

Slater Family Network Foundation Inc.

“Rock Solid Support”

Annual Report

July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025

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:

125 new families served.

2,294 client case management contacts (with 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, Fulton Bank, Fidelity Bank, Bangor Area PTO plus individual/organization 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 & interim secretary

Other Members

Matthew Goodrich, Esquire

Melissa Sylvester, Bangor Police Dept.

Jacki Dedos, St. Luke's University Health Network

Pastor Frank Stinner

Melissa Dalrymple

Auxiliary

Karen Barr

Phyllis Sutton

Peggy Reimer

Laurie Eddy

Programs:

13th Annual “912” Scholarship in loving memory of Denny Strouse.

- A \$1,000.00 Scholarship was awarded to Cayden Bray, who is attending Roger Williams University in the Fall.

19th Annual Slater Family Network Scholarship

- \$2,000 was awarded to Hilary Goff, who is attending Reading Hospital of Health Services in the Fall.

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

- 164 students received backpacks filled with grade appropriate supplies, distributed in July 2024 and several more were distributed throughout the school year. This year we distributed it as an event with free hot dogs, ice cream, backpacks, school supplies, clothing, socks, underwear & enjoyed using a bounce house 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.

- 211 Families were served and an average of 30% made multiple visits on average 2 times annually.
- New socks and underwear were also offered. All new socks and underwear were donated by local sports clubs, churches, and local drives.
- 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, 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.

- 2,585 student backpacks distributed for the 2024-2025 academic year.
- There is a Summer 2025 Backpack program this year. In addition to food to assist families, we included activity books, crafts and award-winning reading books to help combat the “summer slump”.
- Currently have 32 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 2025. Client surveys are done periodically to measure better ways to meet the community's needs.

- 120 Families used the pantry.
- 44 Children (ages 0-5) served
- 122 Students (Pre-K-12th grade) served
- 214 Adults served
- 25 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.

- 65 Families/161 children received gifts and dinners for Christmas 2024.
- 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 Second Harvest Food Bank for all families in need.
- The Bangor Elks Club delivered 30 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 and families picked them up at our pantry.

- 33 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 10 clients being seen with telehealth weekly.
- 8 of the 10 clients are children aged 7-18 with 2 parents also receiving services.
- In 2024 we received \$20,000 for MH counseling and \$20,000 for 2025
- 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 it 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 1,356 followers, 88.7% Women, 11.3% Male (Identify as)
- Has reached 23,428 people through posts, ads, shares, and page interactions May-June 2025.
- Post daily inspiration, programs, and helpful information.

Website-www.slaterfamilynetwork.org

- This continues to be a major way clients contact SFN by pressing a link.
- Allows us to post forms and flyers directly on the site for clients to upload and fill out.
- Allow donors to explore what we offer the community in a professional manner.
- Has a QR code created for easy access.

In 2024 SFN was present at Elementary back to school nights, Kindergarten orientation, St. Luke's Community Forum, United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley's partner meeting and many trainings, Several Chamber of Commerce Business events, WM Chili Cookoff, 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. We also participated in the Bangor Halloween Parade. SFN has developed a new partnership with Families First of Pen Argyl and will continue to collaborate.

Fundraising-Held our Annual Tricky Tray 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 also had a 50/50 raffle this year which increased funds raised.

- \$16,081.10 was the total income, with \$2,768.00 in expenses and petty cash.
- Total revenue was \$13,313.10

- The Frank Kinney Family held their 8th Annual Memorial Golf Outing in August 2024. The proceeds were donated to SFN for a total of \$4,976.17

Micro-grants-

- Received \$20,000 from the Sexauer Foundation to benefit our Backpack Buddies program in 2024-2025.
- Received \$10,000 from Northampton County for food Insecurity.
- Received \$1,000 from the Bangor Elementary PTO to purchase gift cards for families in need in 2024/2025.
- Received \$1,000 from Fulton bank designated for family/educational programs and used it for our Back-to-School Event.
- Received \$1,000 from Fidelity Bank
- Received \$4,000 from Air Liquide
- Received \$3,000 from The Catholic Diocese Poverty Relief fund.
- Received \$5,000 from Crayola

Plus, continuous donations from area churches, groups, businesses, and individuals.

New Committees in 2024-2025-

- Anniversary Committee-Organize an event celebrating our 25 years of service.This is an ongoing process at this point.
- Communications Committee-Create a greater scope of outreach by attending community events, creating relationships with key community organizations/businesses, and taking our social media reach to the next level. Goals should be met by 2026. We had a social media intern, but he was not engaged. Will seek new intern Fall of 2025.
- New Programs Committee- To create programs that engage community students and adults offering programs that can add quality of life and opportunities they otherwise may not be able to afford. This summer we introduced scholarships to attend two weeks of day camp at the Slate Belt YMCA, Day pool passes to families and will hopefully be introducing a new program in the Fall of 2025.
- Strategic Plan Committee- To update and streamline SFN's strategic plan to meet the organizations and community needs going forth. This was completed this year.

Goals for 2025-2026- Implement new programs and collaborate with existing programs in the school district with Community Schools, Families First of Pen Argyl and community. Increase social media imprint to better reach the younger community members by obtaining a social media volunteer intern. Increasing visibility in the community and the schools.