initiative is an essential program that promotes a smooth relocation and transition for families relocating to the Lehigh Valley from Puerto Rico. HCLV joined the efforts established by the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley to organize a united effort to address the influx of Puerto Rican families relocating from the island. The Estamos Listos (We Are Ready) campaign provided necessary resources that allowed families to receive housing assistance, food, education, health care, and other services for the arriving families.

This past year, we served 425 individuals through the Puerto Rican Relief Initiative. While this indicates a 57% decrease compared to the previous year, the data also highlights a steady flow of new families continuing to arrive to the Lehigh Valley during times of need. The rental assistance, food, and resource linkage facilitated by HCLV demonstrate the community’s need to create a cohesive flow of services in the Lehigh Valley.

In addition, our Community Empowerment Program (CEP) staff continued to allocate funds from a grant awarded by the PA Temporary Shelter Assistance Program through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Through this grant funding, HCLV provided rapid rehousing support to families in the form of security deposits, rental assistance for up to three months, and assistance with utility bills. HCLV also refers Puerto Rican Relief Initiative participants to community partners such as Benefit Children and Youth, Lehigh Valley Outreach Depot for Furniture, Salvation Army, and Public Transportation Services. HCLV also provides referrals to internal programs including HCLV’s Food Pantry and community events, such as the Back-To-School Backpack and Supply drive and the Winter Coat Drive.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>425</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>$38,383.32</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>individuals served</td>
<td>participants served by HCLV Food Pantry</td>
<td>in FEMA grant funding distributed to 9 families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>participants connected to Salvation Army</td>
<td>37 participants connected to the LV Outreach Depot for furniture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>families provided rental assistance up to $1,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program

The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) nutritional services clinic held 20,150 duplicated intake appointments in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. The nutritional program, co-located at the Fowler Community Wellness Center, promotes maternal and child health by providing healthy food and nutrition education to expecting and breastfeeding mothers—as well as their infants and children under age five. Eligible participants include breastfeeding women up to one-year postpartum, non-breastfeeding women up to six-months post-partum, foster parents, and stepparents of children five years of age and under.

The co-located WIC clinic at the Fowler Community Wellness Center is the only WIC clinic in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and many working families qualify for WIC services—those with incomes at or below 185% of the federal poverty income level. 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.

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

HCLV is entering year three of our partnership with the Workforce Board Lehigh Valley, co-located with the Community Empowerment Program in the Fowler Community Wellness Center. This satellite employment and training center offers immediate career services to participants who need assistance preparing resumes and cover letters, and completing job applications.

In addition to utilizing Job-gateway’s online employment matching and referral portal, CareerLink matches those seeking employment to local employers, and provides individualized counseling—including employment skills training and teaching valuable job search techniques. This partnership serves as a vital program to ensuring the economic resilience of the communities we serve.

1,970 information sessions provided
111 full-time jobs secured
26 part-time jobs secured
364 participants served
22 job fairs hosted
The Health Education and Advocacy Resources at Temple St. Luke’s (HEARTS) Clinic occurs on the third Saturday of the month throughout the academic year—thanks to partnerships with Lehigh University, Temple University School of Medicine, and St. Luke’s University Health Network. Previously held at Broughal Middle School, the clinic was relocated to the Fowler Wellness Center to improve access to care and reduce insurance-related health disparities.

The HEARTS Clinic primarily serves underinsured and uninsured populations, with 227 clinical services provided over the last year. The clinic’s location increases access to primary and preventive care services for patients who would have otherwise had limited care due to cost and access to care.

- **227 clinical services provided**
- **175 health education encounters**
- **167 total individuals served**
- **91 clinic visits with 83 individuals**
- **62 individuals vaccinated**
- **33 physicals provided**
Spotlight: Back-To-School Backpack and Supply Drive

In August 2018, HCLV distributed 275 backpacks and other school supplies, and provided 50 children with haircuts ahead of the academic school year. This event would not have been possible without the support of La Mega Radio Station and we thank them for their help promoting this event.

Thank you to La Mega Radio Station for this ongoing partnership!

Scholarship Spotlight: Bethlehem Area School District Minority Awards

HCLV’s Education Committee is proud to have awarded $2,000 in small scholarship awards to four exemplary students from the Bethlehem Area School District. Across two high schools, the recipients received $500 in scholarship funding applicable towards their college education.

Congratulations to the following outstanding awardees:
Taliyah Torres – Freedom High School
Natalie Sinai – Freedom High School
Fatima Montero – Liberty High School
Angel Velazquez – Freedom High School

Spotlight: Inaugural Annual Health Equity Summit

On November 6, 2018, HCLV held its Inaugural Health Equity Summit, the first of many for the years to come. The day-long educational event aimed to help participants understand the rich history of immigration in the Lehigh Valley, learn about current immigration processes, and dive deep into the implications of immigration status as well as the wide impacts on education—from kindergarten to college students.

The Summit featured community experts with direct experience on immigration and advocacy.

