

Slater Family Network Foundation Inc.

“Rock Solid Support”

Annual Report

July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

Our Mission is to provide resources, referrals, and programs to empower families in need in the Bangor Area School District.

Our vision is that Slater Family Network will become the center that bridges the gap between residents’ needs and community services.

Families Served:

109 new families served.

2,485 client case management contacts (with some multiple visits added)

Funding:

Bangor Community

Bangor Area School District

Northampton County Division of children, youth & families

United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley

Two Rivers Health and Wellness Foundation

Catholic Diocese of Allentown-Poverty Relief Fund

The Slate Belt Ministerium

The Sexauer Foundation

Donations, Fund drives and Memorials



Staff:

Executive Director: Patti Damour

Caseworker: Gail Rubel

In-House Therapist: Elizabeth Kostura, LPC, CAADC

Food Access Manager: Jessica Sandt

Board of Directors:**Executive Board**

Pastor Michael Scholtes, President

Alicia Zito, Vice President & District Judge

Cheryl Melnick, Treasurer

Rosemary Kocher, Financial Secretary

Erin Hetu, Secretary

Other Members

Matthew Goodrich, Esquire

Daniele Davanzo

Melissa Sylvester, Bangor Police Dept.

Jacki Dedos, St. Luke's University Health Network

Laurie Eddy

Pastor Frank Stinner

Auxiliary

Karen Barr

Phyllis Sutton

Peggy Reimer

Programs:

12th Annual “912” Scholarship in loving memory of Denny Strouse.

- A \$1,000.00 Scholarship was awarded to Chloe Proko, who is attending Penn State Main Campus in the Fall.

18th Annual Slater Family Network Scholarship

- \$2,000 was awarded to Riley Stapp, who is attending Ithica College in the Fall.

Backpacks & School Supplies -Donated by local churches/clubs, community members, Keller Williams Realty and SFN.

- 200 students received backpacks filled with grade appropriate supplies, distributed in August 2023 and several more were distributed throughout the school year. This year we distributed it as an event with food and fun and it was a great success. Will use the same model this year.

Clothes Closet-SFN on-site closet providing Newborn-Young adult clothing, shoes, small household items.

- 215 Families were served and an average of 30% made multiple visits on average 2 times annually.
- New socks and underwear were also offered if the size was available. All new socks and underwear were donated by local sports clubs, churches, and local drives.
- SFN secured funds to purchase new socks and underwear with a grant from the Catholic Women’s Society of Giving as well as new bedding sets, blankets, and throws.
- SFN also refers to the Bangor Boutique located inside the BAHS offering appropriate school attire, casual clothes, shoes, handbags, and prom attire.

Backpack Buddies-In collaboration with The United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, The Sexauer Foundation, and the community.

Qualifying food insecure students go home every Friday with a backpack filled with food and beverages for their consumption over the weekend. The program serves students Pre-K to 12 grade and continues through the summer.

- 2,635 student backpacks distributed for the 2023-2024 academic year.
- There will be a Summer 2024 Backpack program as there was expressed interest.
- Currently have 30 students enrolled in the summer program.
- Families are encouraged to use our pantry or mini pantry if they need it.
- Participants are surveyed periodically to gauge any improvements.

Emergency Food Pantry- SFN is a site for residents of the Slate Belt to receive emergency food. This program is a collaboration between Second Harvest Food Bank of the Lehigh Valley and the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley. Non-perishables and meat are provided through SHFB. Toiletries are offered through drives done by local churches, groups, and community support. Slater Family Network has continued a relationship with Rodale/St. Luke's Health Network's Community Garden initiative, providing CSA shares of seasonal fresh fruit and vegetables to our clients through October 2023. Client surveys are done periodically to measure better ways to meet the community's needs.

- 177 Families used the pantry.
- 61 Children (ages 0-5) served
- 209 Students (Pre-K-12th grade) served
- 332 Adults served
- 30 Senior/Older Adults served

Holiday Giving- Holiday gifts for children 2-12, with a holiday meal basket also provided. Many collaborators make this possible including The Bangor Elks, Bangor Elementary PTO, BASD teachers and staff, local churches, Bangor Women's Club, Amazon donations, book clubs and generous community members. Families complete an application with financial need and include children's "Wish List". Benefactors provide gifts and food for families in need.

