

#1 | ON THE PLUS SIDE



Your gift will provide a student with an *Everyday Language Reference Set: Thesaurus, Dictionary, and Vocabulary Builder.*

75% of Philadelphia's high school students come from low-income families. Only 10% of the city's students go on to earn a college degree. Its public high schools have a 600:1 student to counselor ratio, and over 50% of those schools have no college access program.

12+ is on a mission to give every student access to the opportunities they deserve. Founded in 2010, it partners with high schools in underserved communities across Philadelphia and, since 2022, in Camden, NJ. From advising, mentorship, and academic guidance to grade-level workshops and school-wide events, 12+ provides 1:1 academic and post-secondary counseling, ensuring that all students who participate in its 12+ Center programs graduate with a dedicated post-secondary plan.

✚ A symbol of college attainment, the "PLUS Center" is structured within the walls of each partner school and functions as a central hub for all college readiness and access services for the entire student body.

Since its inception, 12+ has helped open doors for over 2000 students, measurably improving their graduation and post-secondary outcomes. This success has not only helped to foster meaningful, sustainable change for students and high schools alike; it has also brought 12+ national recognition as a model educational program that helps students succeed in college as well as in life.

12plus.org

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SWARTHMORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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#2 | BACKPACK POWER



CEPAD
COUNCIL OF PROTESTANT
CHURCHES OF NICARAGUA

SPC WORLD MISSION PARTNER
CEPADNICA.ORG

BACKPACK PROJECT



Your gift will provide a village child with a backpack filled with two notebooks, a box of pencils, and rulers.

CEPAD works in extremely poor communities where families have few resources and cannot meet the educational needs of their sons and daughters. Its school backpack project helps contribute to community education by encouraging children to attend school and reduce absenteeism. This year's ACS support for CEPAD will help serve 100 children in Matagalpa and El Jicaral.

Under CEPAD's Sustainable Community Organization Program, group leaders within each community voluntarily oversee projects, including the construction of more community schools to ensure that children need not walk more than a mile to receive an education.

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#3 | LAUNDROMAT LIBRARY



**Your gift will provide
one children's book in Spanish.**

"Read it. Love it. Pass it on."

These words are on each book in a decorated box at a local laundromat. They sum up the mission of the Laundromat Library League, which creates mini-libraries in laundromats. Children of all ages, many from families unable to afford books, are invited while awaiting their laundry, to read a book, take it home, and pass it to another child.

Founded in 2014 by two Chester County, PA, women, the League has 225 sites in 30 states. It has received more than 100,000 books, most from libraries, schools, homes, and book sale leftovers. Donations have paid for hundreds more in Spanish or with multicultural themes. Volunteers recruit laundromat owners to participate, create colorful boxes for the books, and replenish books as needed.

www.laundromatlibraryleague.org

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#4 | JOYOUS SOUNDS



Musicopia™
For a Well Played Life

**Your gift will
provide students with
reeds, drumsticks, or
strings.**

musicopia.net

Musicopia is a Philadelphia-based non-profit organization with a mission to provide equitable access to music education and enrichment for students pre-K – 12 and their communities. Its programs represent musical styles and traditions from around the world, including classical, jazz, Latin, African, Middle Eastern, opera, hip hop, rock/pop, and more.

Since its founding in 1974, Musicopia has become a recognized leader in rebuilding and revitalizing school music programs that promote self-confidence, global awareness, dedication, and joy. More than 370,000 children throughout the Delaware Valley have experienced the benefits of first-hand exposure to the arts through Musicopia.

A teaching roster of over 150 professional ensembles and solo musicians provides in-school music education as well as after-school string orchestra and drum-lines programs.

Its Gift of Music Instrument Donation Program has collected and repaired more than 6,000 donated musical instruments. More than \$1 million worth of new and repaired instruments have been placed with students and schools where they are needed most, providing access to instruments that otherwise would not have been available.

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#5 | MUSIC MAGIC



udmusicman.udfoundation.org

Your gift will provide one student with a lesson book and sheet music.



Brad Schoener was a music teacher in the Upper Darby School District of Philadelphia. An avid supporter of young musicians, he was known as the district's Music Man and Pied Piper. He believed that music is instrumental in developing young minds and spirits.

Upper Darby School District is the home to over 12,000 students. Most of the district's schools are Title I, with at least 40% of families qualifying for free or reduced lunch. The Brad Schoener Memorial Fund aims to reduce the economic barriers to playing music.

