

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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# Message From Our Executive Director

## Nancy Larkin Taylor, Esq.



Since 1991, Bucks For Kids (B4K), an all-volunteer 501©(3) has been the only private source of funding for children and young adults in Foster Care and children and young adults being served by Bucks County Children and Youth Social Services (C&Y).

For almost 35 years, C&Y caseworkers have submitted hundreds of individual applications on behalf of these children requesting whatever service, assistance or item that child needs at that time in his or her life.

Requests seek payment for summer camp, music lessons, sports costs, tutoring and other extracurricular activities, items and services, so necessary for kids at risk, but unaffordable to the family and not provided by the County. Positive experiences boost self-esteem and help Foster kids steer a path to a healthy and productive adult life.

A University of Chicago study revealed that one in five of those now incarcerated in the US lived in a Foster or Group home as a child. Foster kids have higher risks of unwanted pregnancies, struggles with substance abuse, dropping out of high school and under and unemployment. By providing this vulnerable population with healthy activities and strong positive relationships the odds that these kids will not just survive but THRIVE increases substantially.



*The B4K Board of Directors at a recent monthly meeting. Wendy Skokowski, Rebecca Van Dine, Linda DiMario, Nancy Larkin Taylor, Dawn Padanyi, Steven Harter, Karen Ulmer. Missing: Lodina Slawecki, Jessica Millevoi, Bob Davis, Pam Danner*

# Grants Approved by Bucks for Kids

## July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023

Bucks for Kids awarded over \$32,000 in 70 individual grants including, but not limited to, the following:

- Summer Camp Programs
- Pool Passes
- Music Lessons
- Music and Dance Camp
- Band Camp
- Scout Registration
- Sports Costs; registration, expenses and equipment for sports such as football, cheerleading, soccer, and softball
- Special sensory set-ups
- SAT Prep and tutoring
- Laptops



Every grant met the current need of that individual child at that time in his or her life.

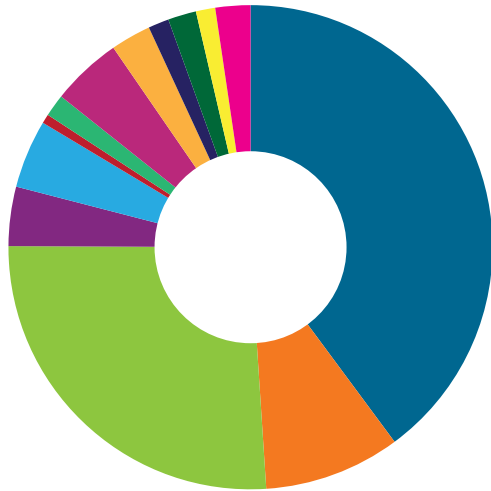


BFK also awarded over **\$10,000** in Vocational Development grants to four young adults aging out of C&Y.

Vocational grants support post-secondary education and allows these young adults to explore career opportunities.

# Grants Given FY 2022-2023

## \$40,845



- Summer Camp \$16,280
- Athletic Fees \$3,720
- Scholarships/Vocational Development \$10,664
- Clothing/School Uniform \$1,615
- Sports/Sporting Equipment \$1,865
- Furniture \$250
- Music/Dance/Art Classes \$610
- Supplementary Education \$1,924
- School Supplies/Laptops \$1,100
- Pool memberships \$565
- School Trips \$771
- Toys/Baby Equipment \$528
- Other \$954

Kayla, age 4, sadly lost her infant sister this past year. She and the whole family needed help from a grief counselor to deal with their despair. Thanks to Bucks for Kids, the whole family went to numerous sessions to help deal with their loss.



Jeremy, age 7, recently moved to a long-term foster placement after two years with another family. To smooth his transition to his new home and school, he wanted to attend summer camp. Thanks to Bucks for Kids, Jeremy attended camp for most of the summer and made new friends.



