



Improving the Quality of Life — for All — Delawareans

Featured: The Food Bank of Delaware

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to bring you the 2025 BluePrints for the Community Annual Report. BluePrints for the Community is a grants program of the Highmark Delaware Fund, a donor-advised fund at the Delaware Community Foundation (DCF).

The fund was created in 2007 by Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware (Highmark Delaware) to support the BluePrints for the Community grants program, and for 18 years it has had a major impact on nonprofits throughout the state. In that time, BluePrints has awarded more than \$40 million in grants in support of initiatives in five key areas:

- **Advancing access for all to quality healthcare**
- **Reducing unemployment, food insecurity, and housing instability**
- **Connecting people to social and community resources promoting health and well-being**
- **Improving neighborhoods and environments to ensure health and safety**
- **Recruiting and training healthcare professionals**

In 2025, BluePrints awarded \$1,060,200 in grants, driving meaningful change across Delaware. The four stories in this report are representative of 24 grants awarded throughout the year. You can find a list of all the grantees on the map on the following page.

Highmark Delaware's continued investment and leadership combined with the DCF's philanthropic expertise and deep community connections is a powerful partnership, and we remain dedicated to improving the quality of life for all Delawareans.



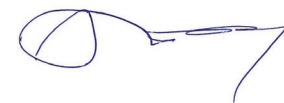
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Chair
Blueprints for the Community



TIMOTHY VESSEL

President
Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield in Delaware



STUART COMSTOCK-GAY

President & CEO
Delaware Community Foundation

New Castle

- \$75,000**
Community Education Building
- \$9,700**
Nurses & Neighbors Collaborative, Inc.
- \$20,000**
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Delaware
- \$80,000**
Social Finance, Inc.
- \$100,000**
The Milton and Hattie Kutz Home, Inc.

