



2021

ANNUAL REPORT

Letter from the Chairman



On behalf of the board of directors of the Mon Valley Alliance (MVA) and Mon Valley Alliance Foundation (MVAF), I want to thank you for your continued support, dedication and contributions as we work together to help our Mon Valley communities and businesses grow and prosper.

This last year was a remarkably busy one for our organization as we climbed out of the doldrums of COVID-19 along with the communities we serve. In this report, you will see progress on many fronts including many new projects initiated and several projects seeing completion in the year, including some that directly supported the COVID-19 relief effort.

Our exceptionally talented staff pushed our organization to new heights strengthening our partnerships with state, county and municipal governments as well as local and regional community service organizations and foundations. This allows us to leverage resources to achieve meaningful change in the Mon Valley. New companies moving into the region, jobs being created, increases in the tax base, blight removal, business assistance and community assistance were just some of the successes that, together, we were able to achieve.

2021 also brought new and promising additions to our organization with the election of Mr. Jeff Jones and Mr. Todd Pappasergi, Esq. as new Board members. The organization remains in a strong position to continue our economic development focus in the Mon Valley.

As it has been since our organization's founding in the early 1960's, the Mon Valley region continues to face many challenges, but we believe that our efforts are paving the way to a promising future in the days ahead and that our greatest asset, our people, are key to moving the Mon Valley to this brighter future.

Thank you for joining with us as we build our future together.

John R. Easoz, *Chairman*

A graphic featuring the year '2021' in large white font. The '0' is replaced by a blue circle containing a white upward-pointing arrow. Below the '2021' are several white upward-pointing arrows of varying heights, suggesting growth and progress. The background is a dark, textured surface.

Letter from the CEO



2021 was a year of change. With the ongoing pandemic, supply chain disruptions, large scale relocations and the ever-present uncertainty of the future, our work in community and economic development was put to the test. As in our past, we met the challenges head on and took on new projects, programs and initiatives to continue our support of the region.

One such program, the COVID Hospitality Industry Relief Program (CHIRP), was able to achieve over \$2,200,000 in grants to 97 local restaurants and hotels, supporting over 1,281 jobs in Washington County.

Our second year of the Regional Enterprise Zone garnered \$325,000 in grants to support growing businesses and 46 jobs, paving the way for additional economic growth in our area.

We also announced a new \$1,100,000 office building project to be built in downtown Charleroi, creating jobs and providing over \$665,000 in annual economic development to the area.

Our community development programs supported local first responders by providing \$5,000 in gift cards to local restaurants, a \$9,603 grant to Dunlevy for safety improvements, a new \$45,000 hybrid electric police car to Carroll Township and saw the completion of Phase I of the *"Magic City"* Riverfront Park in Charleroi.

Our biggest project of the year was the creation of the Business Resource Center in downtown Monongahela. Over the past few years, we challenged ourselves to provide more support and programs for small and medium sized businesses; the ones that create life in our downtowns, provide good local jobs and support our local sports teams, youth activities and overall community. The Business Resource Center will be a central place for meeting, training, development and growth for businesses in the area for years to come.

At our five-year anniversary celebration, held at the Alta Vista Business Park on a summer day, leaders from around the area gathered to discuss, plan and prepare for our region's future. The collaboration, desire for mutual success, and willingness to work hard were evident in the air and I have full faith that this valley will continue to redefine itself through our mutual desire for prosperity and a better life for all.

Jamie Colecchi, CEO



Board of Directors and Staff

Board of Directors

- **John R. Easoz**—
(MVA/MVAF Chairman)—
Direct Gain Consulting,
LLC (CEO)
- **John LaCarte**—
(MVA/MVAF Vice
Chairman)—
Model Cleaners
(President)
- **Randy T. Patterson**—
(MVA/MVAF Secretary)—
Washington Financial
Bank (Vice President
Commercial Banking)
- **Michael Thornton**—
(MVA/MVAF Treasurer)
- **Tanya Chaney**—
Chaney's Naturals, LLC
(Owner)
- **Jeff Jones**—
Capture Inc.
Photographic Services
(Retired Executive)
- **Gina C. Lynn**—
Tru Fit Marketing
(Account Manager)
- **Anthony (Tony) Mauro**—
Pennsylvania Western
University California
Campus (Vice President
of University Development
and California Campus
Administrator)

- **Edward Mendola**—
Edward Mendola, CPA
(Certified Public
Accountant)
- **Lou Panza**—
Penn Highlands (President
and Chief Executive Officer)
- **Todd Pappasergi**—
Coupa (Contract
Manager)
- **Louis A. Quarto**—
Guttman Energy, Inc.
(Vice President of Supply)
- **Will Thomeier**—
Washington County
Chamber of Commerce
(Director of Economic and
Tourism Development)
- **Jeremy Wallace**—
A C Power Tech, Inc.
(Vice President)
- **Claudia Williams**—
CJ's Furniture (Retired)

New Board Members



Todd
Pappasergi



Jeff
Jones

Todd Pappasergi

Attorney Todd Pappasergi has served the legal interests of the communities in the Mon Valley for the better part of a decade. Now a *Contract Manager* for a large software company, Todd continues to give back to his hometown community by being part of several Mon Valley based initiatives, including the Mon Valley Alliance and Mon Valley Alliance Foundation.