Before he passed away from cancer in 2009, Brad had hoped to accomplish three things: provide lessons for talented Upper Darby students who might not be able to afford them, provide instruments for all elementary students who have a desire to learn, and establish a summer music camp.

Established in 2013, the Brad Schoener Memorial Fund has brought Brad's wishes to life, providing arts education to Upper Darby students through the Music Man Academy. This seven-week summer program offers music instruction workshops throughout Upper Darby to talented students who might not otherwise have access to those opportunities, setting them on the road to fulfilling their talents and dreams.

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#6 | EMPOWERING AFGHAN GIRLS



Your gift will provide school supplies.

One March morning in 2016, two dozen girls walked onto SOLA's campus in Kabul – Afghanistan's first and only all-girls boarding school – for the first time. This inaugural class of 6th graders had chosen a path unthinkable under the Taliban's regime just 15 years earlier. With the return of the Taliban to Afghanistan in 2021, SOLA now operates in Rwanda.

In the Pashto language, *sola* means peace.

At its heart, SOLA is the story of the bravery of its students, their families, and the people of Afghanistan. SOLA's mission is to educate Afghan girls, grades pre-6 through 10, to be compassionate, curious, confident women with leadership skills that will one day help to rebuild Afghanistan and guide their homeland into a better future.

While operating in Kabul, SOLA drew students from every ethnic group and nearly every province in Afghanistan, aiming to create a network of Afghan sisterhood stronger than any geographic or cultural barrier. This work continues in Rwanda, where new students represent the Afghan diaspora, especially from communities forced from home by the Taliban's return.

In 2023, SOLA received 1,950 applications for a class of 25, dwarfing its high of 264 in 2021.

sola-afghanistan.org

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**The Bee & Butterfly
Habitat Fund**

beeandbutterflyfund.org

Your gift will provide a pollinator seed mix to support new projects in Pennsylvania.

North America has 4000 native bee species. More than half of them are in decline; 25% are at risk of extinction. One third of our food results from bee pollination, so declining bee populations also threaten our food security.

The Bee & Butterfly Habitat Fund establishes high quality pollinator habitats to ensure that honeybee and monarch butterfly populations thrive. Through their Seed a Legacy Pollinator Habitat Program, they work with landowners, conservationists, scientists, and beekeepers to build healthy and sustainable pollinator habitats with maximum benefits. They precisely target pollinators' needs by engineering projects that provide appropriate bloom diversity, density, and duration to optimize forage potential. In Fall of 2023, they are expanding their Seed a Legacy Program to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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#8 | DAWG LOVE



facebook.com/delcodawgs

Your gift will provide one dog bed for a rescued animal.



Delco Dawgs works to heal the hurts dealt to companion animals that have fallen through the cracks to become injured, homeless, sick, or lost. They rescue abused or neglected animals, provide the best medical care possible to sick or injured animals, foster abandoned animals, and work tirelessly to find lost pets and reunite them with their families.



heal the hurting, fix the broken, reunite the lost

Founded in 2016 as primarily a search and rescue, Delco Dawgs is a group of volunteers who have dedicated their lives to saving animals. They will work 24/7 looking for lost pets. The organization has expanded their mission to rescue injured animals and provide appropriate medical care. Every cent donated goes to saving lives.

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#9 | PLANTING THE FUTURE



Villaconata, Peru. Credit: Wade Million.



globalforestgeneration.org

**Your gift will provide
20 Polylepis tree
seedlings.**

Global Forest Generation, founded in 2018 by conservationists with decades of experience protecting Latin America's vulnerable ecosystems, is scaling up a community-based reforestation model that has already resulted in the planting of over 3 million native trees.

Forests are the game changer in fighting climate change. They are nature's massive carbon collectors. They ensure water security. They protect endangered wildlife. And reforestation provides vital community benefits. It's all about restoring forest ecosystems.

GFG's first initiative, Acción Andina, led by Latin American partners, will restore and protect the native Polylepis forest ecosystem of the Andes Mountains. The world's highest elevation forest (now significantly fragmented) grows along a 3,000-mile corridor in seven countries and can play a crucial role in responding to the challenges of climate change and ensuring drinking water for local peoples.

The goal of Acción Andina, which may require 25 years to complete, is the protection of 1.2 million acres of remaining Polylepis forest and the reforestation of an additional 1.2 million acres.