## SOURCE OF OUR FUNDS

We partner with the community to raise money!

- Individual donations
- Business & civic contributions
- Foundation grants
- Various restaurant fundraisers
- Bucks County Commissioners

Dexter, age 15, is on a travel baseball team, which is expensive. His mother is disabled and his father has a job in construction but unable to afford the baseball fees. Thanks to Bucks for Kids, he is an integral part of this superb team.



# Bucks for Kids Future

2022-2023 was a growth year for Bucks for Kids, which is fortunate, as the number of children entering the C&Y system increases annually. Bucks for Kids' accomplishments this year include:

- Creation of Bucks for Kids Microsoft Remote Platform, with the help of 5370 Technologies. Now each Board Member has an email. The Board shares documents and a group calendar.
- Creation of Board Manual for new and existing Board Members
- Creation of Board Membership Application
- Connection to Quick Books Online
- Expansion of social media presence via Facebook, Twitter, Patch and Instagram
- Full Board Member participation in a Strategic Retreat with Bee Berghoff
- Strengthening of Bucks for Kids' relationship with C&Y and the C&Y Advisory Board
- Addition of three new Board Members, Lodina Slawecki, Linda DiMario and Steve Harter.
- October Halloween Dance Party Fund Raiser at St Cyril's for Nancy's 70th

## Future Goals:

- Purchase of cell phones for foster kids
- Work closely with Bucks County Community College and the Middle Bucks Institute of Technology



Sports Fees



School Fees



Summer Camp



Supplemental Education/Tutoring



Music/Art Lessons



College Scholarships & Vocational Development



Clothing

# Board of Directors

Nancy Larkin Taylor, Executive Director, Corporate Secretary

Dawn Padanyi, Esq., BOD Chair

Rebecca Van Dine, Administrator, Fund Raising

Wendy Skokowski, Treasurer

Robert D. Davis, Cheerleader

Pamela Danner, Information Tech

Jessica Millevoi, Fund Raising

Lodina Slawecki, Media

Karen Ulmer, Esq.

Steve Harter, Vocational Development

Linda DiMario, Finance

## **NANCY LARKIN TAYLOR, ESQ. – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (1991 to present)**

Nancy established Bucks for Kids with Nick Merlo, Judy LaCour, Linda Sepsi, Dominic Colangelo and Elizabeth Schoenfeld in 1990 when they served on the Children and Youth Advisory Board and discovered that foster kids routinely miss out, due to lack of funds, on many meaningful childhood experiences, such as summer camp, proms, class trips, music lessons and sports participation. Most troubling was the challenges faced when they age out at 18. Meeting those needs was the genesis of Bucks for Kids.

Nancy is a family law attorney who lives and works in Doylestown. Her hope is that Bucks for Kids will become a household word in Bucks County and continue to enhance the lives of Bucks County foster kids for decades to come. Contact Nancy at [nancy@bucksforkids.org](mailto:nancy@bucksforkids.org)

## **ROBERT DAVIS “DJ” DOUDY – CHEERLEADER (2006 to present)**

Bob has supported B4K from day one, joining the Board in 2006 after serving as Disc Jockey at our many American Legion Beef and Beer fundraisers. Bob has devoted his life to helping local kids and worked for nine years as Outreach Coordinator at Valley Youth House and Synergy Project.

For 25 years, Bob has donated platelets to the American Red Cross. Since 1997 Bob has been involved in the Gulf War Illness Study to help sick service men and women. Bob attends St. Cyril's of Jerusalem in Jamison. His commitment to Bucks for Kids is lifelong and his enthusiasm is boundless. Contact Bob at [djdoudy@hotmail.com](mailto:djdoudy@hotmail.com)

## **REBECCA VAN DINE, B.S.W. – FUNDING CHAIR (2016 to present)**

Rebecca joined the Board of Bucks for Kids in 2016, when she retired from her social work and non-profit development/fundraising career. She started as a foster care social worker at Tabor Childrens' Services and transitioned to foster care/adoptive parent training and recruitment. With a love of writing and networking, Rebecca moved to nonprofit development. She enjoyed her many years of fundraising at Bethanna, Vita Education Services and Child, Home and Community.