Jeff Jones

Mr. Jeff Jones, a lifelong resident of the Mon Valley, is an accomplished forward thinking business professional within various government (state and local) and educational markets. Mr. Jones, now retired, provides his experience and service at multiple organizations as a Board member and has come to assist the MVA's/MVAF's Board of Directors to enhance our region's communities and economy.

Staff Members



Jamie
Colecchi



Kelly
Ellin

Jamie Colecchi—
(MVA/MVAF CEO)

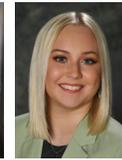
Kelly Ellin—
(MVA/MVAF Office Manager)

This year marks Kelly's 35 years of service in the Mon Valley with the MVA/MVAF. In her role, Kelly oversees the industrial parks' maintenance, Town-to-Town Mini Grant Program, MVAF Business Creation and Sustainability Loan Fund, Business Resource Center, event planning as well as the financial administration of both organizations.

Introducing New Members to Our Staff



Mary
Stollar



Madison
Codeluppi



Emma
Augustine

Mary Stollar

(MVA/MVAF Director of Real Estate and Economic Development)
Mary Stollar joined the Mon Valley Alliance and Mon Valley Alliance Foundation in May of 2022 as the *Director of Real Estate and Economic Development*. Mary has experience in the banking and economic development industries. In her role at the Alliance, she will handle the real estate and finance related projects. In addition, Mary will provide assistance to existing businesses and work to attract new businesses to the area.

Madison (Maddie) Codeluppi

(MVA/MVAF Marketing and Development Specialist)
Madison Codeluppi, a Charleroi native and recent graduate of Alderson Broaddus University with degrees in Marketing and Accounting, joins the MVA/MVAF as the *Marketing and Development Specialist*. Starting as a marketing intern in June 2021, Madison worked part-time throughout her senior year and was recently promoted. Madison will handle social media, marketing and community development projects in the Mid Mon Valley.

Emma Augustine

(MVA 2022 Summer Intern)
■ University of Pittsburgh—
Class of 2022
■ Majors: Business and
Communications

We welcome our
new board and
staff members.

Five-Year Anniversary Celebration



Alta Vista Business Park has new development totalling 342,000 sq. ft. and a future committed 50,000+ sq. ft.

Leaders from across the region gathered at Alta Vista Business Park in September to mark the five-year anniversary of the MVA/MVAF. Guests were able to see the full development of the business park up close, including the new 252,000 sq. ft. Komatsu Ltd. Global Distribution facility and the in progress 35,000 sq. ft. MVA/MVAF spec building. In addition, Bloom Engineering Company, Inc. was introduced as a new business in the park with a 55,000 sq. ft. facility hosting their global headquarters and Apex North America, LLC committed to building a 50,000+ sq. ft. facility for their U.S. headquarters, continuing their long-term presence in the Mon Valley.

1 Some of the local and county leaders that gathered to celebrate the MVA's/MVAF's five-year anniversary

2 **Ben Brown** (Former CEO, MVA/MVAF)

3 **Johnny Vann** (Double Sax Man)



CHIRP Program

Washington County CHIRP Program

On Friday, February 5, 2021, Governor Tom Wolf signed into law legislation that set aside \$145 million in funds to aid hospitality industry businesses adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the program required counties to establish grant programs for eligible businesses.

Washington County was allocated \$2,343,028 to provide grants to eligible businesses in the food service and hospitality sectors and partnered with the Washington Industrial Development Corporation (WIDC), a Certified Economic Development Organization (CEDO), to administer the program. In turn, the WIDC partnered with the MVA, another Washington County based CEDO, to provide capacity for processing applications. The WIDC and MVA worked to create county specific guidelines, application process and website (washcogrant.com) and opened the program for applications on March 15, 2021. The program remained open through June 15, 2021.

In total, 97 businesses were awarded grants through the program, with an average grant amount of \$23,557 supporting over 1,281 jobs in Washington County.

CHIRP Grants Awarded

■ Carlton Diner

704 Main St., Bentleyville, PA 15314

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$25,000

▲ **Impact:** "This grant will enable us to find employees who can help meet the demand for the dining services that we provide. Because we cannot seat as many patrons, due to distancing, we've had to cut staff hours. By using some of this funding for outdoor dining space, we can hire some additional staff to prepare, cook and serve the food."



■ Campys Pizza & Six Pack Shop

153 Wood St., California, PA 15419

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$25,000

▲ **Impact:** "It will help with maintaining the business expenses: the building maintenance, equipment, insurance and utilities. We are in a college town which is strictly driven by college students. The school has been shut down—no students, no business."

■ Ponce's Place

715 Route 481, Monongahela, PA 15063

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$25,000

▲ **Impact:** "This will help me keep my employees with steady work throughout this pandemic. This also will allow me to maintain operations through this time."

■ Norman Baker's Pub

464 Center Ave., North Charleroi, PA 15022

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$25,000

▲ **Impact:** "The financial loss due to extremely limited hours of operation has made it very difficult to pay overhead costs of the business. We have adhered fully to Governor Wolf's restrictions throughout the pandemic. In addition to loss of revenue, we incurred increased costs in order to maintain compliance with mitigation orders."

■ Bruno and Son's Diner & Catering

100 Stoops Dr., Suite 210, Monongahela, PA 15063

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$5,000

▲ **Impact:** "This grant will make up for lost revenue due to COVID-19. I operate a small diner, but a majority of our business is from catering. Due to large gatherings being prohibited we have less revenue this year."

