

YEAR IN REVIEW

Standing Together:
Courage, Belonging & Power



HealthSpark Foundation

HealthSpark foundation

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From Our Leadership

This year asked a lot from our community — and our community answered.

Organizations mobilized overnight. Communities gathered data to make themselves visible. Neighbors and leaders filled rooms and made their voices heard. Dollars moved quickly to the people who needed them most. Again and again, people found ways to keep showing up for one another, even when the path forward was far from clear.

At HealthSpark, we chose to stand alongside our community in every way we could: as a convener, an advocate, a funder, and an impact investor. This report tells the story of that work. It isn't about one initiative or one fund. It's about what happens when a foundation tries to bring its whole self to its work, guided by a simple conviction: healthy, equitable, and hopeful communities are possible when we act with Courage, Justice, Integrity, and Hope, and when we act together.

We saw those values come to life all year. We saw courage in the community organizations that used Advocacy Rapid Response funding to speak up when speaking up carried real risk. We saw justice in research built with community, not just about it, from the county's first Asian American community profile to the CCATE Community Assembly's bilingual research with immigrant neighbors. We saw integrity in a maternal health fund built on trust with local partners, and in the press conferences where we stood alongside county leaders to defend funding our neighbors depend on. And we saw hope in every room we convened, from our Annual Grantee Convening to Network and Nurture to our Community of Practice gatherings, where partners reminded us that this work is never something we do alone.

This year also asked us to be honest about what we were seeing. Funding and basic human rights are under threat in ways that will not be short-lived. The fiscal crisis facing human services, our nonprofits, and the families who depend on both is not a storm we can wait out. It is a signal that the systems themselves are long overdue for change.

That recognition is reshaping how we understand our role. We will always want to be ready when crisis comes. But we also want to put more of our energy into building the durable infrastructure, relationships, and investment communities need to create a world that works for everyone. That means taking a longer view, asking different questions, and imagining what philanthropy can do beyond the grant check.

This year, one expression of that commitment became official. We made a promise to ourselves that the 95% of what we own, not just the 5% we grant, should reflect our mission. Our Local Impact Investing commitment has been years in the making, with roots reaching back to a building we opened in 2008, and we are still learning what these tools can do. The question behind it is simple: every dollar we hold, and all the community power we help build, is a chance to ask what kind of Montgomery County we are helping to create.

None of this happens without our grantee partners, who do the daily, often unglamorous, and always essential work of building a stronger county. It doesn't happen without our staff, who bring care and rigor in equal measure, or without our board, whose stewardship lets us keep learning, adapting, and looking ahead.

We are proud of what we built together this year, and clear-eyed about what lies ahead. We'll meet it the way our community met this year: together, and ready.

Thank you for being part of it.

With gratitude,

Emma Hertz
President and CEO

Joyce Miller
Board Chair

Dr. Natasha Patterson
Ex-Officio Board Chair



Grantmaking Snapshot

65 GRANTS MADE IN 7 PROGRAMS

9 NEW GRANTEE PARTNERS IN FY 2025-2026

$1,169,000
TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANTS MADE

Our Grantee Partners:

Advocacy Rapid Response Fund for Community Power

Grantee Partner & Project Name	AWARD AMOUNT	Grantee Partner & Project Name	AWARD AMOUNT
ACLAMO Family Centers *Addressing Food Insecurity & SNAP Challenges in Community*	$5,000	**Neighbors Helping Neighbors on the Main Line** *EAT MUCH?*	$5,000
Centro de Cultura Arte Trabajo y Educacion (CCATE) *CCATE's Relief Initiative for Families Affected by Detention*	$5,000	**Project Libertad** *Protecting Immigrant Communities: Rapid Response to Mass Deportation Campaign*	$5,000
Family Promise MontCo PA *Increasing Capacity for Immediate Advocacy*	$2,000	**Reality Speaking** *Storytelling and Information Support for Immigrant Populations*	$5,000
Garden of Health *Responding to the SNAP Pause: Raising Awareness and Strengthening Food Security*	$5,000	**SHARE Food Program** *Advocacy For Food Justice*	$5,000
Maternity Care Coalition *MCC Federal Administration Taskforce*	$5,000	**SPARK Senior Centers** *Fighting Food Insecurity for Seniors*	$2,000
Montco 30% Project *Advancing Grassroots Solutions*	$8,500	**Woori Center** *Woori Center: Building Community Power - Immigrant Defense*	$5,000
MontCo Anti-Hunger Network (MAHN) *SNAP Pause Communications and Advocacy Initiative*	$5,000		