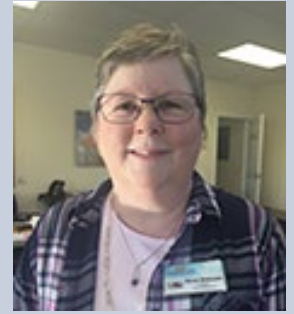
Rebecca has a Bachelor's in Social Work and her dedication to vulnerable Bucks County children and youth continues with Bucks for Kids involvement. Rebecca is an active member of Doylestown United Methodist. Contact Becky at [rebecca@bucksforkids.org](mailto:rebecca@bucksforkids.org)



### **WENDY SKOKOWSKI – TREASURER (2016 to present)**

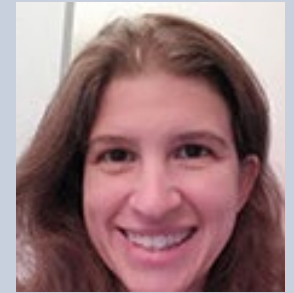
Wendy became the Bucks for Kids treasurer after retiring from a 20-year paralegal career. When she became a bookkeeper for her church, Wendy uncovered a desire to work with non-profits.

In 2007, Wendy returned to school to obtain her Associates Degree in Accounting. Wendy also tutors accounting students at Bucks County Community College and works with a local accountant. Wendy creates a mean Treasurer's Report every month. Contact Wendy at [wendy@bucksforkids.org](mailto:wendy@bucksforkids.org)



### **JESSICA MILLEVOI – FUNDRAISING (2018 to present)**

Jessica brings to Bucks for Kids a great passion and enthusiasm. For many years, she has spent her time helping nonprofits fundraise for local children. With her B.A. in Human Ecology, Jessica was a Founder of a Maryland Charter School, where she focused on fundraising. She also helps her children raise money for charities. Contact Jessica at [jessica@bucksforkids.org](mailto:jessica@bucksforkids.org)



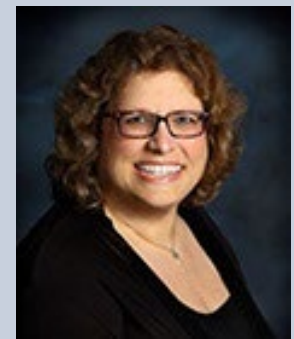
### **GREG EMMONS – COUNSEL (2019 to present)**

Greg Emmons and his wife have experienced the needs of Foster Parents having cared for both an infant and a four-year old for two years, and then successfully returning the children to their birth mother. Mr. Emmons, a well-respected Bucks County and region attorney, was just named to our Board due to his established history of giving back to the charities in our community and his motivation to assist the many Bucks for Kids children & teens who need services that Bucks for Kids provides. He has chaired multiple events raising thousands of dollars in donations for charities. Mr. Emmons also provides legal insight to the Board. Contact Greg at [greg@bucksforkids.org](mailto:greg@bucksforkids.org)



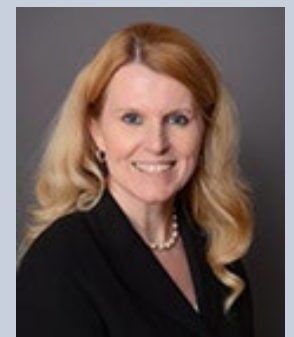
### **PAMELA DANNER – FUNDRAISING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (2021 to present)**