■ The Early Bird Diner

522 McKean Ave., Donora, PA 15033

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$25,000

4 Washington County CHIRP Press Conference; CHIRP award recipients, Washington Industrial Development Corporation officials and MVA/MVAF staff gather at a local restaurant to celebrate the success of the CHIRP Program

In total, 97 businesses were awarded grants through CHIRP, with an average grant amount of \$23,557 supporting over 1,281 jobs in Washington County.



CHIRP Program *(cont'd)*

■ The White Barn Supper Club

2212 Route 88, Dunlevy, PA 15432

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$25,000

▲ **Impact:** "Thank you for taking The White Barn Supper Club into consideration for a grant. Any money that we receive will be highly appreciated. The financial impact will be HUGE: keeping the business employees employed, serving the community and also helping out on the day to day expenses—thank you."

■ Hills Restaurant

107 Main St., New Eagle, PA 15067

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$25,000

▲ **Impact:** "Restaurants were hit harder than any other industry during the pandemic and we have a long road left to recovery. I have used all my means to keep this place afloat and just need a lifeline to dig out of this hole we were tossed in. This grant will help ease the financial impact we have incurred over the past 12 months by helping buy inventory, pay utilities and cover labor costs."

■ Crazy Horse Hotel

28 South Main St., Ellsworth, PA 15331

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$25,000

▲ **Impact:** "This grant will allow us to catch up on utilities, wasted/expired products and help with maintaining an income for operations."

■ Lenzi's Restaurant

228 Gee St., Monongahela, PA 15063

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$25,000

▲ **Impact:** "It will allow me to keep operating doing takeout until I can reopen my dining room. We are a small business and do not have a large enough dining space to socially distance—we are trying to survive doing takeout only."

■ Rye's Bar & Restaurant

248 Old National Pike, Brownsville, PA 15417

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$25,000

▲ **Impact:** "At the start of the pandemic we closed the bar and restaurant. We delivered takeout only. We are a family owned business for 36+ years. I have been through it all, this was very stressful. My husband and I are in our 70's and scared is not the word—lost and terrified of losing loved ones. My daughter and son-in-law have stepped up to help us financially—something I cry about everyday. The last thing my daughter did was sell jewelry and pull money out of her retirement. We are planning in April to open up accordingly. We are at the end of the financial rope and I still need to get supplies and pay off distributors. Honestly, that's not what's important, I would never be able to rest in peace knowing that I owe anyone money. My husband and family agree they come first, pay debt and give to your community."

▲ **Impact:** "This grant will help us keep a small business open and running efficiently, providing a service for our community. This grant will allow us to maintain quality of service to show that a small business can thrive in this community. This grant will allow us to keep our small business open for employment of local individuals wanting to improve their current financial situation."

■ Vagabond Taco

437 McKean Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$25,000

▲ **Impact:** "Most events got cancelled and revenue dropped; this grant will help us stay in operation. Lock down and closure orders hurt our bookings and this grant will help market our services."

■ The Tap Factory

164 Coyle Curtain Rd., Monongahela, PA 15063

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$25,000

▲ **Impact:** "The grant will have an impact on our business by paying owed back bills, mortgage and other delinquent payments that we were unable to pay. We will use any grant money used solely to the business to assist with payroll so that our employees can continue to have jobs. We will also use this grant money to supply with needed food, beverages and any material that we have not been able to receive. Thank you for considering our family owned business."

■ Hunting Lodge II Restaurant & Lounge

3529 Washington Ave., Finleyville, PA 15332

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$25,000

▲ **Impact:** "This grant will give us the little boost that we need to be able to get us over another hurdle. We will use it to try to catch up on our products and inventory. Just in time to help us promote our spring promotions to maybe get our business back—thank you."

■ Eldorado Bar & Grill

1109 Route 837, Monongahela, PA 15063

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$25,000

▲ **Impact:** "The Eldorado Bar & Grill has been in existence for the last 12 years serving the Mon Valley. COVID-19 has impacted us greatly. This grant will help us get back on our feet for our community and the customers who are like family to us!"

The grant will impact our business by paying owed back bills, mortgage, other delinquent payments, purchase inventory and assist with payroll so that our employees can continue to have jobs. *(Tap Factory)*

CHIRP Program *(cont'd)*

We would use the CHIRP grant money to adapt to increased customer demand for outdoor dining and social distancing.
(The Back Porch Restaurant)

■ River House Cafe

506 McKean Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$25,000

▲ **Impact:** "This much needed grant will help replace some of the depleted 2020 budget for repairs and replacement of necessary restaurant equipment. It will also assist us in our operational expenses and the continuing employment of 36 employees and new hires who help stimulate the Mon Valley economy."

■ Allentown Marina

1933 Main St. P.O. Box 15, Allentown, PA 15412

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$25,000

▲ **Impact:** "This grant will provide the ability to continue to pay our employees, as well as to pay utility expenses and other costs of operation. Our sales have been drastically impacted by mandated closures by the governor's office."

■ Chubs Pub

107 Castner Ave., Donora, PA 15033

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$25,000

▲ **Impact:** "We are a bar/restaurant and due to COVID-19 we were shut down. This grant will help us survive and continue to operate our business."