Total Awarded: $62,500

Building Community Power Fund

Grantee Partner & Project Name	AWARD AMOUNT	Grantee Partner & Project Name	AWARD AMOUNT
The Arc Alliance *Advocacy Power for Inclusion*	$15,000	**Planned Parenthood Southeastern Pennsylvania** *MontCo Advocacy and Organizing Fellow*	$20,000
Centro de Cultura Arte Trabajo y Educacion (CCATE) *REVARTE Expansion: Building Advocacy Infrastructure Through Community Media*	$20,000	**VMSC Emergency Medical Services** *Data to Policy: From Frontline Experience to Policy Impact*	$10,000
ElderNet of Lower Merion & Narberth *Advocacy through Action*	$20,000	**Woori Center** *Building Immigrant Community Power*	$10,000
Generations of the Indian Valley *Advocacy With and For Older Adults II*	$20,000	**YWCA Tri-County Area** *YWCA Tri-County Area Advocacy Project*	$20,000
Peaceful Living *A New Standard for Advocacy at Peaceful Living*	$5,000		
Total Awarded: $140,000			

Building Community Solutions Fund - Housing Justice

Grantee Partner & Project Name	AWARD AMOUNT	Grantee Partner & Project Name	AWARD AMOUNT
ACCESS Services *From Tent Flap to Door Key: A Model for Encampment Resolution*	$20,000	**TLC for the People** *TLC For The People - General Operating Support*	$20,000
Family Promise MontCo PA *Family Promise Montco PA - General Operating*	$50,000	**Valley Youth House** *Rapid Re-Housing and Street Outreach for Youth and Families*	$10,000
Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery and Delaware Counties, Inc. *High Street Affordable Housing Rehabilitation*	$50,000	**Willow Grove Community Development Corporation** *Bridging the Gap in Upper Moreland and eastern Montgomery County*	$20,000
Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania *Lived Voices Rising*	$20,000	**The Open Link** *Support for the Unhoused through Code Blue and SOAR*	$20,000
Pottstown Beacon of Hope *Pottstown Beacon of Hope - General Operating Support*	$50,000		
Total Awarded: $260,000			

Building Community Solutions Fund - Maternal Health			
Grantee Partner & Project Name	**AWARD AMOUNT**	**Grantee Partner & Project Name**	**AWARD AMOUNT**
ACLAMO Family Centers *ACLAMO First Bonds: Mommy and Me*	**$20,000**	**Maternity Care Coalition** *Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Maternal Health Coalition*	**$20,000**
Family Services of Montgomery County *Parents As Teachers*	**$20,000**		
Total Awarded: $60,000			

Dr. Frank E. Boston Black Justice Fund			
Grantee Partner & Project Name	**AWARD AMOUNT**	**Grantee Partner & Project Name**	**AWARD AMOUNT**
ASSIST OF PA *ASSIST OF PA - General Operating*	**$10,000**	**Neighbors Helping Neighbors on the Main Line** *Blossoming While Perceived as Weeds*	**$20,000**
Be ReZilient, Healing Through The Arts *Holistic Community Pipeline Initiative*	**$20,000**	**Once Upon A Preemie, Inc** *Once Upon A Preemie Academy 2.0 – Advancing Maternal Health and Neonatal Equity in Montgomery County*	**$10,000**
Bethlehem Baptist Church *Bethlehem Baptist Church (BBC) Youth Ministry*	**$10,000**	**PA Youth Vote** *Voices to Power Montgomery County*	**$20,000**
Coalition for Racial Equity and Social Justice *YouthBuild Social Justice Leadership Education Program*	**$20,000**	**The STRIVE Initiative, Inc.** *Created for Greatness (CFG) - Youth Mentorship & Multimedia Career Exploration Program*	**$15,000**
Community Hero Action Group *The Montco Her-Story Project*	**$20,000**	**Theatre Horizon** *Theatre Horizon - General Operating Support*	**$20,000**
Making a Difference Economically Inc. (MADE) *Expanding Economic Opportunity Through Trades Training*	**$20,000**		
Total Awarded: $185,000			

Invited Application Process

Grantee Partner & Project Name	AMOUNT AWARDED	Grantee Partner & Project Name	AMOUNT AWARDED
Bucks-Mont Collaborative *Strengthening the Collaborative Advocacy Network (CAN)*	$100,000	**SeaChange Capital Partners Inc** *Nonprofit Repositioning Fund 2025-2026*	$30,000
Generations of the Indian Valley *Generations of Indian Valley - General Operating Support*	$5,000	**TriCounty Community Network** *Tri County Community Network - General Operating Support*	$15,000
MontCo Anti-Hunger Network (MAHN) *MAHN - General Operating Support*	$20,000	**William Penn Foundation** *Increasing Census Participation*	$25,000
MontCo Anti-Hunger Network (MAHN) *Emergency Aid Grant: Addressing the SNAP Pause*	$50,000		
Total Awarded: $245,500			