- 75 Families/189 children received gifts and dinners for Christmas 2023.
- Holiday Giving was 100% covered in cost from donations.
- SFN received 30 new coats and countless hats and mitten sets which were distributed.
- We received 100 turkeys from Keller Williams Real Estate for all families in need.
- The Bangor Elks Club delivered 40 food baskets to shut-ins and families without transportation.

Thanksgiving Meal Baskets- Baskets were provided for local, low-income families complete with turkeys and all the trimmings. A local reality company, Keller Williams provided baskets and families picked them up at our pantry.

- 60 families picked up baskets donated by the Bangor Women's Club, Bangor HS clubs, local churches, and individual community members.
- Pen Argyl's Grace United Methodist Church Youth group prepared and delivered fully prepared meals to clients from SFN and the community who did not have the ability to cook a meal.

Two Rivers Mental Health Grant- In collaboration with Two Rivers Health and Wellness Foundation and Elizabeth Kostura, LPC, CAADC, mental health counseling was provided with minimal or no co-pay for individuals who do not have mental health coverage, or no insurance, have a high deductible/co-pay or are unable to pay for their care.

- SFN currently has 8 clients being seen with telehealth weekly.
- 5 of the 8 clients are children aged 7-18 with parents also receiving services.
- In 2023 we received \$20,000 for MH counseling and \$10,000 for 2024.
- The Therapist completes a periodic Client to Success survey to measure growth.
- Clients do satisfaction surveys to gauge quality and satisfaction with the care received. There were 0 negative comments over the last year.

Marketing/social media-Slater Family Network continues to market on Facebook, which has a page and a button to directly contact SFN with a need or donation. This has been a great tool in reaching donors, clients, and advertising community events to benefit families. There is no cost associated with this platform and is updated daily. It continues to be our best free marketing tool today. We also use Instagram, as that reaches a younger audience traditionally.

- SFN currently has 1,253 followers, 88% Women, 12% Male (Identify as)
- Has reached 9,177+ people through posts, ads, shares, and page interactions May-June 2024.
- Post daily inspiration, programs, and helpful information.

Website-www.slaterfamilynetwork.org

- Has brought SFN to the next level of professionalism and ease of contact by pressing a link.
- Allows us to post forms and flyers directly on the site for clients to upload and fill out.
- Allows donors to explore what we offer the community in a professional manner.
- Has a QR code created for easy access.

In 2023 SFN was present at Elementary back to school nights, Kindergarten orientation, St. Luke's Community Forum, and Bangor's National night out and Fall Fest. Presented to Pre k counts and Head start families, Local churches, and The Bangor Women's club. Also participated in the Bangor Halloween Parade.

Goals for 2024-2025 in marketing- Strengthen relationships with other community partners and service providers. Continue to increase our visibility and access to school district staff and families by attending district family programs and updating all in- school resources.

Fundraising-Held our Annual Silent Auction fundraiser in person this year at Five Points Elementary School. Was well attended. Had excellent volunteer and staff participation. The Bangor Slater Football team were a huge help this year. We added a 50/50 raffle this year to try and increase funds raised.

- \$12,349.00 was the total income, with \$1,873.32 in expenses and petty cash.
- Total revenue was \$10,475.68.

The Family of Frank Kinney held their 7th Annual Memorial Golf Outing in August 2023. The proceeds were donated to SFN for a total of \$3,920.00.

Micro-grants-

- Received \$7,500.00 from the Sexauer Foundation to benefit our Backpack Buddies program in 2023-2024.
- Received \$1,000 from the Bangor Elementary PTO to purchase gift cards for families in need in 2023/2024.
- Received \$1,000 from Fulton bank designated for family/educational programs and used it for our Back-to-School Event 8/17/2023.
- Received \$1,000 from Fidelity Bank
- Received \$4,000 from Air Liquide
- Received \$2,000 from The Catholic Diocese Poverty Relief fund 3/26/2024.
- Plus, continuous donations from area churches, groups, businesses, and individuals