■ Scoops on Main

930 Main St., Bentleyville, PA 15314

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$25,000

▲ **Impact:** "This grant will allow us to resume seminormal operations, help with the loss of food and products due to COVID-19 closures and pay utility bills that had to be paid regardless of being open."

■ Lagerheads

100 Spring St., Coal Center, PA 15423

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$25,000

▲ **Impact:** "This grant will allow us to procure equipment and update facilities that have been delayed over the last year, as well as prepare for operations at increased capacities by hiring additional staff."

■ Hugo's Restaurant Banquet & Catering Hall

687 National Pike, West Brownsville, PA 15417

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$25,000

▲ **Impact:** "This grant will afford us the ability to continue to operate at the fullest capacity allowed. We will use funds to continue to be a thriving local small business and asset to our community. Extra safety measures, as well as increased supply costs, have been exacting to maintain. This grant will ease a heavily carried burden."

■ Sigz Bistro

141 2nd St., California, PA 15419

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$15,000

▲ **Impact:** "Because of COVID-19, businesses were closed on March 16, 2020 by the state. Since we are a small bar in a college town, restriction on occupancy seating requirements, COVID-19 updates for businesses to be complaint and etc. have made it impossible to operate. My business is still closed due to students wanting to not mask, walk around with drinks, not use social distancing and congregate at the bar. Repeat cases of COVID-19 are happening in the town which is concerning for my health and my family's health."

■ The Back Porch Restaurant

114 Speers St., Belle Vernon, PA 15012

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$25,000

▲ **Impact:** "We would like to use the CHIRP grant money to adapt to increased customer demand for outdoor dining and social distancing. We will expand existing areas making our restaurant safer, more efficient and more comfortable for our customers and staff."

■ Hampton Inn & Suites California University-Pittsburgh

200 Technology Dr., Coal Center, PA 15423

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$25,000

▲ **Impact:** "The grant will allow the hotel to retain employees on payroll while the industry recovers as PA mandates are lifted and allow for greater occupancy."

■ Rego's Restaurant & Keyhole Bar

601 McKean Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$15,000

▲ **Impact:** "This grant will help Rego's Restaurant & Keyhole Bar become current with the mortgage through cfsbank as well as pay off utility bills that have accumulated over the year due to COVID-19."

■ Serendipity Tea Room & Cafe

127 Speer St., Belle Vernon, PA 15012

▲ **CHIRP Award:** \$20,000

▲ **Impact:** "This grant will allow me to invest in my business and allow me to return my business to a profitable operation. The continued added expense of having to deal with COVID-19 restrictions and CDC guidelines, has had major impact on the business. The grant funds will help to offset the cost of PPE, cleaning/sanitation supplies, rent, utilities and related materials."

Regional Enterprise Zone



The Mid Mon Valley Regional Enterprise Zone (REZ) completed its second successful year supporting businesses and jobs in the region, with the following grants awarded:

Companies Awarded REZ Grants in 2021				
Company	Location	Private Investment	Tax Credit Award	Jobs Created/Retained
RETAL PA, LLC	Donora Industrial Park	\$2,303,039	\$250,000	43
Barbican Gates, LLC	Brownsville	\$300,000	\$75,000	3
TOTALS		\$2,603,039	\$325,000	46

Participating Municipalities

- ▲ Washington County
 - Carroll Township
 - Charleroi Borough
 - Donora Borough
 - Dunlevy Borough
 - Fallowfield Township
 - Speers Borough
 - City of Monongahela
 - West Brownsville Borough
 - Allenport Borough
- ▲ Fayette County
 - Belle Vernon Borough
 - Brownsville Borough
- ▲ Westmoreland County
 - North Belle Vernon Borough
 - City of Monessen
 - West Newton Borough

Benefits of the Enterprise Zone Program

- ▲ Eligible businesses located within the zone receive priority consideration for the following:
 - State government contracts
 - Mon Valley Alliance Foundation Low Interest Business Creation and Sustainability Loan Fund

- Any resource administered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that would assist in leveraging imminent business investment and job creation in an Enterprise Zone
- State issued Liquor License Applications
- Financial assistance to clean up contaminated sites under Act II
- ▲ Additionally, for profit businesses investing in rehabilitating, expanding or improving buildings or land located within the REZ that result in job creation or retention can apply for Pennsylvania State Tax Credits of up to \$500,000 based on the following criteria:
 - 25% of total project cost with a maximum credit of \$500,000
 - Tax credits can be used over a five-year period or sold
 - Application period is generally July 1–August 31 of each year, pending the annual Pennsylvania budget and/or program review

The REZ awarded grants to RETAL PA, LLC and Barbican Gates, LLC in 2021—its second successful year.

Industrial Park News



There are 30 acres pad ready for new construction at Alta Vista Business Park.

Donora Industrial Park

RETAL PA, LLC announced the expansion of production capacity with the installation of one additional Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) line—increasing production by 20% and adding three additional jobs in the facility. PET is the chemical name for polyester and is a clear, strong and lightweight plastic that is widely used for packaging foods and beverages—especially convenience-sized soft drinks, juices and water. Virtually all single-serving and two-liter bottles of carbonated soft drinks and water sold in the U.S. are made from PET.

Alta Vista Business Park

Alta Vista Business Park currently has 30 acres of pad ready sites available for new construction with tax abatement programs in place. Contact us at [724-565-5636](tel:724-565-5636) for more information.