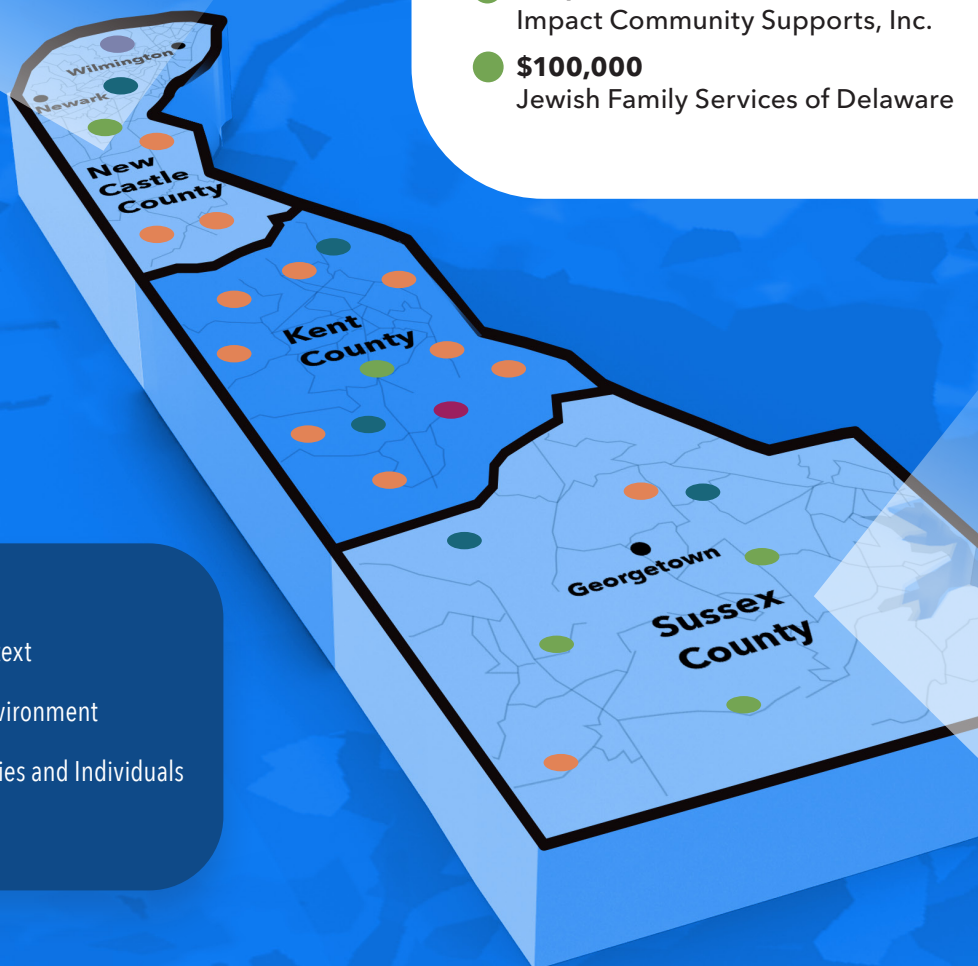
Statewide

- \$25,000**
Beau Biden Foundation for the Protection of Children
- \$15,000**
Bringing Hope Home
- \$20,000**
ContactLifeline, Inc.
- \$11,500**
Down Syndrome Association of Delaware
- \$50,000**
Food Bank of Delaware
- \$75,000**
Impact Community Supports, Inc.
- \$100,000**
Jewish Family Services of Delaware
- \$25,000**
Ready, Set, Share!
- \$45,000**
Survivor Ventures
- \$45,000**
The Arc of Delaware
- \$15,000**
The Life Health Center Complex
- \$50,000**
Toivoa Coaching Academy
- \$75,000**
United Way of Delaware
- \$14,000**
Vision To Learn

Sussex

- \$15,000**
Bridgeville Public Library
- \$45,000**
CAMP Rehoboth, Inc.
- \$5,000**
Greater Lewes Foundation
- \$100,000**
Milford Housing Development Corporation
- \$45,000**
Sussex County Habitat for Humanity

- Healthcare Access
- Social and Community Context
- Neighborhood and Built Environment
- Economic Stability for Families and Individuals
- Health Workforce



Pediatric Dental Mobile Program

Service Area: Statewide

Grantee: The Life Health Center

Grant: \$15,000

"This new dental unit will give us an opportunity to make an even greater impact," said Forrest Watson III, founder and president of The Life Health Center.



Photos courtesy of Pediatric Dental Mobile Program

"When children have problems in their mouths – lost teeth, aching jaws and poor oral health care – it impacts their ability to learn, their self-esteem, everything," explained Forrest Watson III, founder and president of The Life Health Center Complex, Inc., dba, The Life Health Center (LHC). "Our existing mobile health programs showed us we could make positive change in kids' lives, and this new dental unit will give us an opportunity to make an even greater impact."

LHC's school wellness program began in 2016. It was the first of its kind in an elementary school in the state. LHC has received funding from BluePrints in the past. The wellness program, implemented in

the district's poorest performing school, and the one with the highest degree of poverty, lowered the school's annual disciplinary referrals from 1,200 to 100 in three years, and raised test scores to the second highest in the district. It changed, according to Watson, what educators and administrators thought was possible.

So LHC redoubled its efforts by purchasing a mobile dental van and hiring a dental director. The van has two fully functional chairs, and dentists and hygienists can do any procedure in the van that can be done in a brick-and-mortar dental office.



Using the BluePrints grant, LHC outfitted the unit with IT, monitors, internet connectivity – all the communications materials needed to become operational – as well as the exterior graphics.

At the time of this report, the van has undergone a trial run and began serving Christina School District high schools as of July 2026. Plans are already being discussed to expand its outreach, and hopefully, according to Watson, into vision care.

The Healthy Homes Program

Service Area: Sussex County

Grantee: Sussex County Habitat for Humanity

Grant: \$45,000

"Some of the residents we work with are 88, 90, 92, and yet no one has said that assisted living is the goal," said Ricky Pollitt, director of development for Sussex County Habitat for Humanity. "These are people who want to age in place with dignity, in a decent home where they have already lived for years."