Justice Fund

Grantee Partner & Project Name	AMOUNT AWARDED	Grantee Partner & Project Name	AMOUNT AWARDED
ACLAMO Family Centers *Comunidad Unida: Caminos de Esperanza y Poder ("United Community: Paths to Hope and Power")*	$20,000	**Resilient Students Network** *Where We Begin: Student Storytelling Project*	$20,000
Centro de Cultura Arte Trabajo y Educacion (CCATE) *Community Power Infrastructure: Assemblies, Legal Readiness & Civic Media*	$20,000	**The Philip Jaisohn Memorial Foundation** *AAPI Community Development*	$20,000
HIAS Pennsylvania *Seeking Justice: Legal Aid for Immigrants*	$20,000	**The Welcome Project PA** *Power Building with Immigrant & LGBT+ Communities*	$20,000
Pottstown Community Action *Our Voice, Our Impact*	$20,000	**Woori Center** *Building a Korean American small business community Rapid Response Network*	$20,000
Project Libertad *Voices of Libertad*	$20,000	**YWCA Tri-County Area** *YW Youth Leadership Programs*	$20,000
Resilience Resource Center *Clinical Capacity & Community Power Initiative*	$16,000		
Total Awarded: $216,000			

Convening for *Community Power*

Intentional convenings sit at the center of how HealthSpark builds community-driven power, leadership, and solutions. They respond to the conditions shaping health in Montgomery County, inform our grantmaking, and serve as spaces where people gather, connect, and create meaning that is healing and generative.

This year, that showed up across five gatherings that uplifted community leaders, forged connections across sectors, and shared resources and information — all feeding directly back into our funding and programmatic work.

Annual Grantee Convening — September 2025

HealthSpark brought together 35 partner organizations for a half-day centered on power building through narrative change — a focus shaped directly by partners' own priorities and the current political climate. Director of Programs Akshara Vivekananthan opened with her family's story of migration from Sri Lanka, framing



Staff from HealthSpark Foundation and People's Media Fund gather after the 2025 Annual Grantee Convening. From left: Jen Malkoun, Akshara Vivekananthan, Nuala Cabral, Enni Aigbomian-Werley, Emma Hertz, Melissa Hamilton, and Samíl Jimenez-Magdalen.

storytelling as a tool for advocacy and healing, before People's Media Fund led partners through narrative change as power building, drawing on shared grantees The Welcome Project of PA and CCATE's Radio Revarte. Partners then mapped their own narrative change projects with consultant Meghan McVety. Emma Hertz, President and CEO closed by naming the strain funding cuts and political pressure have placed on nonprofits, urging partners to keep moving with courage and integrity. When asked what they wanted more of, partners were clear: as one put it, "I always leave with new ideas to implement, new connections to others in the nonprofit space, and most importantly feeling that we are in this together."

Fall Community of Practice: The Business of Housing Regional Summit — November 2025

Building on momentum from a February 2024 convening, HealthSpark partnered with the Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry and four regional planning and township bodies to co-host a sold-out regional housing summit drawing more than 200 policymakers, business leaders, and nonprofit partners. Keynote speaker Chuck Marohn of Strong Towns challenged attendees to look past the visible symptoms of the housing crisis toward the policy decisions driving it, joined by National Alliance to End Homelessness CEO Ann Oliva on the economic case for ending homelessness. As one attendee reflected afterward, the day left people with "the same language, so future conversations have a common starting point."



> Our region is rich with resources — leaders, partners, institutions, and capital. When we align those assets with community priorities, we unlock real power and possibility."
>
> — **Casey Fenoglio**
> *HealthSpark Board Member*

Regional Briefing: PA Housing Action Plan — February 2026

HealthSpark hosted the first regional public forum on the Pennsylvania Housing Action Plan, serving as venue and thought partner for an event led by the Bucks-Mont Collaborative. The briefing built on a December 2024 local roundtable that gave Montgomery County residents and leaders a voice in shaping the plan before it was finalized. This convening brought a Governor's Office representative, the Chair of the Montgomery County Commissioners, and Vice Chairs from Montgomery, Bucks, and Chester Counties together to move the plan from statewide vision toward regional implementation, surfacing shared priorities:



Attendees enjoy a mariachi band performance at the April 2026 Community of Practice event, "Building Community Solutions."

aligning housing with transportation access, dedicated funding for accessible units, support for first-time homebuyers, and retaining younger residents priced out of their home communities.