5 Alta Vista Business Park



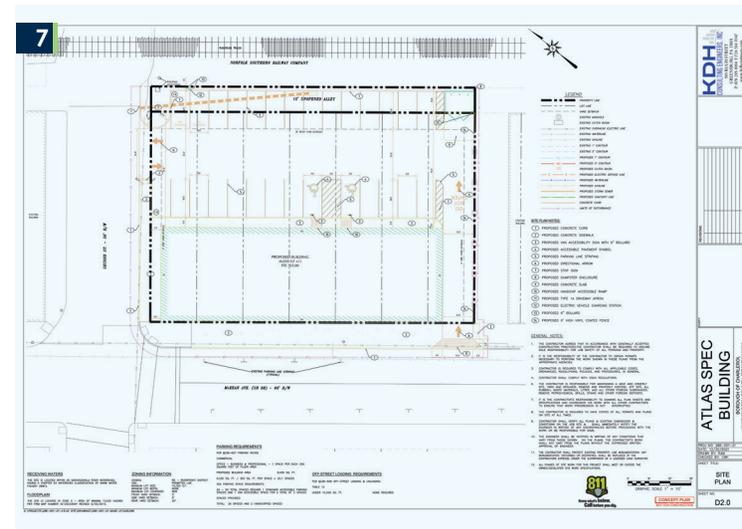
Available Properties

Available for Lease

■ 335 McKean Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022

- ▲ New office building was announced on the site of the former Atlas Merchandising Co. building and Bill's Feed & Garden Center in Charleroi
- ▲ 6,300 sq. ft.
- ▲ Designed to complement the surrounding land uses
- ▲ Contain 24 on-site parking spaces
- ▲ Available for lease to new or expanding businesses in the area
- ▲ Total investment is expected to be approximately \$1,100,000

- ▲ The Washington County Local Share Account Program has granted \$350,000 to the project
- ▲ The final result is expected to bring approximately \$665,000 in yearly economic development to the area—supporting up to eight new jobs
- ▲ Construction is expected to begin in 3Q22, with occupancy by 2Q23
- ▲ The Alliance is seeking businesses for the building that will contribute to the economic and community development of the surrounding area; for additional information, please contact us at **724-565-5636** or **info@monvalleyalliance.org**



6 Artist rendering of the future Charleroi flexible office space

7 Artist rendering of the future Charleroi flexible office space

Lease a space
for you business
in the new
Charleroi, PA
office building set
to be finished in
2Q23.

Projects in the Community

Check out some of the “Magic City” Riverfront Park’s features: new boat trailer spaces, lighting, sidewalks, rain gardens, meadow plantings and etc.



“Magic City” Riverfront Park

Phase I was completed in late 2021 with an official grand opening set for Spring of 2022. The Phase I project enhanced the usability of the park by adding eight boat trailer parking spaces, an underground electrical grid, overhead lighting, security cameras, sidewalks, rain gardens and meadow plantings. This project was supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as a brownfield to playfield pilot project—additional funding was provided by the Washington County Local Share Account Program, the Washington County Tourism Promotion Agency and the MVAF.



8 Before the completion of Phase I; long narrow drive to the Charleroi Boat Launch

9 After the completion of Phase I; spacious area for boat owners to safely back their boat into the launch

10 Charleroi “Magic City” Riverfront Park ribbon cutting

Projects in the Community *(cont'd)*

Business Resource Center

In October, the MVAF, with the financial contributions of Community Bank and the Washington County Community Foundation, established the Business Resource Center (BRC) in Monongahela, PA. The BRC will provide a modern, functional space in the Mon Valley region for businesses to engage with non-profit, educational and government services providers.

The BRC will serve as a central hub for new business development, ongoing training, support and incubation for new and growing businesses in the region, as well as hosting the offices for the MVA/MVAF.

Located in the heart of downtown Monongahela on a public transportation route, the BRC will also allow for the renovation of a blighted property (former 1970s bank branch) and help to further the redevelopment of one of our region's historic downtowns.

The MVAF will oversee the facility, providing: scheduling, programming and administrative services. Partner organizations will have no cost access for meetings, group presentations, training sessions, drop in offices and business support services. Although not an exhaustive list, the following organizations have expressed interest in utilizing the BRC:

- University of Pittsburgh Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
- Washington & Jefferson College IGNITE Program
- Pennsylvania Western University California Campus
- Catalyst Connection
- Pittsburgh Technology Council
- Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
- Bridgeway Capital



11 Artist rendering of the future Mon Valley Business Resource Center

Find out how the BRC can help your business—it serves as a central hub for new business development, ongoing training, support, incubation for new and growing businesses and much more.

Mon Valley Alliance Foundation

Mon Valley Paws will use the grant to provide healthcare to rescued animals in local shelters and service dogs for Veterans, medical services and senior citizens.



MVAF Town-to-Town Mini Grant Program

The MVAF Town-to-Town Mini Grant Program supports projects from non-profit based organizations in the Mon Valley whose missions advance education, faith-based entities, community and economic development, and other organizations whose main purpose is to benefit quality of life in the Mon Valley. The program started in 2018 with funding through the sales of Mon Valley-Opoly games. In 2021, cfsbank partnered with the MVAF to provide an annual donation in order to give more organizations a Town-to-Town Mini Grant. If you are interested in donating to the Town-to-Town Mini Grant Fund, please contact Kelly Ellin.

