



R.J. Leonard Foundation

Annual Report

2022

A Letter from our Founder

Friends,

Thank you for another amazing year at the R. J. Leonard Foundation. 2022 was full of incredible accomplishments by our Fellows and another great year of community-building for our Mentors, internal team, volunteers, donors and community partners. We are excited to share what we have been working on in this annual report.

We know that just one caring adult in the life of a young person aging out of foster care can have a profound impact. Our Mentors are so often that one person, and we are privileged as an organization to help forge and build that connection. They are there for the challenges and the successes of their Fellows, particularly when either or both are overwhelming.

Similarly at RJLF, we know that we can count on our community and our volunteers as we continue to evolve to meet the needs of at risk youth, who are simply trying to progress their education so as to more effectively navigate their lives and careers moving forward.

Thank you to our Mentors, our Volunteers and our Community Partners. You make what we do possible.

Jo Leonard
Founder

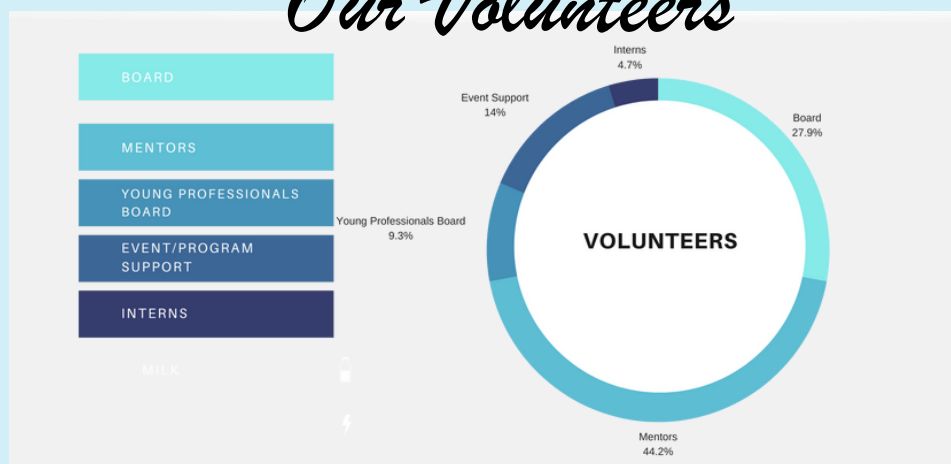
Sue Coyle
Interim Executive Director

Our Impact

In fiscal year 2021-2022, at least 30 young people aged out of foster care in Bucks and Montgomery Counties.

- The R.J. Leonard Foundation worked with 21 Fellows in 2022;
- Two of our Fellows earned their bachelor degrees while 10 total were in school throughout the year;
- One Fellow was able to transfer to his dream school; and
- Three Fellows found new, long-term and more stable housing.

Our Volunteers



At the root of the RJLF program is MENTORSHIP.

Each Fellow is first matched with a Mentor, and the goal of this relationship is to develop a lifetime connection.

Mentors work very closely with Fellows to help them develop an education plan, address daily obstacles, initiate their careers and broaden their perspectives.

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Education scholarships enable Fellows to continue their education beyond high school. The nature of this education varies for each Fellow and can include pursuing technical or apprenticeship training, attending classes at a community college, and/or working towards a 4-year college degree. Loan burdens, supplies, books, housing and tuition are all assessed, and scholarships are customized for each Fellow.



TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT

Transportation support can be in the form of a car purchase, driving lessons, car maintenance or train passes. This allows Fellows to secure better paying jobs, attend internships, and/or travel to and from school by helping them obtain reliable transportation.



SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Social and cultural enrichment opportunities broaden Fellows' horizons and allow them to enjoy some of the experiences that many of us may have taken for granted growing up. Some opportunities include funds for professional attire, access to financial literacy workshops and memberships to a variety of museums.

The New Normal

In 2022, we found a new normal. Though life will never be as in-person as it was before the pandemic, there were signs throughout the year that we were getting closer. We teed off at Doylestown Country Club for RJLF's first annual Golf Outing and returned to a fully in-person Heart for Change gala in October. Both events brought us such joy and gratitude, not just because of the generosity of our community of donors but because of how wonderful it was to be back together again.

It wasn't just our community members we saw in-person again either. 2022 allowed us to connect with our Fellows in person as well, meeting in April at a local park for breakfast and family portraits and in May and June to celebrate graduations. Both **Joseph** and **Emily** completed their bachelor's degrees in 2022, and we were overjoyed to commemorate their accomplishments with them. Throughout the remainder of the year we were able to hold more meetings face-to-face, welcome a number of Fellows to our gala and look forward to another year of in-person fellowship in 2023.