Network and Nurture — March 2026

More than 80 guests from across Montgomery County's nonprofit, business, government, and philanthropic sectors gathered at Fluxspace in Norristown for our annual Network and Nurture, co-hosted with the UnTours Foundation, Zenith Wealth Partners, and the Montgomery County Department of Commerce. The evening kicked off our Dr. Frank E. Boston Black Justice Fund and Justice Fund spring grant cycle, and introduced a $1 million mission-aligned capital initiative developed with Zenith Wealth Partners to address historical underinvestment in minority-owned businesses. Roundtables covered local impact investing, nonprofit financial readiness, immigrant impact on the business sector, and our grantmaking approach.

Spring Community of Practice: Owning the Narrative — April 2026

More than 175 leaders and community members filled the ballroom at Normandy Farm for our spring Community of Practice, built around advancing community-driven solutions to community safety, affordable housing and homelessness, racial equity, and youth-led movements. As outgoing Board Chair Dr. Natasha Patterson noted, "Community is not who we sometimes serve, it is who we are." The day opened with a plenary panel — Bucks County Sheriff Danny Ceisler, Montgomery County Sheriff Sean Kilkenny, CCATE's Obed Arango, and The Welcome Project's Heidi Roux — exploring how nonprofits and government can partner to promote safety for immigrant communities. Breakout sessions covered ethical storytelling with immigrant communities, collective wellbeing and care, affordable housing models like community land trusts, and turning lived experience into housing advocacy. A closing panel of young leaders discussed how youth voices move from expression to real policy influence.

Also This Year

Two more convenings shaped our work this year:

Understanding Asian American Diversity & Growth report release (December 2025)

CCATE x HealthSpark Community Assembly (February 2026) and the resulting **Community Assembly Report** (published April 2026)

Read about theses convenings on pages 16 & 17.

The SNAP Pause: When Food Assistance Stopped, *We Spoke Up*

Thriving, healthy, and equitable communities are possible when we advocate and take action together.

HealthSpark Foundation stood with Montgomery County government, local nonprofit partners, funders, and residents to advocate for continued SNAP funding amid a 43-day federal government shutdown in the fall of 2025.

Raising the Alarm

The longest federal shutdown in history unfolded against the backdrop of a four-month Pennsylvania state budget impasse that stopped the flow of billions of state dollars to schools, counties, and nonprofits providing critical public services. As federal threats to halt payments to the 42 million people nationwide who rely on this critical food assistance program escalated, HealthSpark joined Montgomery County government, the Montco Anti-Hunger Network, and Weavers Way Co-Op for a press conference at Manna on Main Street to raise awareness of the public health and economic crisis ahead. Together, we educated lawmakers on the impact of SNAP cuts — a program proven to reduce food insecurity, decrease health disparities, and support local retailers and farms. It was philanthropy, community partners, and government working side by side to align funding and advocacy around a pressing shared need.

When the Freeze Hit

Despite local and national advocacy, and a federal court order to continue payments, the administration froze SNAP benefits beginning November 1. For 12 days, 62,871 Montgomery County residents — 7.34% of the county's population — lost access to this lifeline, at a moment when organizations were already stretched thin from federal cuts to food security programs earlier that summer.





Emma Hertz, President and CEO of HealthSpark Foundation, speaks at a fall 2025 press conference where HealthSpark and Montgomery County announced financial relief for food pantries and hunger relief organizations responding to the pause in SNAP benefits.

Committed to standing alongside local organizations working to protect and strengthen our community during the crisis, HealthSpark Foundation acted swiftly to:

Distribute $12,000
from our Rapid Response Fund for Community Power to three food justice organizations for advocacy and coordinated community education.

Grant $50,000
in emergency aid to the Montco Anti-Hunger Network to bolster their food purchase program and coordination with food pantries.

Fast-track $130,000
in planned fall grants to food security organizations with added flexibility.

Contact our grantee partners
who rely on state contracts and offer bridge loans or lines of credit during the ongoing state budget impasse.

Serve as conveners and advocates,
to organize and mobilize our philanthropic partners and county government to have timely conversations and coordinated response efforts where possible.

Why This Matters
We believe food security is foundational to health. Research consistently shows that limited-income households face a heightened risk of food insecurity, which drives poor health outcomes and widens disparities — while programs like SNAP directly address that barrier. When federal and state systems falter, we believe philanthropy must do what it can and advocate loudly for the policies and solutions that realize our mission: a healthy, equitable, and hopeful Montgomery County.

Building Toward *Housing Justice*

Housing touches everything: our economy, our workforce, our families, and the long-term strength of our region.

At HealthSpark Foundation, we believe Housing Justice is the foundation for health, stability, and opportunity — yet too many residents in Montgomery County face housing insecurity or homelessness, with these challenges disproportionately felt by people of color. This year, that belief showed up in how we funded, convened, invested, and advocated.