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#10 | SET ME FREE



**OCEAN
DEFENDERS
ALLIANCE**

Working for a debris free sea

**Your gift will provide a serrated knife
to cut nets and set marine life free.**

Coastal waters everywhere are littered with man-made debris – plastics, garbage, and abandoned fishing gear – which adversely affects the ecosystem.

The Ocean Defenders Alliance is a group of people who are working to combat marine pollution with the goal of protecting all marine life and their habitats – from the giant whales to the smallest animals and plants on the ocean floor. Operating from ship and shore, the Ocean Defenders all-volunteer boat and dive crews remove abandoned fishing nets, traps, lines, plastic, and other man-made debris threatening ocean wildlife and habitats. The result is cleaner and safer ocean waters for marine life as well as humans.

Every year, more than 800,000 tons of commercial fishing gear is lost in our global oceans.

Ocean Defenders Alliance was founded in 2000. Since then hundreds of volunteer divers have removed tons of deadly man-made debris. In addition, presentations have helped educate thousands of school children, business and civic groups, and dive club members, and the “Alliance” of concerned citizens and organizations is growing.

oceandefenders.org

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#11 | TOGETHER, WE THRIVE

AKASHINGA



Your gift will help provide rangers with the essential gear they need to protect wildlife every day.

An innovative nature conservation organization, Akashinga (formerly the International Anti-Poaching Foundation) creates resilient ecosystems where nature, wildlife, and communities can thrive. In collaboration with local communities, its team of all-female anti-poaching rangers safeguards more than nine million acres of wilderness in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Botswana previously reserved for and financed by trophy hunting. Called one of the best community-driven conservation models currently in operation, Akashinga is based on the idea that if a community understands the economic benefits of preserving animals, then it will eliminate poaching without an armed struggle.

Akashinga means “brave ones” in the Shona language of Zimbabwe. Where Akashinga operates, poaching has been eliminated by over 80%, and wildlife has increased by nearly 400%.

Akashinga’s female-centric approach to conservation elevates and empowers communities and women as leaders protecting wildlife and the critical wilderness landscapes they call home. In an industry where men outnumber women by 100:1, Akashinga places women in authentic roles and creates pathways to foster the next generation of female conservation experts. Local women are at the forefront of courageous efforts to restore key wilderness landscapes in innovative ways that work hand in hand with local communities and offer vital sustainable livelihoods. Life for many of Akashinga’s wildlife rangers also means the opportunity to buy property, send their children to school, get a driver’s license, finish their education, and thoroughly provide for their families. Brave ones, indeed.

akashinga.org

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#12 | HELP IS HERE



**Your gift will help
provide one family with
financial counseling
and education.**

openhearthinc.org

A leader in resource coordination and community building, Open Hearth, Inc. provides innovative programs to support and empower people to end the cycle of homelessness, acquire affordable housing, a means of transportation, and workforce opportunities, and achieve financial stability. It operates in Chester County and Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, two of the state's wealthiest counties where 6% of the population lives below the federal poverty line.

Open Hearth's Financial Insight and Resource Management (FIRM) program is an award-winning, comprehensive one-on-one assessment program centered on financial education. It is designed to help individuals and families gain basic awareness of their financial situation and oftentimes discover the root cause of their financial hardship.

FIRM works with the participant to map a solution to avoid similar problems in the future, while also supporting the development and growth of families' and individuals' financial assets and resources.

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#13 | SANCTUARY VILLAGE



KEY NOTES

- 1 SHARED BATHROOM
- 2 SHARED KITCHENETTE
- 3 SHARED DINING & LOUNGE SPACE
- 4 EXISTING ADJACENT PARKING AREA
- 5 EXISTING PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY
- 6 EXISTING ADJACENT BUILDING
- 7 EXISTING VEHICLE ACCESS ROAD
- 8 STORAGE SHED
- 9 COMMON BUILDING
- 10 COURTYARD
- 11 PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY
- 12 ADDITIONAL SITE PARKING

SPC LOCAL MISSION | tinyhousecommunity.org/faq



Your gift will help provide building materials for a home.

Sanctuary Village is a planned tiny house community designed to address chronic street homelessness in the City of Philadelphia, one person at a time, by providing security and social services in a community setting. The first village will be built at 7979 Street Road in Holmesburg and will provide its residents (women aged 55 years and older who have been experiencing homelessness) with essential basic needs: stability, safety, privacy, and the ability to stay warm and dry. The houses will be 8 feet x 12 feet with a 4-foot front porch.