However, that doesn't mean we let go of virtual connections in 2022. Video calls remained an important part of our programming throughout the year, allowing us yet again to stay in touch despite busy schedules, multiple jobs, childcare, illnesses and out-of-state moves. At the end of 2022, we had 4 Fellows at school or preparing for a return to school outside of Pennsylvania - **Laura, Damien, Richard** and **Joseph**. Virtual meetings allow us to continue offering quality, effective and compassionate support.

Finding a hybrid normal has allowed us to adopt the best of both worlds, and we couldn't be more grateful for it.



R.J. Leonard Foundation
Statement of Activity (Income & Expense Report)
2018-2022

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Income					
Support from the Public	139,783	167,339	119,180	120,357	239,329
Grants from Organizations	1,000	26,041	18,300	43,529	5,000
Interest and Dividends	373	348	234	286	21
Total Income	\$141,156	\$193,728	\$137,715	\$164,172	\$244,350
Expenses					
Fellow and Mentor Programs	65,425	73,201	47,629	43,335	51,177
Contract Services	57,470	72,749	15,250	9,076	33,320
Facilities and Operations	6,162	11,118	9,597	5,422	8,389
Payroll*			93,135	96,989	99,095
Total Expenses	\$129,057	\$157,067	\$165,610	\$154,822	\$191,981
Net Income	12,099	36,661	27,895	9,350	52,368

*Prior to 2020, management and administration were provided by contract services.

Scholarships

In 2022, we granted **49** scholarship requests. Those included:

- **10** Education Scholarships
- **5** Transportation Scholarships
- **32** Financial Support Scholarships
- **2** Promissory Notes

Partner Thank You

In 2022, One Simple Wish granted nearly 60 of our Fellows' wishes, totaling more than \$7,000 in value. **Thank you!**

 One Simple Wish™

Support

We are grateful for new and ongoing support from and partnerships with the Aging Out Institute, Schiel Family Foundation, Foundations Community Partnership and Penn Community Bank.

Moving Forward by Looking Back

Progressing forward often means looking back - starting something over again or picking up where you left off. That was the case for many of our Fellows in 2022, as they assessed their goals and worked or reworked their plans. For example, Sadie, Ana, and Abby returned to school in 2022, prepared to finish the degrees that they had put on pause previously. Laura moved back to family and friends in Virginia, recognizing that the support network she had built there was a must in her life. She transferred from Penn State Main Campus to Penn State's online program and is thriving in her new location. Similarly, Amy moved back to Bucks County from Missouri at the start of 2022, having realized that her initial plan wasn't going to work. She starts 2023 with a new, even more exciting path forward.

In 2022, both Emily and Joseph completed their bachelor's degrees. By the end of 2023, Joseph was ready to return to school for his master's degree, stating that he wants to bring more knowledge and experience to the work he is doing and the clients he serves as a social worker, now in Missouri. Luke, who has always dreamed of going to Penn State, completed his courses at Bucks County Community College in December of 2022. When he learned that he would not be able to transfer to Penn State's main campus until the fall of 2023, Luke went back to the drawing board and found a way to start at Penn State Harrisburg in January instead.

2022 also fostered several new matches for our Fellows, as we paired three Fellows with new Mentors. We look forward to all that will come for of Fellows in 2023!



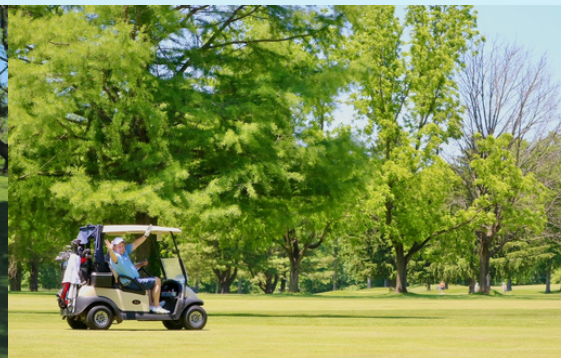


R.J. Leonard Foundation
1ST ANNUAL
GOLF
TOURNAMENT

Because of You

Our goal for RJLF's first annual golf outing was, simply, to have a golf outing - to bring together new and old supporters for a day of fun and fundraising. We hoped to spread awareness of the Foundation while growing our community. The day turned out to be so much more! Because of you and your overwhelming generosity, we ended our beautiful day at Doylestown Country Club having raised more than we imagined possible!

Thank you!



Our Sponsors

Natural Smiles Dental

County Mortgage Services, LLC

Great Oak Investment Management

Anchor Facility Services

The MAGIC Charities Foundation

Meg Fonash, REALTOR

Sarah Cornwell Jewelry

Michael Hutkin Window Coverings

Abby Applebaum

Acclara Solutions

Rockwood Wealth Management

Plowman Lumber and Woodworking

SpinFit Studio

Steven Rash

C&N Bank

Jo Leonard & Co.

