

Fox Families Care 2025 Annual Report

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Mission Statement

Fox Families Care partners with the Fox Chapel Area School District and community organizations to bridge the gap between the needs and resources of children and families. Through compassionate, confidential support, we connect families to essential resources that promote stability and opportunity.

Vision Statement

We envision a community where barriers are reduced, dignity is preserved, and every child and family has access to the support they need to thrive.

Letter from Leadership

In 2025, Fox Families Care continued to grow in both impact and heart, strengthening our commitment to the families we serve. As financial pressures persisted across our community, we responded with urgency, compassion, and resolve. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our donors, volunteers, and partners, we provided meaningful support through emergency assistance, scholarships, and our beloved holiday programs.

This year also marked an important period of transition and momentum for our organization. I am honored to serve as President of the Board of Directors and to work alongside our Executive Director, Jen Mackey, who officially stepped into her role following a thoughtful transition period. Since December, Jen has led with care and dedication, working closely with former Executive Director Nicole Shirk to ensure continuity during several of our most impactful initiatives, including Angel Tree, Telethon, and our End of Year Appeal. We are grateful for Nicole's steady leadership and lasting contributions to Fox Families Care.


We also welcomed Shannon Vukmir and Kathleen Wallach to our Board this year, and we continue to be guided by the vision of our Founder and President Emeritus, Paulette O'Donnell. Her enduring commitment to students and families in our district remains at the heart of all we do.

Throughout the year, we deepened our presence within our schools by strengthening resource referral processes, enhancing our Caring Closets, and bringing inspirational and anti-bullying speakers to students across the district. These efforts reflect our belief that supporting families requires both immediate assistance and long-term investment in dignity, confidence, and connection.

What defines this year is not only what we accomplished, but how we accomplished it — neighbors stepping forward to help neighbors. Every act of kindness, whether highly visible or quietly behind the scenes, expanded our ability to serve families with care, discretion, and respect.

As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to ensuring that every family who turns to Fox Families Care is met with compassion, respect, and meaningful support. Together, we will continue building a community where no family feels alone in a time of need.

With sincere gratitude,



Mary Lisa Siegel
President, Board of Directors



Jen Mackey
Executive Director, Fox Families Care

Staff & Board Highlights

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JEN MACKEY

Jen Mackey serves as Executive Director of Fox Families Care, bringing thoughtful leadership and a strong background in strategy, analytics, and community engagement. She earned her undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University and an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh. Her professional experience spans business analytics, market research, and financial strategy, most recently with Blink Advertising in Sharpsburg.



Jen and her husband, Richard, have called the Fox Chapel Area School District home for 18 years, where they are raising their two sons, Nathan and Oliver. A founding board member of Backpack for Hunger, Jen is passionate about initiatives that create lasting impact for families and children. Outside of work, she enjoys paddle and exploring local trails with her dog.

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MARY LISA SIEGEL

Mary Lisa Siegel serves as President of the Board of Directors for Fox Families Care. She attended the University of Pittsburgh and Duquesne University, earning a Master of Science in Physical Therapy. Her professional background includes experience in sports medicine, acute and trauma care, and home health, and she currently focuses on Clinical Business Development and Senior Team Management for a local nonprofit healthcare organization.



Mary is an active community volunteer, having served on the Board of the Fox Chapel Racquet Club and supporting both Fox Families Care and the athletic boosters at Fox Chapel Area High School. She and her husband, Billy, are proud parents of Will, Sienna, and Frank. In her free time, she enjoys racquet sports, traveling, cooking, and gardening.

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT EMERITUS, PAULETTE O'DONNELL

Paulette O'Donnell is a founding member of Fox Families Care and serves as Founder and President Emeritus. She is a graduate of The Pennsylvania State University, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Communications with a concentration in Broadcast Journalism. Paulette enjoyed a successful 23-year career as a Sales Executive in the title underwriting industry.



Her vision for Fox Families Care was to create an organization that provides meaningful support to families in the community experiencing financial stress. She has also served as a certified volunteer and donor with the Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh. Paulette enjoys tennis, paddle, golf, traveling, and spending time with her husband, Ed, her son, Liam, and their three dogs.

Making an Impact Together

In 2025, Fox Families Care reached more families than ever before, strengthening our commitment to ensuring every child has the opportunity to succeed. From meeting immediate needs to investing in long-term growth, our programs created opportunities for youth to feel empowered and valued, and for families to feel supported. The numbers below reflect the real impact made possible through the generosity of our sponsors, donors, volunteers, and friends.

Awarded **9 Career Exploration Scholarships** to high-school students, helping support early career development and future planning.

