



MIDDLETOWN

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Jim Merrill, *President*
Melissa Robison, *Vice President*
Juleece Argust, *Treasurer*
Diane Loomis, *Secretary*
Nick Valla, *Executive Director*

Middletown Community Foundation 2023 Annual Report

The Middletown Community Foundation continues to fulfill its mission of improving the quality of life in the community of the residents and students of Middletown Township. 2023 once again proved to be a successful year for the Middletown Community Foundation as the organization continues to evolve into a new generation of leadership and meeting a new generation of needs. Through the efforts and generosity of many, we were again able to assist hundreds of families within our community. The Middletown Community Foundation is poised to continue our past successes and work toward an exciting new era in our history.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- 2023 was one of the most successful fundraising years in MCF history, with more than \$268,000 in donations received. Several major gifts (over \$5,000) were received from multiple donors this year and make up more than one-third of MCF revenue. Two donations of more than \$20,000 were received.
- Nearly \$150,000 was raised for the Shop with a Cop program. Credit is due to Officer Melissa Robison for raising the bulk of these funds. Under her leadership, Shop with a Cop had another successful year, providing more than 300 families with more than \$125,000 of gifts and essentials for the holidays.
- Melissa Robison was appointed to serve in the role of Vice President of MCF upon the resignation of Guy Triano. Melissa's exemplary leadership in facilitating community programs and fundraising continues to be critical to MCF's success.
- The Fresh Start Closet program continues to provide clothing, snacks, and school supplies to students in need and has now expanded to serve six area public schools. One of the closets is dedicated in memory of former Director Tom Hecker. With the planned addition of a closet at Neshaminy High School in early 2024, all public schools in Middletown Township will have a closet available to students.
- Consorted efforts were invested by President Jim Merrill and Vice President Melissa Robison in building a strong relationship with the Neshaminy School District. The School District, along with Middletown Township, has long been one of the primary benefactors of MCF. A stronger partnership with the Neshaminy School District will be crucial to providing the greatest possible support to our local students.
- A new Fire Safety Fund was established in 2023 as the need to support area fire protection services grows considerably. This is a key new opportunity for MCF to further support the community's public safety services.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

No new Board of Directors were added in 2023. Several tenured Directors concluded their collective decades of service to MCF in 2023:

- Bill Cowan – Bill served on the Board of Directors for 17 years, beginning in 2007. During his tenure, Bill served as President for four years from 2014 until 2017. Bill played a pivotal leadership role during a transitional season for MCF and help rebuild MCF to a thriving organization. His dedication and involvement will be missed as he enjoys a well-deserved retirement.
- Pat Flanagan - Pat is one of the longest-tenured MCF Directors, serving more than 22 years on the Board of Directors. Pat has been one of the most consistently generous partners of the Foundation in its history. Pat has played a pivotal role over the years in the Foundation’s annual golf outings, with some years leading to a second golf outing being held on the same day due to the sheer number of participants Pat and fellow Director John McGrath brought in to participate.
- Lindsay DeOre Lambert – Lindsay joined the MCF Board of Directors in 2012 and was a consistent volunteer at various events during her 12 years serving MCF. Lindsay also played a crucial role in facilitating the Foundation’s banking relationship with First National Bank of Newtown for many years. Her presence and generosity will be missed.
- Tom Maclin – Tom served with MCF for more than 20 years, nearly all of which serving as Treasurer. Initially joining MCF while working for then-First Service Bank in Langhorne, Tom continued to participate with MCF even after he stopped working in Middletown Township. Despite being a resident of Doylestown, Tom made sure to participate regularly at MCF events. His bright presence will be dearly missed.
- Tom Sofield – Tom was a valuable partner with MCF for four years. He played a key role in bringing publicity to MCF and its events through his professional involvement with LevittownNow, showing a particular passion for the Police K-9 program. We wish him well as he continues to lead a successful media career.
- Allen Toadvine – Allen joined MCF 10 years ago after his long-time business partner and founding Director, Charlie Marte, retired. Allen was a key player in bringing sponsors to MCF, especially for the annual golf outings. His involvement will be missed.
- Guy Triano – Though his time with MCF was brief, Guy Triano played a valuable role in advising on fundraising strategy and ascended quickly to the role of Vice President. We wish him well in his new leadership role with the American Red Cross.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FOUNDATION

The Executive Committee fulfills many of MCF’s legal and fiduciary responsibilities. The 2023 MCF Executive Committee is composed of Jim Merrill, President; Melissa Robison, Vice President; Diane Loomis, Secretary; Thomas Maclin, Treasurer; and Nick Valla, Executive Director. Former Director Guy Triano served as Vice President of MCF until the summer before his departure. Communications, ranging from the MCF website and social media accounts, are managed primarily by Juleece Argust and Susan Koch. We are grateful to all those who make MCF run every day.

