



Frances M. Sheehan (left), Jeannine Fallon Anckaitis, and Arthur Weisfeld.

Nonprofit Leaders Invest for the Future

by Katy Lichtenstein

In a county with more than 4,500 nonprofits, we know we can accomplish so much more together.

There are many amazing nonprofits (more than 4,500 in total) across Delaware County that provide services and support for so many of our neighbors. Right here in Swarthmore, two are run by Swarthmoreans, Jeannine Fallon Anckaitis and Arthur Weisfeld. Jeannine leads the Chester Upland Youth Soccer program (CUYS), and Arthur has been the founding Executive Director of Senior Community Services (SCS) since its inception in 1977.

Recently, both organizations launched an agency endowment fund with the assistance of our local community foundation, The Foundation for Delaware County. The Foundation is led by Frances M. Sheehan, who has lived in Swarthmore for more than 30 years.

"Many people think about universities when they hear news about endowment funds. However, they're not restricted to educational institutions," said Ms. Sheehan. "Universities, religious communities, hospitals, nonprofit charities and community foundations can all have this type of charitable fund. An endowment fund, quite simply, is money set aside and invested to earn revenue to fund some type of charitable activity well into the future."

An agency endowment fund provides nonprofits with stability during cyclical economic cycles, or income for future projects of high importance to the organization.

An endowment fund is a simple way for a nonprofit to set aside funds to invest for their long-term growth and can also increase their visibility with donors. Setting up this type of fund with the foundation provides a natural partnership. "Partnering with the foundation allows us the opportunity to focus on building the endowment to support and further our mission without the burdens of managing the fund," commented Ms. Anckaitis.

Each fund is managed by the foundation — it does all the administrative work, while also providing marketing support. Offering agency-administered endowment funds for nonprofits is a common role that

community foundations play.

"By launching an endowed fund, we hope to send a message to donors that the organization plans to be around for the long term, that we recognize that there will be needs in the community for many years, and our nonprofit will be here to address those needs," said Mr. Weisfeld.

Ms. Sheehan commented, "In addition, endowment funds give donors, particularly those who are thinking about their estate plans, the opportunity to leave a nonprofit in their will with the peace of mind that the nonprofit is committed to being around in the future."

And what could the funds be used for? This list is long.

CUYS is in its final three-year cycle of funding from the U.S. Soccer Foundation, so this investment will help provide CUYS with stability as it transitions away from a significant funding stream and supports the need for additional programming for children and increased staff.

SCS is expanding its Schoolhouse location, so funds could help it cover operating expenses for the expanded center — which plans to serve 150-200 seniors daily in Delaware County.

How can you get involved? Why not share the opportunity with your nonprofit friends? An agency endowment fund — or a smaller independent foundation looking for an opportunity to benefit from being part of a larger investment pool — provides nonprofits with a lasting and reliable source of support. And donations to endowment funds are tax deductible and can be made with gifts of appreciated stock.

In addition to donations, both programs are always looking for volunteers. CUYS is always searching for volunteers, those who love soccer as well as anyone with other hobbies who can help expand the children's experiences. They have recently partnered with area residents to provide the children with free access to ballet, cycling, and bowling, and will soon hold its first pickleball party with Swarthmore's own Loomis Racquet Academy. SCS needs drivers and volunteers for its home meal delivery service to

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seniors. And of course, as every nonprofit is experiencing increased costs for supplies, technology, and labor — donations are very well received.

More Information

Chester Upland Youth Soccer (CUYS), cuys.org. Chester Upland Youth Soccer strengthens the communities it serves by mentoring youth, engaging families, and promoting healthy living.

CUYS provides after-school and weekend soccer programming, mentorship, and nutrition education for children in Chester, Upland and Eddystone.

Senior Community Services, scsdelco.org. For more than 40 years, SCS has provided four national accredited senior centers, at-home services, and an abundance of programs directly serving the aging population in Delaware County

The Foundation for Delaware County (the Foundation), delcofoundation.org. The Foundation offers support and resources for nonprofits of every size, helps generous people give with more impact, brings together funders, nonprofits, and elected officials to address critical community problems, operates several public health programs that serve the county and responds to major challenges and crises as they arise.