■ Aquatorium Innovations

Aquatorium Innovations, Inc. received a grant to help with advertising of the 2021 summer concert series. Aquatorium Innovations is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization, utilizing the Noble J. Dick Aquatorium to encourage residents and visitors to shop, dine and explore downtown Monongahela, PA. The Aquatorium is a first of its kind—3,700+ seat, riverfront, outdoor auditorium located in the heart of downtown Monongahela, PA. Aquatorium Innovations hosts “Rockin’ on the Mon” an annual concert series that brings the community and visitors together for low-cost entertainment each summer. For more information or to volunteer, please contact info@monaquatorium.org or call **724-258-5905**.

■ Mon Valley Paws

Mon Valley Paws (MVP) is a non-profit charity established in February of 2020 from the former sponsors of the PuppyUp Monessen. MVP works to help individuals or other non-profits specializing in the healthcare of the animals that they rescue. The grant funding will be used to provide healthcare to rescued animals through partnerships with the United States Veterans Service Dogs, Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs, Inc., local shelters and assistance to senior citizens through the Mon Valley Paws Senior Citizen Grant. For more information or to volunteer, please contact monvalleypaws@gmail.com or visit their website at monvalleypaws.com for upcoming events.

- 12** LEFT TO RIGHT: **Danielle Maurer** (Chief Marketing Officer, cfsbank); **Michael Thornton** (Board Member, MVA/MVAF); **Christine Somaes** (Secretary, Aquatorium Innovations, Inc.); **Gina C. Lynn** (Board Member, MVA/MVAF); **Kelly Jo Ellin** (Office Manager, MVA/MVAF)
- 13** LEFT TO RIGHT: **Front Row: Roberta Boso**; **Back Row: Randy Marino; Mary Earl; Rick Alcorn; Sharon Lewgood; Danielle Maurer** (Chief Marketing Officer, cfsbank); **John Gill** (President & CEO, cfsbank); **Kelly Jo Ellin** (Office Manager, MVA/MVAF)

Mon Valley Alliance Foundation (cont'd)

■ Girls on the Run

Girls on the Run is a national non-profit that focuses on building self-confidence, understanding the importance of physical and emotional health and learning life skills for girls in grades three–eight through running, group activities and coaching from local volunteers. A Mon Valley chapter is in development with plans for a summer camp, weekly and monthly group runs and other activities. The MVAF Town-to-Town Mini Grant will jump start the new chapter and host a group of underserved girls in the Mon Valley area providing running shoes, shirts, shorts and entrance fees for competitive races. The program starts in April and continues through May.

Stephanie Masters (local Mon Valley HR Professional) is leading the development of the organization and inviting interested participants to contact her at **412-302-8175** or **stephanieamasters@gmail.com** for more information.

■ Monongahela Area Historical Society

The Monongahela Area Historical Society received a grant to assist in hosting “History is Fun” days at the David Longwell House to instill hometown pride in our youngest residents and teach them about the history and heritage of the town. The Monongahela Area Historical Society is a non-profit organization that works to preserve Monongahela’s history and improve the local community, while promoting tourism and economic development for the area. The organization is currently located in the David Longwell House on West Main Street in Monongahela’s historical district—they have owned the house for two years and will be celebrating its 150th birthday next year. The David Longwell House is listed on the National Register of Historical Places and is actively being restored to its original state. Donation opportunities will be coming soon to support the restoration and upcoming events. For more information visit **mahs-pa.org**.



■ The Salvation Army Mon Valley Corps

The former Monessen Salvation Army, now called The Salvation Army Mon Valley Corps, received a grant to purchase hygiene products for low-income teens and college students in the Mon Valley. The Salvation Army Mon Valley Corps is a non-profit organization whose mission is to meet human needs without discrimination, as an international movement with an evangelical part

of the universal Christian Church. They help the Mon Valley area by hosting food pantries, toy drives, weekly church services and many community activities. They are accepting any hygiene product donations that can be dropped off from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm at the Donora headquarters: 800 Thompson Ave., Donora, PA 15033. For more information call **724-684-4282** or visit **<https://easternusa.salvationarmy.org/western-pennsylvania/monvalley/>**.

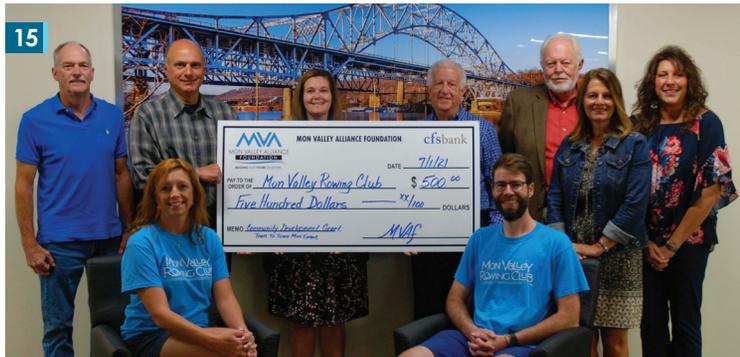
14 LEFT TO RIGHT: **Kelly Jo Ellin** (Office Manager, MVA/MVAF); **Laura Magone** (Board Member, Monongahela Area Historical Society); **Nicole Durie** (Charleroi Branch Manager, cfsbank); **Ray Mosco** (Business Development Officer, cfsbank)

Please drop off hygiene products for low-income teens and college students at The Salvation Army Mon Valley Corps between 9:30 am and 5:00 pm at 800 Thompson Ave., Donora, PA 15033.