A Framework to Guide the Work

We introduced our Housing Justice Framework, shaped by strategic planning, the policy landscape, and — most importantly — ongoing conversations with community organizations, government partners, and service providers. It reflects learnings from research, a national housing justice network, and philanthropic peers, ensuring our priorities are grounded in local realities while connected to a broader movement for change. The framework rests on three pillars: strengthening the housing justice ecosystem, expanding and protecting affordable housing for renters and homeowners, and preventing homelessness while supporting transitions to long-term stability.



After the first regional forum on the Pennsylvania Housing Action Plan at the Community Partners Center, HealthSpark staff gather for a photo with Kristyn DiDominick, Morgan Boyd and Phyllis Chamberlain.

The Building Community Solutions Fund – Housing Justice grew out of this framework because we believe that everyone deserves access to safe, affordable housing, and communities are best positioned to lead lasting, equitable solutions. The fund supports general operating support for emergency and Code Blue housing, street outreach, and homeownership programs, alongside advocacy. We require advocacy applicants to partner jointly with another nonprofit, because we believe that work is strongest when organizations unite around shared messaging. Grantees also join our Housing Justice Ecosystem Collaborative, a space built on the idea that lasting change requires shared knowledge and co-created strategy across the field.



Members of Bucks-Mont Collaborative's Collaborative Advocacy Network (CAN) prepare for a press conference on housing and behavioral health needs at their annual Advocacy Day in Harrisburg in June 2025.

As part of our broader Local Impact Investing Initiative, we seeded the new Montco Housing Loan Fund with $1 million — a revolving fund providing flexible, mission-aligned capital to nonprofit and community developers creating and preserving affordable homes across Montgomery County. As a revolving fund, that capital keeps cycling back into new projects rather than being spent once.

See page 19 for a closer look at the full Local Impact Investing Initiative.

When the Stakes Get Urgent

Belief in housing justice also means showing up when the safety net is threatened. In December, leaders from Bucks and Montgomery Counties held a press conference in response to HUD's revised Continuum of Care funding notice, which has historically supported evidence-based, stable housing for seniors, people with disabilities, survivors of domestic violence, and families. In Montgomery County alone, more than 170 households and $3.7 million in HUD funding are at risk — which would ripple outward, straining food pantries, shelters, and other already — stretched support services, and hitting local landlords and businesses. Leaders called on HUD and Congress to act before that risk becomes reality. It's a reminder of why this work can't wait for ideal conditions, and why philanthropy's voice matters alongside its dollars.

Convening the Region

In November, we co-hosted The Business of Housing Regional Summit with the Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry. We carried that same spirit into a regional briefing on Pennsylvania's Housing Action Plan, hosted with Bucks-Mont Collaborative.

Read about the convenings on pages 6-8.

Joining a Broader Movement

We also see this as work bigger than any one county. In February, HealthSpark was featured in *Caring Collectively: How Health Funders Can Step into the Movement for Housing Justice to End Homelessness*, a national publication from Funders Together for Housing Justice, profiled alongside California Health Care Foundation and Cedars-Sinai for our work at the intersection of health and homelessness. We built on that connection by co-launching a Pennsylvania chapter of Funders Together for Housing Justice with the Pittsburgh Foundation — because housing justice isn't a Montgomery County challenge alone, and Pennsylvania funders are stronger acting as a coordinated network than in isolation.

Looking Ahead

Whether it's a grant, an investment, a press conference, or a seat at a regional table, this work is guided by the same conviction: housing is the foundation everything else is built on. We're proud of where this belief showed up this year — and energized by where it will take us next.

Ready to Respond:

The Advocacy Rapid Response Fund

We believe funders have an obligation to support advocacy — and that community power grows when organizations can act the moment it matters most.

The Advocacy Rapid Response Fund for Community Power (ARRF) launched as a pilot grant program within our 2025–2029 Strategic Plan. Now heading into its third year, this work has only grown more important. Having the flexibility to move funding quickly to advocacy that advances health equity reflects a value we hold closely: funders shouldn't sit on the sidelines when the health, well-being, and rights of our neighbors are at stake. We should be ready to fund the people standing up for them.

Fast, Flexible, and Ready When It Counts

This grant program provides one-time, fast, flexible support to Montgomery County organizations responding to critical, unexpected events or external challenges, while strengthening the voice and power of community members. Support is nonpartisan and can include peaceful protest and solidarity actions, community organizer safety and wellness, know-your-rights training, security and healing justice support, strategic organizing convenings, and popular education campaigns.





Volunteers with Neighbors Helping Neighbors on the Main Line gather for a photo while packing items for community relief efforts.