Photos courtesy of The Healthy Homes Program

Since 1991, Sussex County Habitat for Humanity has built more than 200 homes in the southernmost part of the state, changing lives for families and their communities. Yet for many older residents, a new home is not the goal – saving the one they live in is.

In 2019, Habitat began its Healthy Homes program which manages repairs and upgrades to homes of an older population. Over the last seven years, they have worked on more than 700 home repairs across the county.

Pollitt shares that many of the repairs and upgrades focus on safety, such as installing ADA accessible ramps and grab bars, while others encompass structural issues, such as removing old floors and roofs, sometimes riddled with holes, and replacing them.

Referrals come from all over, including a strong word of mouth, driven, Pollitt believes, by the rising costs for materials and labor. "We are determined to serve as many people as possible but as with any nonprofit we are dependent on financial support. This grant is making 10 home repairs possible. With Highmark's support and the help of others, we can help ensure the health of people so they can remain as contributing members of Sussex County."



Food is Medicine

Service Area: Statewide

Grantee: Food Bank of Delaware

Grant: \$50,000

"This approach recognizes the connection between food insecurity as a social determinant of health while also valuing the time of our clients to receive multiple services at a single event," said Larry Haas, chief development officer at the FBD.



The Food Bank of Delaware (FBD) has long seen the positive impact that nutritious food has on food insecure households. This is especially true for people with chronic health issues.

"While the emergency food system addresses access, evidence shows that general food assistance is not sufficient for individuals with medically complex, diet sensitive illnesses such as diabetes and hypertension. They require precise, consistent, and clinically appropriate nutrition," said Larry Haas, chief development officer at the FBD.

Filling this need has been the impetus for their new strategic initiative, Food is Medicine. A BluePrints \$50,000 grant supported the program, allowing the FBD to collocate food distribution with a cross services approach through regular Food Bank Mobile Pantry distribution events.

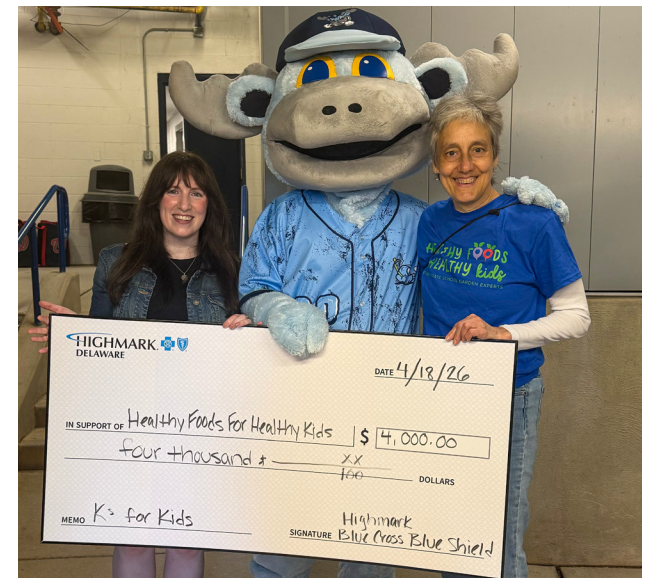
Working through the Food Bank's Community Mobile Health Collective, which includes representatives from hospitals, healthcare systems and community providers, the Mobile Pantry travels the state. It co-hosts events with medical providers, assisting families and individuals with nutritious food access, medical services and education.

Since receiving the grant, 2,236 food insecure households received nearly 200,000 pounds of nutritious food assistance. During community events, FBD partnered with Bayhealth, Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, Delaware State University, Department of Veteran Affairs, Henrietta Johnson Community Medical Center, and the University of Delaware. The program will continue to expand in the coming year.



Highmark Delaware in the Community

Each year, Highmark Delaware team members contribute hundreds of service hours to nonprofit programs and events. Their energy, spirit, and desire to give back are felt across the state and we thank them.



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