Mon Valley Alliance Foundation

(cont'd)

The Village of FPC, in California, PA, is one of the highest quality preschools in America.



■ The Mon Valley Rowing Club

The Mon Valley Rowing Club (MVR) was granted funds to assist with outreach initiatives to encourage rowing as an extracurricular activity for students in the Mon Valley region. A local non-profit organization based in Belle Vernon, PA, the Mon Valley Rowing Club operates a Junior Rowing Program for students in grades eight–twelve from schools throughout the Mon Valley. Students are matched with an adult leader in a mentoring relationship as they work to build a strong work ethic, gain big picture exposure, make college connections and experience relational growth. The organization offers need-based scholarships to any youth who wants to

participate and strives to help them receive scholarship opportunities for higher education. For more information, please contact monvalleyrowingclub@gmail.com or visit their website at monvalleyrowingclub.org.

■ The Village of FPC

The Village of FPC received a grant to help purchase electronic tablets for The Village site teachers. The Village is a non-profit childcare and preschool located in California, PA. The Village provides free preschool to single parents who are enrolled full-time in an educational program that will enable them to find better employment and better means to support their children. Being accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young



Children, The Village is one of the highest quality preschools in America. This grant will help provide the teachers with tablets to document child learning, provide assessment reports, allow teachers to provide daily reports to the families and communicate with the parents. For more information call [724-330-5525](tel:724-330-5525) or visit thevillagecares.org.

housed at The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County (CFWC). The fund was created from a settlement obtained by PennEnvironment from ArcelorMittal, the former operator of a coke plant in Monessen, PA.

PennEnvironment chose CFWC to administer the fund because of the foundation's knowledge of community issues and connections to the neighborhoods. The goal is to fund projects that improve air quality and reduce vehicle emissions in the communities affected by air pollution from the coke plant. CFWC partnered with the MVAF to identify community needs and assist in developing a strategy and an application process for distributing Vehicle Emission Reduction Fund grants.

Municipal Support

Carroll Township

Carroll Township has a new clean, low-emission Ford Police Interceptor utility vehicle serving the citizens of the community, thanks to a grant from a \$300,000 Vehicle Emissions Reduction Fund

15 LEFT TO RIGHT: *Standing:* Tom Fischer (Treasurer, MVR); Ray Mosco (Business Development Officer, cfsbank); Danielle Maurer (Chief Marketing Officer, cfsbank); Armand Ferrara (Board Member, MVR); Mike Skirpan (Board Member, MVR); Gina C. Lynn (Board Member, MVA/MVAF); Kelly Jo Ellin (Office Manager, MVA/MVAF); *Seated:* Rachel Willson (President & Co-Coach, MVR); Tim Wolfgang (Board Member & Co-Coach, MVR)

16 LEFT TO RIGHT: Ben Brown (Former CEO, MVA/MVAF); Ken Hillman, Gary Lenzi and Thomas Rapp (Supervisors, Carroll Township); Paul Brand (Chief of Police, Carroll Township)



Mon Valley Alliance Foundation

(cont'd)

Municipal Grant Program

Dunlevy Borough

In December, the MVAF provided a second round grant of \$9,603 for completion of the new Walnut Street Extension/Rail Crossing and associated resurfacing of adjoining streets within the Borough.

First Responders' Gift Cards

Campbell Family Donation

The MVAF received a \$5,000 donation from the N. David and Janet M. Campbell Family Foundation to support local restaurants and community first responders.

The funds were used to purchase 250 gift cards from multiple, locally owned, Mon Valley restaurants and were disbursed to local police and fire departments as an expression of gratitude for their service and dedication to our local communities.

The fourteen communities (Allenport, Belle Vernon, Brownsville, Carroll, Charleroi, Donora, Dunlevy, Fallowfield, Monessen, Monongahela, North Belle Vernon, Speers, West Brownsville, West Newton) that comprise the Mid Mon Valley Regional Enterprise Zone were selected to distribute the restaurant gift cards to police and firefighters. For more information go to: <https://www.monvalleyalliance.org/rez>.



17 LEFT TO RIGHT: Ben Brown (Former CEO, MVA/MVAF); **J. Ross Landman** (Mayor, Borough of Dunlevy); **Becky Hammond** (President of Council, Borough of Dunlevy); **Dana Landman** (Vice President of Council, Borough of Dunlevy); **Mike Deenihan** (Councilmember, Borough of Dunlevy); **John LaCarte** (Vice Chairman, MVA/MVAF)

18 LEFT TO RIGHT: Todd King (Chief, West Brownsville Fire Dept.); **Daphne: Kelly Jo Ellin** (Office Manager, MVA/MVAF)

MVAF Business Creation and Sustainability Loan Fund

Business Assistance

The MVA has been designated as a Certified Economic Development Organization (CEDO) from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). CEDOs are a network of non-profit economic development organizations partnering with the DCED to administer the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA), First Industries (FIF) and other state sponsored loan programs.

