

United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley Launches Slate Belt Angels Fund to Honor Legacy and Expand Impact

New partnership continues the work of the Episcopal Apartments of the Slate Belt and ensures long-term investment in health, housing and education for rural communities.

By Laura McHugh / United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley

ALLENTOWN, PA. – United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley proudly announces the creation of the Slate Belt Angels Fund at United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, a permanent endowment honoring the mission of the Episcopal Apartments of the Slate Belt.

For decades, the Episcopal Apartments provided safe, stable housing and supportive services for older adults in the Slate Belt region. This new fund ensures that legacy lives on, expanding access to essential programs that improve health, housing and quality of life for



The Slate Belt Angels have dedicated proceeds from the sale of the Episcopal Apartments to create an endowment, entrusted to United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, to support the well-being of older adults in the Slate Belt region.

This summer, United Way is launching a community outreach effort to gather meaningful input from residents on how these funds should be invested. The goal is to ensure the endowment reflects the real needs and priorities of older adults across the Slate Belt.

To the right, you'll find a schedule of upcoming dates, times and locations where you can share your voice and help shape this important investment in the future of your community.

To learn more and get involved, contact
Victoria Cyr at VictoriaC@UnitedWayGLV.org.



Scan the QR code to take the Slate Belt Community Needs Assessment and share your voice.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH SCHEDULE

Bangor

- July 7, 12-2 p.m. | Slate Belt Senior Center
- August, 12-14 | Blue Valley Farm Show

Pen Argyl

- August 3, 6-8 p.m. | Weona Park

Plainfield Township

- July 24-26, 4-10:30 p.m. | Plainfield Farmer's Fair

rural communities. "This fund is a remarkable act of trust and partnership, and we are honored to steward it," said Marci

Lesko, President and Chief Executive Officer of United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley. Together with the Slate Belt Angels, we are building on a long legacy of service to create lasting, measurable change in the lives of older adults in the region.” The Slate Belt Angels embodies the true spirit of community building. With this multi-milliondollar investment, the newly established fund ensures that the founders’ vision of supporting safe, stable housing and services for older adults continues to thrive in perpetuity. The fund is designed to strengthen and expand rural impact in the Slate Belt, with a lasting focus on housing, health and education.

'This fund is more than a financial investment — it's a promise to the Slate Belt community that older adults will have access to the housing, healthcare and support they deserve for generations to come," stated Robin Zmoda, United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley Board of

Directors Member and Borough Manager and Treasurer for the Borough of Pen Argyl, Pa. Interest funds from the endowed gift will be invested in programs that support older adults living in the Pen Argyl and Bangor Area School District catchment area to ensure the original mission continues to guide the work ahead.

Short-term goals include funding local programs that serve older adults to carry on the Episcopal Apartments' legacy. Long-term, the fund will grow through leveraged dollars and new partnerships, serving as a catalyst for rural investment in the Slate Belt for generations. "We are looking forward to benefiting Seniors in the Slate Belt on a long-term basis with the assistance of United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley," stated Dave Ceraul, Slate Belt Angels.

Community outreach events are scheduled to take place throughout summer and fall 2025 to raise awareness and gather local input on what is needed in the region to ensure that older adults are thriving. Residents can attend the next event in Weona Park in Pen Argyl on August 3 from 6-8 p.m. to help shape this important investment.

To learn more about the Slate Belt Angels Fund or attend an upcoming event, contact Carmen Bell at carmenb@unitedwayglv.org or 610-807-5717.



In partnership with:
Blue Valley Times, Mission of Love Food Hub,
Slate Belt Angels and Slate Belt Rising



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