Provided **150+ Halloween costume gift cards**, ensuring students could fully participate in seasonal celebrations.

Granted **29 extracurricular scholarships**, expanding access to enrichment opportunities.

Collected and distributed **660 gently used coats**, helping students and families stay warm throughout the winter season.

Supplied **500+ new backpacks** to students for the school year.

Distributed **900+ new bedding items**, helping create safer and more comfortable home environments for families in need.

Awarded **12 higher education scholarships** to graduating seniors as they prepared for their next chapter.

Provided **400+ Thanksgiving and holiday season grocery gift cards**, helping families gather and celebrate with dignity.

Fulfilled **54 emergency assistance grants**, offering critical support during unexpected hardships.

Reached **1,375 students** through inspirational and educational speakers hosted at DMS and FCAHS.

Granted **226 summer camp scholarships**, helping students stay engaged throughout the summer months.

Distributed **800+ holiday gifts**, bringing joy and support to children and families during the holiday season.

Mailed **4,450 books** through a partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, promoting early literacy and a lifelong love of reading.

Community Story

Domestic abuse affects more families than many people realize, and our community is not immune to this reality. When a parent makes the courageous decision to leave an unsafe situation, the road ahead can feel overwhelming. Alongside the emotional impact, families often face immediate challenges such as securing housing, keeping utilities on, providing food, and maintaining reliable transportation as they work to rebuild their lives.

One member of our community shared the hardships she experienced while living in an abusive situation: **“I am a survivor of domestic abuse from my husband, who deprived me and my child access to basic necessities such as a furnace, cooking stove, washer and other items. This has lasted for many years. I am finally starting over, but it is tough. I am having difficulty washing clothes. It is hard for us both to sleep with all we have been through.”** In moments like these, Fox Families Care is able to meet families with compassionate support.

Throughout 2025, we walked alongside several families navigating this difficult transition. The strength and resilience of these parents continues to inspire our work. One mother shared, **“It’s so important that we all stick together and help each other out. Thank you for helping me in this time of need. It means so much to me.”**

For families rebuilding after domestic violence, everyday obstacles can quickly become barriers to stability. A missed rent payment can put housing at risk and lack of reliable transportation can affect a parent’s ability to work or a child’s ability to attend school. When Fox Families Care helps cover essentials such as rent, utilities, groceries, or transportation, we provide more than financial assistance. We help create stability and reassurance during some of life’s greatest hardships.

Emergency support cannot erase trauma, but it can provide the breathing room families need to focus on healing and moving forward. By meeting families where they are and responding with care, we help create a path toward hope, safety, and a stronger future.

Community Sponsored Programs

- Fox Chapel Area School District’s Foxes Burrow & Caring Closets
- Fox Chapel Area School District Unified Sports’ Polar Plunge
- DMS Afternoon of Service & Gift of Giving
- Fox Chapel Area High School Rising Ninth Grade Orientation
- Roots of Faith Neighborhood Table and Block Party
- Sharpsburg Back-to-School Event
- Kerr’s Grown Up and Me Dance Party



Program Highlights

Summer Camp

In 2025, Fox Families Care awarded over 225 summer camp scholarships, helping students stay active and connected during the summer months. These scholarships opened the door to new experiences many children might not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy, from exploring nature and spending time outdoors to building friendships and discovering new interests. Through these experiences, students gained confidence, developed new skills, and created pivotal memories that will last a lifetime. This effort reflects the generosity of our community and the dedication of our volunteers and supporters, whose commitment helps ensure that more children can participate in meaningful summer opportunities each year.

“Thank you so much for helping me go to Deer Creek this summer! I never got to go to a camp like this before and I’m so excited and happy I could be part of it. I loved being outside everyday. I got to try archery, go on nature hikes, and play games in the woods. I even rode a horse for the first time! Camp kept me really active and helped me feel strong and healthy. I made new friends, learned new things, and had so much fun...”

Angel Tree

The Angel Tree program once again brought holiday cheer to the families we serve. With the help of volunteers, more than 400 children received over 800 gifts, each lovingly selected, wrapped, and prepared for pickup. From coordinating wish lists to organizing distribution, countless hours of behind-the-scenes work ensured that families could celebrate the season with joy. One parent expressed their gratitude stating, **“I am beyond grateful for the help that you have given my family. This holiday season would never have been as joyous as it has been for me and my son. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.”** We are especially grateful to the women of the Pittsburgh Field Club’s Joy of Giving and our local fire departments, whose involvement helped provide essential household items, clothing, and gifts to 18 families.

Financials:

Revenue: \$524,948

Expenses: \$428,109