PIDA Loan Program

The PIDA Loan Program provides low-interest loans and lines of credit to Pennsylvania businesses that commit to creating and retaining full-time jobs within the commonwealth, as well as for the development of industrial parks and multi-tenant facilities.

■ Eligible Uses

- ▲ Land and building acquisition
- ▲ Construction and renovation costs
- ▲ Machinery and equipment
- ▲ Working capital and accounts receivable lines of credit
- ▲ Working capital term loans

■ Lending Amounts

- ▲ Up to \$2,250,000: real estate lending
- ▲ Up to \$1,500,000: machinery and equipment lending
- ▲ Up to \$100,000: working capital term loans and lines of credit

■ Loan Terms

- ▲ Up to 15 years: land and building acquisitions; construction and renovation costs
- ▲ Up to 10 years: machinery and equipment purchases
- ▲ Up to 3 years: working capital term loans

Have an idea?

Business plan?

Desire to grow your existing business?

Need for funding?

The MVAF Business Creation and Sustainability Loan Fund can be your partner in success.

Loans from \$1,000–\$50,000 for retail, services, commercial, manufacturing or industrial projects. Favorable interest rate of Prime minus 1.5% with up to 7-year terms available.¹

¹ Subject to credit approval, terms and conditions apply.

■ Interest Rates and Fees

- ▲ The interest rates and fees charged by PIDA are very competitive and rates are typically 1–2% below the industry standard
- ▲ Options include fixed and variable reset rates
- ▲ A 1% commitment fee is charged for loans greater than \$400,000 and additional fees and closing costs may be charged by the originating CEDO

The MVAF Business Creation and Sustainability Loan Fund can be your partner in success.

Supporting MVAF

Support the MVAF by purchasing the Mon Valley-Opoly game or donating to the Mon Valley Community Development Fund.

■ The Mon Valley Community Development Fund

This fund provides ongoing capital support for economic and community development projects that supply public amenities that improve the quality of life. Projects may include acquisition of buildings and land, site preparation or demolition, creation or improvement of public spaces, development projects and matching funds for federal, state or local grant programs. The fund will also facilitate regional level planning initiatives for the Mon Valley.

■ General Giving

The Mon Valley Alliance Foundation can also accept donations of cash, property or Town-to-Town Mini Grant sponsors.

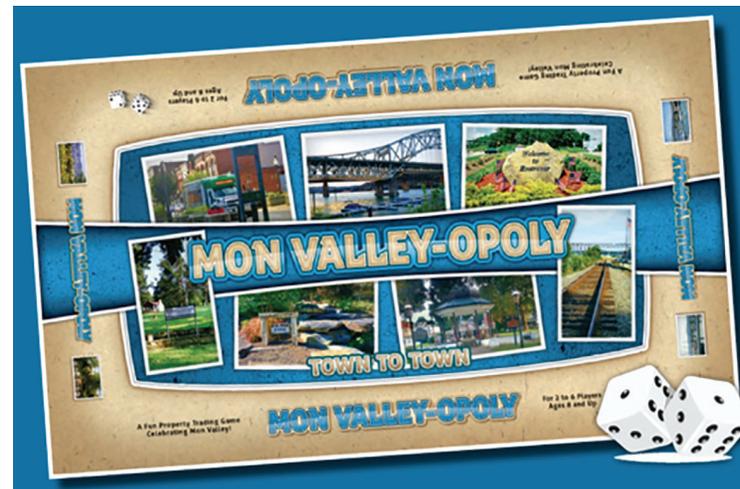
The funds have been set up under the Mon Valley Alliance Foundation, a registered 501 (c)(3) organization, enabling contributors to receive a full tax deduction for all contributions. Donations can be made online at monvalleyalliance.org or by check to **Mon Valley Alliance Foundation, 235 West Main St., Monongahela, PA 15063.**

▲ Previous Sponsors and Contributors, *thank you*

- First Energy Foundation
- N. David and Janet M. Campbell Family Foundation
- Washington County Community Foundation
- Community Foundation of Westmoreland County

■ Mon Valley-Opoly

Want to own an important part of the Mon Valley? Now you can with the purchase of the Mon Valley-Opoly, a custom-made board game patterned after the iconic family-oriented game with a similar-sounding name. Games can be purchased for **\$5** each at: monvalleyalliance.org. All proceeds fund the MVAF Town-to-Town Mini Grant Program.



thank you
to our previous
sponsors and
contributors.

Partnering Together to Bring You
Professional Creative and Printing Services
Proud Supporters of the Mon Valley Alliance and Mon Valley Alliance Foundation

MVA/MVAF Annual Report Designed by:



Louri Bean-Sholtas • Owner/Creative Director/Graphic Designer
Brownsville, PA 15417 • **724-785-2299** (o/c) • **HUBZone Certified**

MVA/MVAF Annual Report Printed by:



BADZIK Printing Service, Inc.

Tim Urda • Owner/President
Donora, PA 15033 • **724-379-4299** (o) • **412-215-1194** (c)
Serving the greater Mon Valley area for over 70 years



Address:
235 West Main St.
Monongahela, PA 15063

Phone:
724-565-5636

Website:
monvalleyalliance.org

© 2022 Mon Valley Alliance and Mon Valley Alliance Foundation
All Rights Reserved
Printed in USA
LBC-266
August 2022

All trademarks are property of their respective owners.