Ms. Danner spent over 20 years working in high tech with global companies such as Sun Microsystems, Iron Mountain and ADP. She is a Graduate of Temple University and holds an MBA from Rowan University. For the past eight years Ms. Danner has been an Executive Director with Elwyn in Media, Pa where she heads Enterprise Programs reporting to the COO. Ms. Danner brings a strong background in technology, finance, non-profit leadership and organizational change to the board. Ms. Danner lives in Langhorne with her husband Jim for the past 25 years and is an enthusiastic resident and supporter of Bucks County. Contact Pam at [pam@bucksforkids.org](mailto:pam@bucksforkids.org)



### **KAREN ULMER – FUNDRAISING (2021 to present)**

Karen Ulmer, a family lawyer, brings to the Bucks4Kids board her experience from being a 2nd Vice-President of the Peace Center board and her former role as President of the YWCA Bucks County board, both non-profit organizations that cater to services for children and the community. Karen first served foster children as when she helped chair the Christmas in July at Tabor Services through the YLD of the BCBA. Karen believes volunteer work is an integral part of life and has hosted five foreign exchange students, has coached t-ball, baseball, soccer, and speech tournaments and has chaired the High School Mock Trial Competition at the regional level for over twenty years. She actively volunteers at both of her children's elementary schools, as well as for the local community theater. She currently sits on the Board of the YWCA, chairing the Salute to All Women and currently sits on the alumni board of her law school. Karen believes all children deserve the same opportunities regardless of circumstances and is excited to be part of the Bucks for Kids board. Contact Karen at [karen@bucksforkids.org](mailto:karen@bucksforkids.org)





### **DAWN PADANYI, ESQUIRE – VICE CHAIR**

Dawn joined the Board of Bucks For Kids after establishing a long-term friendship with Founder and Executor Director, Nancy Larkin Taylor. The passionate discussions and joy felt over many conversations had with Nancy regarding Bucks For Kids was enough to lure Dawn.

The work done at Bucks For Kids is right in Dawn's bailiwick as a solo family law attorney in Doylestown for over 15 years. Dawn has represented both children and parents in Children Dependency proceedings and in child custody matters throughout her practice. Dawn is now thrilled to be able to share her expertise and experience as a Director of Bucks For Kids to help the vulnerable children of Bucks County.

Dawn has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mount Holyoke College and a J.D. from Syracuse University College of Law. In her free time, Dawn enjoys exercising, enjoying outdoor activities and traveling. Contact Dawn at [dawn@bucksforkids.org](mailto:dawn@bucksforkids.org)



### **LINDA DIMARIO, RPH, RN, MSN, MPH – VICE CHAIR**

Professionally, Linda is both a pharmacist and an oncology nurse. Her clinical career included working in the ICU at Yale-New Haven Hospital, caring for the first AIDS patients at Bellevue Hospital and starting the first hospice program at Cornell-New York Hospital. After graduate school at Yale, she shifted into industry, starting a global biotech business and managing a national oncology home care business.

Returning to the non-profit sector, Linda went on to open and oversee a new cancer center in the Rush System for Health. She also directed the statewide Oncology Centers of Excellence program for Rutgers, developing the framework for two new cancer centers in New Jersey. Prior to retirement, she provided oversight for all clinical research and grants at a six-hospital system in northern New Jersey.

Linda lives in Buckingham with her husband. They are the parents of two adult daughters, adopted as toddlers from Russia. Contact Linda at [linda@bucksforkids.org](mailto:linda@bucksforkids.org)



### **STEVEN HARTER – FUNDRAISING (2023 to present)**

Steve has been working with youth in the foster care system for five years. Currently, he works in a Bucks County emergency shelter for youth that are in the foster care system. Steve holds a Masters Degree from Arcadia University in International Peace and Conflict Resolution and has experience with program evaluation in the non profit sector. In addition to the Bucks for Kids board Steve is a Director of the Philadelphia Falcons Soccer Club. In his free time Steve enjoys riding motorcycles, spending time outdoors, playing with his dogs, and baking. Contact Steven at [steven@bucksforkids.org](mailto:steven@bucksforkids.org)



### **LODINA SLAWECKI – MEDIA**

Lodina moved to Bucks County from Silicon Valley, CA, where she worked in organizational development at a high-tech company and volunteered as a Master Gardener and fundraiser coordinator. Once in PA, Lodina provided advertising and social media support to the family business.