Meeting the Moment in FY 2025–2026

We budgeted $50,000 for the for the ARRF — and awarded $62,500, stepping up as urgent needs emerged, including the SNAP benefits pause in November 2025. Listening closely to our grantee and community partners surfaced needs that were eye-opening in their urgency, yet confirmed what we suspected: immigrant rights, affordable housing and the homelessness crisis, and food insecurity are where communities need us most right now.

See pages 3-6 for the full list of fiscal year 2025–2026 awards.

Beyond the dollars, these grants opened the door to some of our most powerful storytelling this year. Family Promise Montco PA used their ARRF funding to build community awareness and amplify the voices of the families they serve — especially around food insecurity in light of the SNAP pause, and needs connected to their housing program. Tapping into their network, including faith-based partners, and using social media and other communication tools, they got the word out on both community needs and ways to participate in advocacy. That outreach did more than spread awareness — it surfaced stories, from the families they serve and beyond, that might otherwise have gone untold.

Maternity Care Coalition (MCC) used their grant to support a Federal Administration Taskforce — convened from across MCC's executive team and senior leadership — to monitor shifting government policy, executive orders, and funding, and coordinate the organization's response. The taskforce tracked the federal shutdown, the lapse in SNAP benefits, potential disruption to WIC, and the Pennsylvania state budget impasse, working across policy, fundraising, operations, and direct service teams to understand evolving needs for the families MCC serves and respond swiftly. For MCC's team, the funding brought more than infrastructure — it brought a lesson in staying grounded: not leaning into misinformation, holding patience through the push and pull of shifting policy, and finding steadiness in more frequent, timely advocacy conversations across the organization. Staff described the higher cadence of advocacy check-ins as a source of reassurance during an especially stressful stretch — a reminder of why this work matters most when conditions are hardest.

Looking Ahead

Each year, HealthSpark will continue prioritizing strategic initiatives that support transformative leaders, build thriving communities, and advance opportunities and justice for all. The Advocacy Rapid Response Fund is one way we put that commitment into action — quickly, flexibly, and in step with the community we serve.

Listening First:

Research Rooted in Community

We believe good data starts with listening — and that understanding a community's health needs means centering the people who live them.

This past fiscal year, HealthSpark supported two community-led research efforts that grounded data in lived experience, elevating voices too often left out of the conversations that shape health and human services.

Understanding Asian American Diversity & Growth

HealthSpark joined the Asian American Coalition for Health and Human Services, the Philip Jaisohn Memorial Foundation, and Montgomery County to release the county's first-ever data profile of its Asian American population in December 2025. The three-year study combined quantitative data with personal stories to capture both the strengths and the complex challenges of a community that grew 31.9% between 2010 and 2020 and now represents at least 24 distinct ethnic groups across the county. Findings pointed to real barriers — language access limiting employment and mobility, mental health stigma compounded by cultural expectations, and gaps in eldercare coverage for immigrant seniors — giving county leaders a clearer foundation for culturally responsive services and investment. As HealthSpark President and CEO Emma Hertz put it, "Local data allows us to better know our own communities and neighbors, and what we can do together."



Members of the Montgomery County Asian American Coalition for Health and Human Services advisory team gather for a photo at an event celebrating the release of Understanding Asian American Diversity & Growth: A Community Profile in Montgomery County, PA.



Attendees take in a session at the November 2025 Business of Housing Summit.

CCATE x HealthSpark Community Assembly Report

Published in April 2026, the CCATE x HealthSpark Community Assembly Report reflects a deep commitment to research that is built with community, not just about it. Centro de Cultura, Arte, Trabajo, y Educación (CCATE) and HealthSpark partnered on this work to capture the findings of a February 2026 convening that brought together community members, allies, and individuals from academia, public safety, philanthropy, and beyond. The report documents community priorities, shared reflections, and key takeaways from that gathering, alongside in-depth data from a bilingual questionnaire administered in English and Spanish — offering insight into how immigrant community members are feeling and where they see the greatest opportunities for change.

> This kind of research "foster[s] rings of solidarity and space for protection where community members can practice deep dialogue, deep listening, and deep empathy."
>
> **— Obed Arango**
> *CCATE Executive Director*

Why This Work Matters

Both efforts reflect the same conviction: that health equity research is strongest when it's built with communities, not just about them. We believe locally led research like this doesn't just inform our grantmaking — it builds trust, surfaces solutions that might otherwise go unseen, and reminds us that behind every data point is a neighbor with a story worth hearing.

Investing in Healthier Starts for Mothers and Children

We believe every mother and child deserves the chance for a healthy beginning — and that community-driven solutions are how we get there.