Jane-Linn Citro, REALTOR



Because of You

Because of you, at our 2022 Heart for Change gala, we were able to raise \$105,000. Of that, \$47,000 is slated specifically for our Dare to Dream: Enriching Experiences programming. This means that our Fellows, many of whom have never left Pennsylvania or the tri-state area, will be able to plan and take a trip in 2023 that they would not have otherwise.

“Thank you” does not begin to express how grateful we are. Every year, you enable us to not only continue working with our Fellows toward their career and educational goals but to also give them opportunities that so many of their peers not in foster care already have. We are there for them because you are there for us. We cannot wait to share their enriching experiences with you in 2023!

Our Speaker

Taneshia Darden is a doer - someone who always has a plan (maybe more than one) and the determination to make that plan a reality. Over the past 8 years, it has been the privilege of RJLF to support, guide and witness Taneshia in action, as she earned her associate's degree followed by her bachelors degree.

Today, Taneshia continues to work multiple jobs in her field while planning next steps. She has her eye on a master's degree, is already thinking about her 12 year old's college career and would like an investment property in the future.





HEART FOR CHANGE

Heart for Change Award

The 2022 **Heart for Change Award** was presented to **Megan Craig** for her outstanding dedication and support. Megan has been a board member with the R.J. Leonard Foundation since May 2020 and a matched Mentor since November 2020. In January 2021, Megan took on the role of Board Chair. Over the past three years, Megan has consistently gone above and beyond, offering her time, support, guidance, network of resources and more to her Fellow and the Foundation as a whole. She is honest, fair and, above all, incredibly caring and supportive.



Dear Megan,
 You are the most kind hearted, loving, down-to-earth, one-of-a-kind person I have ever met. This past year, I have gone through so much, and there you were right next to me, right by my side to guide me - not demand me but guide me like you knew me forever. I am so thankful that you're in my corner.

Sadie
 Matched with Megan in 2020



Our Sponsors

Tegria
 The Kenkare Charitable Fund
 John Ortolf
 Nolan Painting

The Sadock Family Foundation
 Marshall
 The Schiel Family Foundation

Community Partners

- The Vine at DUMC
- One Simple Wish
- Doylestown Neighbors United
- Michael Hutkin Window Coverings
- C&N Bank
- Paypal
- Doylestown Presbyterian Church
- New Britain Food Pantry
- MBIT
- Meghan Renee Photography
- Forgotten Orchard Farms
- Gwynedd Mercy University
- Bee Bergvall's Catalyst Center for Nonprofit Management
- African Ancestry Leadership Council at Johnson & Johnson



Partner Spotlight

A long-time supporter, **Michael Hutkin Window Coverings** (and Mike Hukin himself) are valued members of the RJLF community. They showed us why once more this December when Mike first donated to our Holiday gift drive. Not two weeks later, we had a new request for our community - a Fellow was in need of a new car seat for her growing child. Mike reached out within minutes of the post, and Michael Hutkin Window Coverings paid for the majority of the seat, helping to keep a baby safe and a mother less worried. With community partners like Mike, we know that our Fellows are working toward their goals with a network of support filled with people who truly care. Thank you Michael Hutkin Window Coverings!

Mentor Spotlight

Rachel was matched with Fellow **Mackensie** in June 2021. At the time, Mackensie was planning to pursue social work while also fostering her passion for photography. While those plans remain in the pipeline today, the last two years have been challenging for Mackensie and she hasn't made the progress she had hoped, as instead she has dealt with employment struggles, unstable housing and additional personal issues. It has been difficult for Mackensie and frustrating when she reflects on her goals. Through it all, however, Rachel has been there - sharing in the frustrations while also never losing sight of Mackensie's plan. Rachel is tireless in her support of Mackensie, always ready to listen, offering and looking for resources when needed, and celebrating Mackensie's accomplishments (Mackensie took photographs at RJLF's Heart for Change gala in 2022). We have no doubt that Mackensie will reach her goals in the future, and when she does, Rachel will be there, having been there the whole time.

That is a mentor.



Board Member Spotlight

Despite currently living in California, Miles Hanley has long been one of RJLF's most valuable board members. He served as Board Chair in 2021, overseeing the Foundation's growth and lending even more of a hand when our then executive director went on maternity leave that year. For every gala and golf outing, Miles has contributed donations for the auction, ideas and support whenever possible. In 2022, Miles became even more of an integral part of the Foundation's programming, as he worked with the Program Director, Executive Director and team at MilkCrate to help develop the RJLF app. His knowledge and understanding of the topic enabled RJLF to launch an easy-to-navigate and informative app that will help RJLF collect data over the coming years while also connecting Mentors and Fellows with each other, as well as the resources in the area.

Learn more about our team at rjleonardfoundation.org

Our Mission

We educate, initiate careers and personally mentor young adults who are aging out of the foster care system

Our Vision

We empower them to succeed, free of government assistance, for the rest of their lives

Connect with Us



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