While traditional homeless shelters are generally cheaper to construct than conventional low-income housing units, they rank on par with the streets as a living preference, because shelters often enforce strict rules and do not include private space. A transitional tiny house village, on the other hand, offers a cost-effective means for providing an intermediate shelter option while preserving individual autonomy, privacy, and responsibility.

Sanctuary Village is bringing people together from various backgrounds, communities, and faith traditions to build a community of security, hope, and healing. With this security and the case management to be offered, residents will be able to move on to permanent housing when ready.

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#14 | "COOKIT" SOLAR



Your gift will help to provide one locally built solar cooker for Kenya's Kakuma Refugee Camp.



Approximately 1 in 3 people today lack modern fuel to cook food. That's roughly 2.6 billion people who cook over wood, animal waste, or charcoal fires because they lack sustainable fuel to cook meals and make water safe to drink.

Founded in 1987, Solar Cookers International works to improve human health, economic well-being, women's empowerment, and the environment by researching, testing, and promoting through advocacy and training zero-emission solar cooking for vulnerable populations worldwide. In addition to its advocacy and research, it designed CookIt, a cardboard oven, by request of the United Nation's Refugee Agency as a solar cooker that could be made easily and affordably anywhere in the world.

The history of solar cooking dates to the 1200s when people sun-dried fruits, vegetables, fish, and meats to preserve them. Today a single solar cooking system, the world's largest, can cook nearly 34,000 meals and boil 3000 liters of tea. At a more local level, solar cookers help reduce the high social, economic, and environmental costs of black soot and fossil fuel emissions that impact all humans and environments. A single solar cooker preserves more than one ton of wood every year. And by reducing the demand for biomass fuels, mature trees left in the environment create an invaluable carbon sink that helps cool the planet.

solarcookers.org

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#15 | FRIDGE FIXINS



Your gift will
provide sandwich
fixins.



Neighbors building communal bonds by helping neighbors is on full display at Germantown Community Fridges. Located in the Philadelphia, PA, neighborhood of Germantown, which has one of the city's highest poverty rates, the fridge and food pantry operates 24/7 to help fight hunger and food insecurity in the district.

In 2020 as teaching went virtual during the pandemic, Jane Ellis, a fourth-grade teacher at Greene Street Friends School, pitched the idea of "Germantown Fridge" to the school as a way to connect with her students and the community. What then began as one of the city's first community fridges, located across from the school, is now two very busy sidewalk fridges and pantries (the other across from a local church) that testify to the power and promise of community caring for one another.

Provided by the community, for the community, anyone who needs food is welcome to take it, and it's always free. Maintained and stocked by volunteers, with donor support, both perishable and non-perishable items are available, including fruits, vegetables, pantry items, bread, water, and homemade meals.

germantowncommunityfridge.org

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#16 | HELP WITH HYGIENE



Your gift will provide a package of diapers for a baby in need.

Many basic nonfood items are unaffordable to people who are struggling to make ends meet. Whether its personal care products for babies and adults, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, or clean socks and underwear, demand has surged since the pandemic and is showing no signs of abating.

Founded in 2017, Individuals Aiding in Emergencies (IAE) Foundation is a grassroots nonprofit distribution center based in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Its mission is to ensure immediate access to hygiene products and other life-sustaining resources for individuals and families impacted by serious or unexpected events.

IAE is currently the only organization in Delaware County to focus its efforts on the large-scale distribution of essential household goods to other community partners when their own donated supplies become low. As a distribution center, it provides items in bulk to a network of local, hands-on organizations already well-equipped to deliver aid where it's needed most.

Among its many partnerships are Loaves of Love, Delaware County Domestic Abuse Project, Mount Hope Church, Horizon House, and Making A Change Group. It has also partnered with schools in Chester, Ridley, and Philadelphia. Fundraising and in-kind donations allow IAE to develop special programs, which last year included filling 250 Christmas stockings for Grands Stepping Up, coincidentally an ACS selection in 2022 as well.

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Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry

delcoloavesandfishes.org

**Your gift will provide fresh vegetables
for a family in need.**

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry in Prospect Park, PA began as a traditional food pantry 20 years ago. To meet the growing needs of its increasingly diverse community, the pantry became a grocery store in 2022, providing a whole new experience for its clients. Those in need can grab a cart and fill it with frozen meat and vegetables, fresh produce, shelf-stable food, and personal care items.

In Delaware County, over 43,000 people are food insecure,
7.5% of the population.