Maternal health is foundational to the health of our community — and we believe it deserves dedicated investment. That belief is affirmed by what we've heard from local partners, including the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Public Health, and by the county's own Community Health Assessment and ongoing Community Health Improvement Plan, both of which point to urgent gaps in prenatal care, behavioral and mental health services, and maternal-infant health equity — particularly for women and children of color.



A New Fund, Rooted in Community Need

In response, HealthSpark launched the Building Community Solutions Fund – Maternal Health to advance health equity for mothers and children across the county and deepen our support of community-driven solutions to pressing needs. The fund supports organizations engaged in community-based research, policy change, and service or program implementation, guided by three pillars:

1. Increase access to prenatal care, particularly for women of color and Latina women.
2. Improve access to behavioral and mental healthcare for pregnant and postpartum parents.
3. Decrease disparities in infant and maternal mortality among women and children of color.

Investing in Community Leadership

In its inaugural year, the fund awarded $60,000 to three organizations advancing this work on the ground — $20,000 each to ACLAMO, Family Services, and Maternity Care Coalition. These grants reflect our belief in community leadership: investing in the capacity of trusted organizations, and the leaders within them, to drive lasting change for the families they serve.

Looking Ahead

As we look to the year ahead, we'll continue to grow our maternal health grantmaking, convening, and advocacy, staying responsive to the lived experiences of mothers and children through collaborative investment and reciprocal learning with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health.

Investing in Possibility:

A Local Impact Investing Story Years in the Making

Long before we had a name for it, HealthSpark was already practicing local impact investing.

In 2008, we opened the Community Partners Center in Colmar, offering below-market rate office space and free convening space to area nonprofits — and alongside it, purchased a neighboring home to provide affordable housing for tenants. We went on to become a founding partner of North Penn Commons, the Commonwealth's first co-located nonprofit service and affordable senior housing center. And today, we still own a three-bedroom home in Colmar, maintained as affordable housing through a partnership with Family Promise Montco PA, the Montgomery County Housing Authority, and the Montgomery County Office of Housing and Community Development. These were catalysts and Local Impact Investments before we knew to call them that.

In 2023, we gave the practice its first formal name: a program-related investment, our first, providing a below-market rate loan to Manna on Main Street to renovate their Online Market Hub in Lansdale — deepening our roots in the North Penn community where HealthSpark first began.

That project made something clear: grantmakers spend enormous energy on the 5% of assets we distribute as grants, while the other 95% — locked in stocks and bonds — receives far less scrutiny for the impact it has on our communities. When



A look back at the signing of HealthSpark's first Local Impact Investment to Manna on Main Street to support renovations for its Online Market Hub, which opened in September 2024. From left: Suzan Neiger Gould, and Jeff Fields, Manna on Main Street; and Emma Hertz, HealthSpark Foundation.

foundations recognize that it's that 95% that truly defines us, we unlock tremendous potential for resourcing the change we seek.

That recognition is what led us, in November 2025, to formally launch our Local Impact Investing portfolio: committing $2 million, or 5% of our endowment, by the end of 2027 to mission-aligned ventures across Montgomery County, with Zenith Wealth Partners helping guide that work. By 2029, our goal is for 100% of our investment portfolio to reflect this same alignment.

This journey is still young, but it's not new. It's the natural next chapter of work we've been doing, in one form or another, since 2008. We're investing in possibility: building homes, supporting local leaders, and helping shape a Montgomery County that is affordable, inclusive, and full of promise.

A Home for *Community* Since 2008

HealthSpark opened the Community Partners Center in 2008 as the first multi-tenant, nonprofit center in Pennsylvania to offer professional office and meeting space to health and human service nonprofits in Montgomery County.

The Center values and cultivates community, collaboration, and innovation among its tenants and partners, supporting the essential role of local nonprofits, expanding access to programs and services, and offering a safe, inclusive space where both employees and community members feel welcome and valued.

In 2025-26:

5,827 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE AT THE COMMUNITY PARTNERS CENTER

18 LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS SERVED

1,300 HOURS OF EVENTS



Tenants and community partners share what the Community Partners Center *means to them:*

"The Community Partners Center is an invaluable resource for the Collaborative and our regional nonprofit network. The space is beautiful, accessible, conveniently located, and equipped with user-friendly technology that makes hosting meetings and gatherings easy. As a lean organization that hosts more than 50 events each year—approximately 20% of them in the Walton Room—access to this high-quality space at no cost is essential. Rental fees at other venues would make many of these gatherings difficult or impossible to offer. Just as importantly, the Foundation team creates an atmosphere where everyone feels genuinely welcomed. You feel not as though you are stepping into an office, but into a shared community space where your mission and work belong."