Lodina lost both of her biological parents by the age of twelve and is grateful for the aid received from people and organizations in her youth. She joined the Board of Bucks for Kids to serve vulnerable children and youth knowing what a difference that aid can make in their lives. Contact Lodina at [lodina@bucksforkids.org](mailto:lodina@bucksforkids.org)



# Former Board of Directors

Frank Burstein

Denise Burstein

Jerry Butkus

Dominick Colangelo

Sam Costanza

Kathy Cupzick

Sally Fedorchak

June Fenwick

Beth Gentile

Layla Gentile

Meg Groff, Esq.

Chris Howard

John Jameson

Amber Kennedy

Rita Klein

Jon Landeau

Stacey Leifer

Jack McDermitt

Dominick Merlo

Elizabeth Moriartiy

Michelle Reed

Camille Rylak

Gen Querin

Elizabeth Schenfeld

Linda Sepsy

Lodina Slawecki

Joanna Timm

Theresa Weber

Lisa Welsh

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## Support Team

Steve Oles / Bruce Lusher, 5370 Technologies, Doylestown, PA

Doug Weinstein, Accountant, Doylestown, PA

Liz Vibber, Consultant, Bee Berghoff, Doylestown, PA

## Friends of Bucks for Kids

Layla, Beth and Chris Gentile

## Layla's 4 Ambassadors

Fiona Reckner

Finn Reckner

Lil Metrick

Hunter Barno

Lucas McFadden

Sydney Ralph



# Donors

## Guardians (\$25,000 +)

Fred Beans Charitable Fund

## Ambassadors (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Bucks County Roadrunners Club

## Defenders (\$2500 - \$4,999)

Bucks County Commissioners

Kimberton Whole Foods

Nancy Larkin Taylor

Makefield Women's Association

Wade's Comic Madness

## Champions (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Business Cares of Central Bucks

Chamber of Commerce

Have a Heart Foundation of Newtown Athletic Club

John Paton Inc.

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The Albert W. Bader Foundation

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Shannon O'Kane

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Juliette Colangelo & Rodney Lee Veach

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Carla Risoldi, Esq.

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# About Bucks County Children and Youth

Since Bucks for Kids is the sole source of private funds for Foster Kids, Bucks For Kids enjoys a special alliance with Bucks County Children and Youth Social Service Agency (C&Y). C & Y caseworkers provide Bucks For Kids with funding requests on behalf of the individual children they serve. C&Y receives and investigates all reports of child abuse or neglect; provides temporary care of children who are unable to remain in their home and develops community wide social service programs to promote family stability.

Most children and teens served by C&Y do NOT live in Foster homes but receive services in their own homes. In those instances, C&Y caseworkers work intensely with the entire family. When children and teens are placed in licensed Foster homes, C &Y continues to address the needs of the birth family for housing, employment, substance use and mental health.

C&Y's overall goal is to assure safety, wellbeing, and permanency for children, which can mean reunification with their birth family or adoption by another family.

Bucks For Kids congratulates C & Y's current Executive Director, Marge McKeone ,L.C.S.W. on her retirement after 34 years with the Agency. Happy trails, Marge. We will miss you.



Marge McKeone,  
LCSW Director



Robert Yochum,  
Deputy Director

# Services Provided by BCC&Y

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

**9,995**  
Referrals for Service

**7,356**  
Children and Teens Served

**416**  
Foster Home  
Placements

**6,940**  
Children and Teens Served  
In-Home

**162** Children who received permanency – i.e., reunified with their birth family or adopted by another family