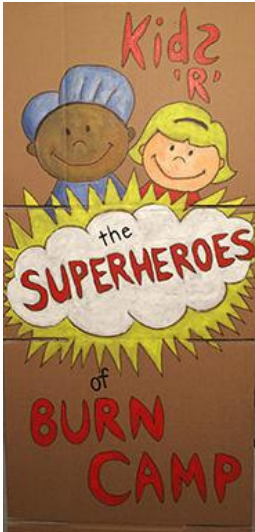
Yet as groceries have become more expensive for everyone, sourcing food for the pantry has become harder and more expensive. Gifts make it possible for the pantry to keep its doors open and healthy, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food on its shelves. The need is real.

Last year, the fully volunteer-run pantry served over 1000 families, including 500 seniors and 1800 children from throughout Delaware County.

#18 | CARING CAMP



Your gift will provide one child with a camper flashlight.



The Arthur C. Luf Children's Burn Camp is a safe, natural outdoor environment for kids ages 8 to 18 from around the world who have survived life-altering burn injuries. The camping experience aids in the physical and emotional recovery of burn survivors. It builds self-esteem and self-confidence, which help children overcome their anxieties and adapt to their injuries so that they can reintegrate into their family and community life.

The camp staff of firefighters, medical personnel, burn survivors, and other caring individuals enriches the lives of child burn survivors by creating a camping experience that is fun, entertaining, empowering, enhancing, energizing, and full of self-discovery. All children attend the camp free of charge.

ctburnsfoundation.org/arthur-c-luf-childrens-burn-camp

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Nkol Mvolan Hospital, Cameroon, Africa

SPC WORLD MISSION PARTNER

Your gift will provide a doctor's salary for one month.

Larry Brook grew up next to the hospital at Nkol Mvolan (“Hill of Help”) in Cameroon, West Africa, where his parents served as American missionaries at what was then a thriving hospital center. After 50 years he returned in 2013 with family members to visit, only to find that the hospital was in a serious state of decay. Vital equipment was either broken or locked away. Only one nurse was on duty, with no doctors. The Brook family then met with the head of the hospital, Rev. Francis Mbienze, who shared his vision to resurrect the hospital. “With the help of Christian friends,” writes Larry, “we responded with prayer and financial support.”

Today the hospital employs two full-time Cameroonian doctors and serves over 100 patients per week. A local dentist and eye doctor also provide care. Patients are treated for cholera, malaria, typhoid, measles, polio, dysentery, toothaches, HIV, and most recently COVID19. Most patients come from villages and are too poor to pay the modest fees. Donations help with hospital supplies, medications, equipment, salaries, and capital needs.

tinyurl.com/23sdnac6

#20 | HELP TO HEAL



Your gift will provide craft supplies for a therapy session with young children.

One in five children in Philadelphia will lose a parent or sibling by the time they reach age 25. That's enough children to fill all three of the city's major sports arenas, with another 60,000 seats needed for each child to have a spot.

Uplift Center for Grieving Children helps grieving children to heal and grow through their grief, while strengthening families, communities, and professionals' understanding of how to respond to their needs.

No child should have to grieve alone.

With multiple locations throughout the City of Philadelphia, Uplift offers peer support groups for children and teens in grades K-12th who have experienced the death of someone significant to them. Peer support and a caring adult presence help reduce the isolation and loneliness. Creative activities and games, grouped by age level, allow children to express their feelings about death. Uplift also offers caregiver groups to support adults raising a grieving child.

upliftphilly.org

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#21 | MISSION: LIFE READY



Your gift will help provide emergency financial assistance for a veteran.

Around one in every five veterans in the U.S. today served in the aftermath of the 9/11 World Trade Center attacks. The challenges they face when they leave the service are unique, just as every generation of veterans reenters civilian life in ways distinct to their time. Those adjustments can be emotionally, financially, and physically daunting. This can be especially true for those who served in the field and return home with physical and emotional trauma.

To improve the quality of life for veterans and their families and reduce potential factors that can contribute to veteran suicide, USA Cares provides post-9/11 military veterans, service members, and their families with housing, food, utilities, career training, and emergency aid when they need it most.

Veterans and members from all branches of service who seek help from USA Cares undergo an application process to ensure that their needs are fully understood and addressed. Types of help available include financial assistance for those facing temporary financial hardship (often helping to avoid evictions and foreclosures), career transition, career skills development training for senior leaders, homeless veterans reintegration, and financial education and empowerment.

Headquartered in Kentucky, USA Cares currently has chapters in 14 other states, including in the Northeast New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, New York, Rhode Island, and Ohio.

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