MCF again engaged the services of Lopez, Teodosio, and Larkin to compile MCF’s financial report and prepare required state and federal reports. Inspire Insurance Agency continues to be the insurance carrier for MCF.

FINANCES & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

As of December 31, 2023, MCF had \$225,928.71 in its bank accounts. Though this is only a net increase of about \$1,000 since the year prior, MCF has additional assets in the form of Target gift cards (using restricted funds from the Shop with a Cop program) totaling more than \$87,000. Additionally, MCF's unrestricted funds increased by more than \$22,000 in 2023.

MCF again had a strong fundraising year, with more than \$268,000 raised in 2023. Nearly \$150,000 was donated toward the Shop with a Cop program.

The MCF Board of Directors continue to work toward establishing proper checks and balances to assure our donors can trust that MCF will properly steward their gifts. MCF's bank accounts remain with Inspire Federal Credit Union. Due to rising interest rates and significant cash balances, a savings account was added in spring 2023 where all restricted funds are managed. Interest earned on these funds (totaling more than \$2,100 in 2023) is used for general purposes. The Board should consider additional opportunities to maximize passive income from interest and investments.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

The Annual Golf Outing continues to be MCF's primary fundraiser, bringing in unrestricted funds critical to underwriting administrative costs and addressing the needs of the community throughout the year. The 2023 Golf Outing brought in net revenues of more than \$28,000, the strongest year since the pandemic. Many hands came together to make this event a continued success. The Golf Committee is setting the stage for a summer Golf Outing in June 2024 in hopes of maximizing participants and sponsors.

A second golf outing was again held to benefit Shop with a Cop, netting more than \$19,000 attributed to the Shop with a Cop program. Credit is due to Vice President Melissa Robison for making this event a success.

In 2023, the Board of Directors decided to move away from the walk/run event of Woofapalooza as the primary fundraising event for the Police K-9 program. The Board will need to continue to evaluate other event ideas to fundraise for special causes such as this going into 2024.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

MCF continues to invest resources entrusted to it back into the community for the benefit of hundreds of families and individuals. Some highlights from 2023 community partnerships include:

- Shop with a Cop – Officer Melissa Robison and the Middletown Township Police Department hosted one of the most successful Shop with a Cop events to date. A renewed effort with the Target in Oxford Valley and partnerships with neighboring police departments allowed approximately 340 families (many from Middletown Township) to benefit from more than \$100,000 of holiday shopping.
- Scholarships – Eight scholarships totaling \$12,000 were awarded out of 26 applicants to local high school seniors, including a first-time award to a student planning to attend a trade school. Special thanks are due to County Commissioner Diane Ellis-Marseglia and former Township Supervisor Tom Tosti for their support of our local students.

- K-9 Program – K-9 Officer Blue was acquired on behalf of the Middletown Township Police Department, marking the fifth K-9 supported by MCF. K-9 Blue is being trained in preparation for K-9 Jester’s retirement in the near future.
- Police Bicycles – More than \$8,000 was donated to purchase new patrol bicycles for the Middletown Township Police Department. This purchase was made possible in large part by a generous donation from an anonymous community member.
- School Lunch Debt Forgiveness – Nearly \$3,000 was donated on behalf of families in need to pay off outstanding school lunch debts with Neshaminy School District. The School District was a critical partner to be sure families truly in need benefited.
- Grants – MCF once again supported Neshaminy’s Summer PASS program and Camp SOAR, two invaluable camps make sure local kids continue their education beyond the school year.

LOOKING AHEAD

Great strides were made in 2023, setting the table for what could be the strongest year yet for MCF in 2024. Continued investment in spreading awareness about the presence and work of MCF will be integral to our long-term success in serving the residents of Middletown Township. We hope to continue hone our fundraising efforts through our tried-and-true events and explore new opportunities to engage the community in new ways.

The MCF Board of Directors will need to continue working together to stay engaged in community outreach opportunities and build relationships with key partners and sponsors to be sure our programs are supported so we may continue to improve the quality of life of the residents of Middletown Township for many years to come.

Respectfully submitted,



Nick Valla
Executive Director