Speakers included:
Alan Jennings – Executive Director, Community Action Committee Lehigh Valley
Jeanne Ma – International Affairs Lehigh Associate Director, Lehigh University
Michael Renneisen, Esq. – Attorney, Lehigh Immigration Law
Carole Devey Schachter – Language Assessment Supervisor, Bethlehem Area School District
FIESTA 2019 Annual Gala

HCLV’s annual fundraising gala, FIESTA, was held March 29, 2019 at Lehigh University. The outpour of community support helped HCLV raise $25,000 to further support our programs and supplement our service delivery. The event was emceed by Dr. Leonardo Claros of St. Luke’s University Health Network who once again offered his enthusiasm, humor and energy to entertain our guests with a lively night of food, dancing, and camaraderie. Our honorary chair was William Beall Fowler.

The program for the evening featured bachata dance lessons and musical performances were presented by Leticia Gutierrez, Gabriela Guadalupe, and Life Church Bethlehem. The gala also featured award presentations and guests danced to the tunes of the Lehigh Valley Urban Latin Orchestra.

FIESTA 2019 - Outstanding Community Partnership Award

We were pleased to honor Service Electric and La Mega Radio Station with our annual Outstanding Community Partnership Award at this year’s gala. The award recognizes community organizations that have provided significant leadership support of HCLV’s mission.

Service Electric donated materials and installed the fiber optic network that enables telecommunications and internet access for staff working in both HCLV facilities. Internet access in the Fowler Community Wellness Center also allows people to use the PA CareerLink computer bank to seek and apply for employment, and Service Electric also installed new AV equipment in the Basilio Huertas Senior Center and WIC nutritional clinic’s waiting room. Our new, state-of-the-art phones allow for voicemail and conference call capabilities that are essential to the daily operations of HCLV.

La Mega 99.5 & 106.9 Radio Station regularly promotes HCLV’s programs and events to the community and beyond. At the start of the school year, La Mega sponsored a back-to-school event where 275 children received backpacks filled with school supplies. When expensive emergency repairs were needed at HCLV’s Food Pantry, La Mega broadcasted live from the Community Engagement Room in Fowler Community Wellness Center and appealed for financial support from the community. More than $7,500 in monetary support was raised from individual donations, including individuals who have benefited from HCLV services in the past, as well as local business owners. We are thankful for our community’s support and ability to rally together through La Mega’s important radio medium.
We would like to thank everyone who volunteered with HCLV in the past year. Thanks to your support, HCLV was able to hold special events that celebrate and support the community, as well as improve our daily operations and programs. The compassion you have shown to our participants is not unnoticed and we are overwhelmed with appreciation.

HCLV would like to highlight several groups that regularly support our efforts:

• **Grace Church:** In addition to their financial support, Grace Church helped organize several large food drives to restock our pantry shelves. They also played a crucial role in our holiday celebration where Grace Church organized a Giving Tree; families and local businesses donated gifts to HCLV. Thanks to Grace Church, HCLV had the honor and joy to distribute holiday gifts to families in our community.

• **HGSK Law Firm:** Stop by the Basilio Huertas Senior Center on any given holiday and chances are you may find HGSK representatives making the day special for our Senior Center participants. HGSK regularly surprises the seniors enrolled in the Senior Center Program with gifts or special treats and actively supports HCLV’s food drives, coat drives, and rallies our community for continuous support.

• **Life Church Bethlehem:** On the 3rd Saturday of each month, you will find members of Life Church Bethlehem in the Senior Center serving breakfast to and conversing with our community members. They take the time to get to know our participants and support our staff on one of their busiest days of the week. Life Church Bethlehem has organized food drives, collected winter coat donations, and helped with HCLV’s annual fundraising gala.

• **Northampton County Juvenile Detention Center:** Youth from our community have been vital to the maintenance and upkeep of the HCLV’s Food Pantry over the past year. We are thankful for Northampton County’s Juvenile Detention Center volunteers for their consistent support, allowing HCLV to better operate this program and the participants we serve.

• **St. Luke’s University Health Network Physicians:** Doctors and their families have helped HCLV restock the Food Pantry, clean the Basilio Huertas Senior Center, and beautify the exterior of the buildings and the garden at the Fowler Community Wellness Center. St. Luke’s physicians were instrumental in the preparation and freezing of boxes of donated produce, so that Food Pantry donations could be stored for future use in the Senior Center kitchen.

**Ongoing Opportunities:**

- **Community Empowerment Program:** Administrative Assistant, Special Events Staff
- **HCLV Food Pantry:** Food Delivery Assistant, Food Distribution Assistant, Food Drive Coordinator
- **Basilio Huertas Senior Center:** Activity Coordinator
- **Administration:** Administrative Support
THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS 2018-2019

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AmeriHealth Caritas
Ann and Victor Berger
Anne L. Baum
Annmarie Roy
BB&T
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Bethlehem Area School District
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Ellen Denizard
Elizabeth Vasquez
Elsie Perez Garcia
EM Utility Contractors
Emily Miller
Eric Fontânez
First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

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Gateway Health
Gavin Anaya
German Reyes
Grace Church
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Northampton County Human Services
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Pennsylvania Department of Aging
PPL Corporation
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TURIST
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UnitedHealthcare, Inc.
UPMC Health Plan
Vivian Robledo
Wegmans
William Audelo
Wind Creek Bethlehem