Kristyn DiDominick
Executive Director at Bucks-Mont Collaborative (Grantee & Community Partner)

"Health Spark Foundation provides two meeting spaces in the 2506 N Broad Street building. These spaces hold our community-based trainings/meetings, Merakey leadership meetings, and more. We really appreciate the easy, user-friendly process for booking. Without these meeting spaces we would really struggle to find the space to get all our employees in one space at one time. The Community Partners Center provides organizations throughout the community with accessible, professional meeting space where they can collaborate, host trainings, and connect with one another. Having a shared space like this encourages partnerships between agencies and helps organizations better serve community members by making collaboration and information sharing easier."

Chloe O'Neill
Office Administrator at Merakey (2506 Tenant & Community Partner)

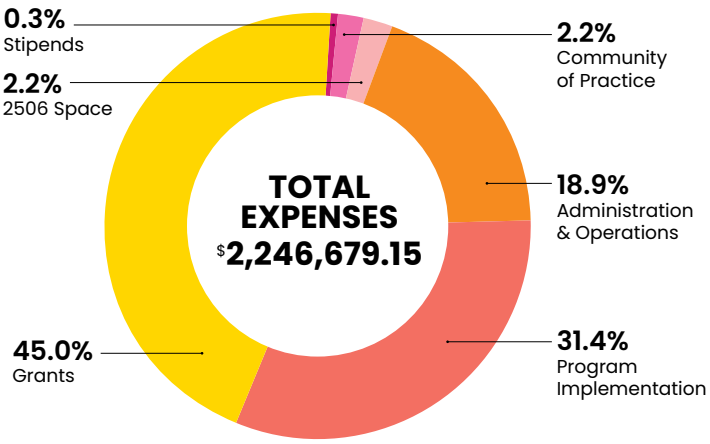
"The Community Partners Center has become an invaluable community asset by providing accessible, welcoming space that brings together nonprofits, community organizations, and residents to collaborate around shared goals. Having a central location dedicated to partnership strengthens relationships, reduces barriers to engagement, and creates opportunities to better serve Montgomery County.

The Community Partners Center fills an important need by offering organizations of all sizes access to quality meeting and event space that might otherwise be unavailable or cost prohibitive. Beyond the physical space, it fosters connection among service providers, community members, and local partners, ultimately strengthening the network of supports available to individuals and families throughout the county. It exemplifies how shared community resources can amplify impact and improve outcomes for everyone!"

Debra Curtin, M.S.
Vice President for Housing and Children's Services at Access Services (Grantee & Community Partner)

Our Financials

- **Grants** $1,011,570.00
- **Program Implementation** $704,359.47
- **Administration & Operations** $424,824.68
- **2506 Space** $49,544.42
- **Community of Practice** $49,780.58
- **Stipends** $6,600.00



How Our Spending *Made An Impact*

Grants – Inclusive of open grant programs, invited applications, and board matching grants. Our board has committed to increasing our grants budget by 45% every year for the next three fiscal years, through 2028, to ensure we're doing our part to support the urgent needs of nonprofits as federal budget cuts impact our communities. We commit to regularly reviewing our strategy to keep our funding responsive, responsible, and aligned with community priorities, and we'll monitor federal policy changes so we stay aware of shifts that could affect community organizations — making sure their efforts are seen, supported, and strengthened.

Program Implementation – The engagement of consulting services and staff time dedicated to advancing our strategic goals through the creation, coordination, and delivery of grantmaking and non-grantmaking activities, including convenings, advocacy, board service, and community events.

Administration & Operations – Support for the infrastructure that enables our work, including staff coordination, internal systems, financial oversight, grant management and day-to-day operations.

2506 Space – Oversight and stewardship of complimentary meeting space (Community Partners Center Conference Space) provided to Montgomery County community partners. This includes regular upgrades to technology and equipment and cleaning and maintenance to ensure a welcoming, accessible, and functional learning environment.

Communities of Practice – The costs associated with hosting our convenings including venue rentals, AV equipment, materials, refreshments, related logistics, and guest speakers. Our events serve as opportunities for shared learning, collaboration, and celebration of collective progress.

Stipends - Acknowledges the valuable times and expertise of volunteers, including members of the Community Action Team who shape, support, and advance our grantmaking efforts.

















HealthSpark In Action

Left to right: Rep. Malagari (H-53) and others at the opening plenary of the November 2025 Business of Housing Summit; attendees network over breakfast at Building Community Solutions (April 2026); the closing plenary at Building Community Solutions; ACLAMO's First Bonds: Mommy and Me program; board member John Kepner receives a service award from HealthSpark Board Chair Dr. Natasha Patterson; the Resilient Students Network team at a food drive; advocates hold housing signs at a December 2025 press conference; the HealthSpark team at Building Community Solutions; community members gather at a YWCA Tri-County Area event.







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